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STEELERS RB WILLIE PARKER, COLTS LB GARY BRACKETT & JAGUARS K JOSH SCOBEE NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1

Running back **WILLIE PARKER** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, linebacker **GARY BRACKETT** of the Indianapolis Colts and kicker **JOSH SCOBEE** of the Jacksonville Jaguars are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on NFL Kickoff 2005 Weekend (September 8, 11-12), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB WILLIE PARKER, PITTSBURGH STEELERS

- The Steelers' Parker, in his first-career NFL start, was the league's top rusher of Kickoff Weekend to help Pittsburgh upend Tennessee, 34-7. The 5-10, 209-pounder gained 161 yards on 22 carries (7.3-yard average) with a touchdown and also caught one pass for 48 yards. With his team ahead 27-7, a coaching decision was made to remove Parker from the game with 4:18 remaining in the third quarter. A rookie free agent in 2004, Parker's rushing total was the highest by a Steelers player in Heinz Field's five-year history.

In his second year from North Carolina, Parker is the second Steelers running back to earn Player of the Week honors in the past 10 weeks (**JEROME BETTIS**, Wk. 9, 2004).

DEFENSE: LB GARY BRACKETT, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- Indianapolis linebacker **GARY BRACKETT** posted his first two-interception game along with nine tackles and a quarterback pressure as the Colts defeated the Ravens 24-7 at Baltimore. The Ravens did not score a point until :13 remained in regulation as Brackett snared interceptions on the Colts' 23- and 1-yard lines to thwart scoring threats. Making only his second-career start, Brackett was part of a defense that limited a strong Baltimore rushing attack to 77 yards.

In his third year from Rutgers, the one-time rookie free agent is the first Colts linebacker to win a Player of the Week distinction since **TONY BENNETT** in Week 13 of 1995.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K JOSH SCOBEE, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

- In a 26-14 home victory, Jacksonville kicker **JOSH SCOBEE** was four of five in field goal attempts and booted four kickoffs into Seattle's end zone for touchbacks. The second-year player's field goals were good from 23, 41, 29, and 41 yards respectively, with his only miss coming from 43. Scobee opened the scoring with a pair of first-quarter field goals for a 6-0 Jacksonville advantage and accounted for the game's final six points, extending a 20-14 Jaguars lead to the eventual final score.

This marks the second Player of the Week award in the past 12 weeks for the 23-year-old kicker from Louisiana Tech (Wk. 7, 2004).

2005 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	RB Willie Parker, Pittsburgh	LB Gary Brackett, Indianapolis	K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 1 were:

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who completed 24 of 38 pass attempts for 306 yards with a pair of touchdowns without an interception for a 105.8 passer rating in a 30-20 win against Oakland.
- Miami quarterback **GUS FREROTTE**, who completed 24 of 36 attempts for 275 passing yards and two touchdowns against one interception for a 96.4 passer rating in a 34-10 win over Denver.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who carried the ball nine times for 110 yards (12.2-yard average) and two touchdowns in a 27-7 win against the Jets. Johnson has now scored two touchdowns in six consecutive games – one game shy of the NFL record of seven held by Pro Football Hall of Famer **JOHN RIGGINS**.
- Cincinnati running back **RUDI JOHNSON**, who rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries (4.8-yard average) in a 27-13 win at Cleveland.
- Indianapolis quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**, who tossed two touchdown passes, completing 21 of 36 attempts for 254 yards without an interception for a 98.6 passer rating.
- Buffalo running back **WILLIS MC GAHEE**, who posted a game-high 117 yards on 22 carries for his eighth-career 100-yard rushing performance in a 22-7 win against Houston.
- Cincinnati quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, who posted a 107.5 passer rating on 26 of 34 passing for 280 yards and a pair of TDs against one interception.
- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, who posted a perfect 158.3 passer rating by completing nine of 11 attempts for 218 yards and a pair of touchdowns.
- Jacksonville wide receiver **JIMMY SMITH**, who caught seven passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns. In addition to his touchdown catches of 30 and seven yards, the 13-year veteran also had receptions of 45 and 24 yards.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 1 were:

- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who registered six tackles and forced a fumble which led to a Steelers field goal.
- Kansas City rookie linebacker **DERRICK JOHNSON**, who had nine tackles, 1.0 sack and a forced fumble in his first NFL game.
- New England defensive lineman **RICHARD SEYMOUR**, who led the team with eight tackles and rushed the passer consistently to help limit Oakland's offense to a 45.0 pass completion percentage (18 of 40).
- Miami linebacker **ZACH THOMAS**, who chalked up 16 tackles, including three stops on a key second-quarter goal-line stand.
- Buffalo safety **TROY VINCENT**, who posted two interceptions. The Bills allowed only 25 net passing yards and 120 total yards on the day.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 1 were:

- Jacksonville punter **CHRIS HANSON**, who kicked four punts for a 42.8 net average. All four of Hanson's punts were downed inside the 20-yard line.
- Buffalo kicker **RIAN LINDELL**, who was five for five in field goal attempts, splitting the uprights from 35, 21, 42, 39, and 31 yards, respectively.
- Pittsburgh kicker **JEFF REED**, who was successful on field goal tries of 44 and 27 yards without a miss. Reed has made 19 consecutive field goal attempts, tying **GARY ANDERSON** for the club record.
- Miami kick returner **WES WELKER**, who returned four punts for a 16.0-yard average along with two kickoffs for an average of 25.5 yards.