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STEELERS WR HINES WARD, JAGUARS LB MIKE PETERSON & BILLS P BRIAN MOORMAN NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 10

Wide receiver **HINES WARD** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, linebacker **MIKE PETERSON** of the Jacksonville Jaguars and punter BRIAN MOORMAN of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 10th week of the 2005 season (November 13-14), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: WR HINES WARD, PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Before a national audience in Heinz Field Sunday night against division rival Cleveland, Pittsburgh's HINES WARD caught a game-high eight passes for 124 yards (15.5-yard average), including a 51-yard TD catch from fellow receiver **ANTWAAN RANDLE EL** on a reverse option pass in a 34-21 victory. The win lifts Pittsburgh to 7-2, tying the club with Cincinnati (7-2) for the top spot in the AFC North. Ward also made Steelers history in catching his 538th pass to move ahead of Pro Football Hall of Famer JOHN STALLWORTH (537) to become the team's all-time leader in receptions. Ward now has 543 catches in his eight-year career.

This marks the first career Player of the Week award for the four-time All-Star. The last Steelers receiver to win the honor was LOUIS LIPPS in 1989 (Week 16).

DEFENSE: LB MIKE PETERSON, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

In a convincing 30-3 home victory against Baltimore, Jacksonville linebacker MIKE PETERSON recorded 15 tackles, 1.0 sack and an interception which he returned 26 yards for a touchdown to improve the Jaguars' record to 6-3. Peterson, who has a sack in three consecutive games, has led the Jacksonville defense in tackles in all nine games this season. The 6-1, 235-pounder from Gainesville, FL played a large role in limiting the Ravens to 163 total net vards. Baltimore penetrated Jacksonville's 20-yard line only once on the day.

In his seventh season from Florida, this is Peterson's first career Player of the Week honor. He is the first Jaguars linebacker to ever earn the distinction and is the club's first defender to garner the award since RASHEAN MATHIS in Week 3 of 2004.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P BRIAN MOORMAN, BUFFALO BILLS

Buffalo punter **BRIAN MOORMAN** booted five punts for a 48.2-yard average with three of them forcing the visiting Chiefs to begin drives inside their own 20 to help the Bills earn a 14-3 victory. Three of Moorman's kicks traveled beyond 50 yards and another went for 49. His longest punt of the day covered 53 yards and he now has posted a punt of 50 vards or more in 56 of 73 career games. The Chiefs' always-dangerous return man **DANTE HALL** fielded four punts, but only amassed a 3.5-yard average. Moorman, who grew up in Sedgwick, KS – 215 miles southwest of Kansas City – was raised a Chiefs fan and cheered for the team as a youngster. The win places the Bills at 4-5, one game behind New England (5-4) for the AFC East lead.

In his fifth season from Pittsburg (KS) State, this is the second career Player of the Week award for Moorman (Week 6, 2004).

2005 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Offense Defense Wk 1 RB Willie Parker, Pittsburgh LB Gary Brackett, Indianapolis Wk 2 QB Trent Dilfer, Cleveland CB Deltha O'Neal, Cincinnati Wk 3 RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD S Lance Schulters, Miami QB Drew Brees, San Diego Wk 4 LB Al Wilson, Denver Wk 5 QB Tom Brady, NE DT Dewayne Robertson, NY Wk 6 RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD DE Jared Allen. Kansas Citv Wk 7 RB LaMont Jordan. Oakland DE Robert Mathis. Indianapolis

- Wk 8 QB Jake Plummer, Denver
- Wk 9 QB Peyton Manning, Ind.
- Wk 10 WR Hines Ward, Pittsburgh

LB Tedy Bruschi, New England LB Brian Simmons, Cincinnati LB Mike Peterson, Jacksonville

Special Teams

K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville P Hunter Smith, Indianapolis K Adam Vinatieri, New England K Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville P Todd Sauerbrun. Denver K Lawrence Tynes, Kansas City KR-WR Jerome Mathis, Houston P Kyle Richardson, Cleveland P Brian Moorman, Buffalo

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 10 were:

- Buffalo wide receiver LEE EVANS, who caught a pair of TD passes from 33 and 29 yards, respectively. Evans caught three passes on the day for 66 yards.
- New England running back **HEATH EVANS**, who replaced an injured **COREY DILLON** on the second play of the game and on that play ran for a career-long 21-yard rush in a 23-16 divisional road victory at Miami. Evans finished the game with a career-high 84 yards on 17 carries (4.9 average). He began the day with 108 career rushing yards (2001-04, Seattle).
- Indianapolis running back EDGERRIN JAMES, who carried the ball 26 times for 122 yards (4.7-yard average) and one TD in a 31-17 home victory against Houston. James, the AFC's leading rusher (1,027), also caught three passes for 26 yards.
- Kansas City running back LARRY JOHNSON, who posted 132 rushing yards on 27 carries for a 4.9-yard average. Johnson's rushing yards accounted for the second-highest total of his career.
- Jacksonville rookie wide receiver MATT JONES, who recorded a career-high five receptions for 117 yards and one touchdown. The game marked Jones' first career 100-yard game and the first 100-yard receiving performance by a rookie in team history.
- Indianapolis guarterback **PEYTON MANNING**, who completed three touchdown passes without an interception on 26 of 35 (74.3 percent) passing for 297 yards and a 127.9 passer rating.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 10 were:

- Kansas City defensive end JARED ALLEN, who posted four tackles, 2.0 sacks and forced a fumble. Allen now has six forced fumbles on the season.
- Buffalo linebacker LONDON FLETCHER, who compiled a team-high 20 tackles along with 1.0 sack and a forced fumble.
- New England rookie cornerback ELLIS HOBBS, who made his first NFL start and led the team with seven tackles, two fumble recoveries, an interception and four total passes defensed, including one in the end zone with 0:55 remaining in the game to secure a Patriots' victory.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JOEY PORTER**, who notched a sack and an interception. Porter's interception resulted in a Steelers touchdown.
- Buffalo defensive end AARON SCHOBEL, who posted 2.0 sacks Sunday, marking the third time this season that Schobel has registered 2.0 sacks.

Other nominee for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 10 was:

Denver kicker JASON ELAM, who was perfect on all three of his field goal attempts (22, 38 and 25 yards) and two extra points to account for 11 points in Denver's 31-17 win at Oakland. Elam (1.510) scored his 1,500th career point in his 197th game Sunday, establishing the fewest played to reach the mark in NFL history. Before Sunday, NICK LOWERY had scored 1,500 points in the fewest games played at 220.