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COLTS RB EDGERRIN JAMES, RAIDERS DE DERRICK BURGESS & BRONCOS P TODD SAUERBRUN NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Running back **EDGERRIN JAMES** of the Indianapolis Colts, defensive end **DERRICK BURGESS** of the Oakland Raiders, and punter **TODD SAUERBRUN** of the Denver Broncos are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for October, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB EDGERRIN JAMES, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- Indianapolis running back **EDGERRIN JAMES**, the NFL leader in rushing yards (801) rushed 86 times for 477 yards and six TDs in four October games and had 10 receptions for 78 yards with one touchdown to help the Colts to a perfect 4-0 record in the month. James averages an AFC-best 119.3 rushing-yards-per-game while totaling 555 scrimmage yards for a 138.8 per-game-average. The seven-year veteran had three consecutive games with more than 100 rushing yards, improving his career totals to 45 100-yard rushing games in 88 games (51.1 percent). On October 2 at Tennessee, James rushed for 90 yards on 21 carries with an eight-yard TD reception; totaled 105 yards and a TD on 21 rushes with four catches for 42 yards at San Francisco (10/9); rushed for 143 yards and three touchdowns against St. Louis (10/17); and concluded October with 21 carries for 139 yards and two touchdowns at Houston (10/23).

This is James' third career Player of the Month award and his first since October of 2000.

DEFENSE: DE DERRICK BURGESS, OAKLAND RAIDERS

- Oakland defensive end **DERRICK BURGESS** led the NFL in sacks in October with 6.0, and helped the Raiders reach a 3-1 record for the month. Buoyed by Burgess' play, the Raiders were one of six AFC teams to post a plus-.500 record in the month. Burgess had a three-game October stretch with 2.0 sacks per game. Indianapolis' **DWIGHT FREENEY** was the last player to accomplish this feat last December. Burgess delivered 2.0 sacks against Dallas (10/2), San Diego (10/16), and Buffalo (10/23). The five-year pro from Mississippi registered four tackles in each of the Raiders' first three October games and made one tackle in the team's 34-25 win at Tennessee last Sunday.

This is Burgess' first Player of the Month honor.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P TODD SAUERBRUN, DENVER BRONCOS

- In the Broncos' five October games, **TODD SAUERBRUN** placed 11 of his 28 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line while compiling a 45.3 gross punting average and a 39.1 net average. In four punt attempts inside his own 20-yard line, Sauerbrun averaged 54.8 gross yards and 46.8 net yards to help Denver post a 4-1 record in the month. His 28 punts accounted for the most in the AFC, yet only 15 of his kicks were returned for a total of 96 yards (6.4-yard average). Despite his impressive punting average, in Week 7 at the Giants, Sauerbrun punted three times and did not register a kick longer than 40 yards. However all three of his kicks were inside the 20. Of Sauerbrun's 28 kickoffs, eight resulted in a touchback, tying for the most in the conference for October (**SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI**, Oakland).

In his 11th year from West Virginia, this is Sauerbrun's first Player of the Month award.

2005 AFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
September	QB Carson Palmer, Cincinnati	DE Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis	P Chris Hanson, Jacksonville
October	RB Edgerrin James, Indianapolis	DE Derrick Burgess, Oakland	P Todd Sauerbrun, Denver