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AFC-POW-12 11/30/05

CHARGERS RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, DOLPHINS DE JASON TAYLOR & JAGUARS KR-RB DERRICK WIMBUSH NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 12

Running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** of the San Diego Chargers, defensive end **JASON TAYLOR** of the Miami Dolphins and rookie kick returner-running back **DERRICK WIMBUSH** of the Jacksonville Jaguars are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 12th week of the 2005 season (November 24, 27-28), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

- San Diego running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** carried the ball 25 times for 184 yards and three touchdowns, including a game-winning 41-yard run in overtime, for a 23-17 win at Washington. The victory was San Diego's fourth in a row, propelling the team to 7-4 in the AFC West. Tomlinson's other two scoring runs were from one yard in the first quarter for the game's first score and from 32 yards with 1:07 left in regulation to tie the score at 17-17, forcing overtime. Tomlinson, the No. 2 rusher in the AFC with 1,086 yards, gained 147 of his 184 yards in the second half and overtime as the Chargers overcame a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit. The 26-year-old from Rosebud, Texas (160 miles northwest of Houston) also became the seventh player in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first five seasons.

In his fifth season from TCU, this is Tomlinson's sixth Player of the Week award and his third of the season (Week 6).

DEFENSE: DE JASON TAYLOR, MIAMI DOLPHINS

- Miami's **JASON TAYLOR** repeatedly produced big plays in the Dolphins' 33-21 win at Oakland Sunday. The 6-6, 255-pound defensive end registered 3.0 sacks, six tackles, forced a fumble, recovered another fumble, and scored a safety to lift the Dolphins to 4-7, trailing AFC East-leading New England (6-5) by two games with five games to play. Taylor is the NFL's first player to record as many as 3.0 sacks and a safety in the same game since **BRUCE SMITH** did it for Washington on Nov. 20, 2000. His safety on a first-and-10 play from the Raiders' two-yard line early in the third quarter gave the visiting Dolphins a 16-7 advantage. Taylor is the first player in club history to produce two career safeties and his three sacks tied a career-high that the three-time AFC All-Star has now reached five times. The Pittsburgh native is Miami's all-time leader in defensive fumble recoveries with 21.

A nine-year veteran from Akron, Taylor has been honored as the AFC's Defensive Player of the Week five times. This marks the third consecutive year that Taylor has earned the award for his play in Week 12 of a season.

SPECIAL TEAMS: KR-RB DERRICK WIMBUSH, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

- Rookie kick returner-running back **DERRICK WIMBUSH** accounted for the margin of victory in Jacksonville's 24-17 win at Arizona with a 91-yard kick return for a touchdown. Wimbush's return tied the fourth-longest in club history. Jacksonville now stands at 8-3 and can equal its win total of last season this Sunday. Following an Arizona field goal that made the score Jaguars 10, Cardinals 3, the 6-1, 220-pounder received the game-altering kickoff at Jacksonville's nine-yard line and appeared to be stopped near midfield. After being spun around by a would-be tackler, Wimbush broke free and ran across the field to the right corner of the end zone. The undrafted rookie from Division II Fort Valley (Georgia) State had a total of three kick returns on the day for 138 yards (46.0 average).

This is the first career Player of the Week award for Wimbush. The Jaguars have earned a conference-best three weekly special teams honors this season (**JOSH SCOBEE**, Weeks 1 and 5).

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
Wk 2	QB Trent Dilfer, Cleveland	CB Deltha O'Neal, Cincinnati	P Hunter Smith, Indianapolis
Wk 3	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	S Lance Schulters, Miami	K Adam Vinatieri, New England
Wk 4	QB Drew Brees, SD	LB Al Wilson, Denver	K Sebastian Janikowski, Oakland
Wk 5	QB Tom Brady, NE	DT Dewayne Robertson, NY	K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville
Wk 6	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jared Allen, Kansas City	P Todd Sauerbrun, Denver
Wk 7	RB LaMont Jordan, Oakland	DE Robert Mathis, Indianapolis	K Lawrence Tynes, Kansas City
Wk 8	QB Jake Plummer, Denver	LB Tedy Bruschi, New England	KR-WR Jerome Mathis, Houston
Wk 9	QB Peyton Manning, Ind.	LB Brian Simmons, Cincinnati	P Kyle Richardson, Cleveland
Wk 10	WR Hines Ward, Pittsburgh	LB Mike Peterson, Jacksonville	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo
Wk 11	RB Larry Johnson, KC	LB Andra Davis, Cleveland	K Matt Stover, Baltimore
Wk 12	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	KR-RB Derrick Wimbush, Jacksonville

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 12 were:

- Denver running back **RON DAYNE**, who led all rushers in Denver's 24-21 overtime win on Thanksgiving at Dallas with 98 yards and a touchdown on seven carries (14.0-yard average). Dayne sealed the win for the Broncos in overtime when he raced 55 yards to set up a 24-yard game-winning field goal by **JASON ELAM**.
- Kansas City quarterback **TRENT GREEN**, who compiled a season-high 127.6 passer rating by completing 19 of 26 passes for 323 yards and one touchdown without an interception in a 26-16 home win against New England.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON**, who caught four passes for 128 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown catch in a 26-7 win against Pittsburgh on Monday night. In addition to helping the Colts keep their perfect record intact at 11-0, Harrison recorded his 51st career 100-yard receiving game, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **DON MAYNARD** (50) for the second-most in league history (**JERRY RICE**, 76).

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 12 were:

- Denver cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY**, who recorded six solo tackles and three passes defended, including an interception that he returned 65 yards for a touchdown. It was Bailey's third consecutive game with an interception and gives him a career-high six on the season.
- Pittsburgh safety **TROY POLAMALU**, who intercepted his second pass of the season and returned it 36 yards to set up a Steelers touchdown. The third-year player also recorded five tackles.
- Indianapolis safety **BOB SANDERS**, who had nine tackles and one pass defended. Sanders was a key part of a Colts defense which yielded only seven points and 86 total rushing yards.
- Kansas City safety **GREG WESLEY**, who had three interceptions and four tackles. Two of Wesley's three picks led to field goals for the Chiefs.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 12 were:

- Pittsburgh punter **CHRIS GARDOCKI**, who averaged a season-high 46.0-yard average on six punts.
- Miami punter **DONNIE JONES**, who booted four punts for a gross average of 51.3 and a net of 47.0, both season-highs. Three of his punts were placed inside the 20, one of which resulted in a Miami safety on the next play. Three of Jones' punts traveled longer than 50 yards.
- San Diego kicker **NATE KAEDING**, who made a 48-yard field goal to get the Chargers within seven points in the fourth quarter for an eventual come-from-behind overtime victory.
- Kansas City kicker **LAWRENCE TYNES**, who was a perfect four-of-four in field goal attempts. Tynes connected on all four of his second-quarter field goal tries from 25, 20, 33 and 47 yards. Tynes became the seventh kicker in NFL history to make a league-record four field goals in a quarter.