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BENGALS QB CARSON PALMER, COLTS DE DWIGHT FREENEY & JAGUARS P CHRIS HANSON NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

Quarterback **CARSON PALMER** of the Cincinnati Bengals, defensive end **DWIGHT FREENEY** of the Indianapolis Colts, and punter **CHRIS HANSON** of the Jacksonville Jaguars are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for September, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB CARSON PALMER, CINCINNATI BENGALS

- Cincinnati's **CARSON PALMER**, the NFL's only quarterback to record a passer rating above 100.0 in each of his September games, completed an NFL-best 71.1 percent of his passes in the month and shares the league lead in touchdown passes with eight. Palmer owns the NFL's second highest passer rating (114.0) while guiding the AFC North-leading Bengals to their first 3-0 start since 1990. On Kickoff Weekend in Cleveland, the third-year quarterback from USC completed 26 of 34 passes with a pair of touchdowns against one interception for a 107.5 passer rating in the team's 27-13 victory. In a 37-8 Week 2 win over Minnesota in Cincinnati, Palmer threw for 337 yards and three touchdowns, including a 70-yarder, for a 108.0 passer rating. Last Sunday in Chicago, the 6-5 quarterback posted a 130.3 passer rating with three TDs without an interception, completing 16 of 23 attempts against a Chicago defense that entered the game with six interceptions.

This is Palmer's first career Player of the Month Award.

DEFENSE: DE DWIGHT FREENEY, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- September was a month to remember for the Colts' defense, led by defensive end **DWIGHT FREENEY**. From his position in the trenches, the fourth-year pro amassed 11 tackles, including 4.0 sacks, five quarterback pressures and one forced fumble to help Indianapolis reach 3-0. The 6-1, 268-pounder played a key role on a Colts defense that for the first time in franchise history opened a season by holding three consecutive opponents to single-digit point totals. Indianapolis became only the sixth post-World War II team to hold three season-opening opponents to single digits. The Colts' 16 combined points allowed is the smallest three-game season-opening total in club history.
- This is Freney's second consecutive Player of the Month honor. He also earned the award for games played in December/January of last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P CHRIS HANSON, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

- Jacksonville punter **CHRIS HANSON** kicked 17 punts in September for an NFL-best 43.6 net average and led the league with 11 punts downed inside the 20. In his fifth season from Marshall, Hanson also led the NFL with eight 50-yard punts. Jacksonville has allowed only 14 return yards on Hanson's six punts for the fourth lowest opponent punt-return average in the league (2.4 yards). Of the left-footer's 11 punts inside the 20, only one ensuing possession resulted in points for the opponent. The Jaguars stand 2-1 in the AFC South.

2005 AFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
September	QB Carson Palmer, Cincinnati	DE Dwight Freney, Indianapolis	P Chris Hanson, Jacksonville