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BROWNS QB TRENT DILFER, BENGALS CB DELTHA O'NEAL & COLTS P HUNTER SMITH NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 2

Quarterback **TRENT DILFER** of the Cleveland Browns, cornerback **DELTHA O'NEAL** of the Cincinnati Bengals and punter **HUNTER SMITH** of the Indianapolis Colts are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the second week of the 2005 season (September 18-19), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB TRENT DILFER, CLEVELAND BROWNS

- Cleveland quarterback **TRENT DILFER** passed for 336 yards and three touchdowns without an interception on 21 of 32 passing (65.6 percent) for a 131.8 passer rating in a 26-24 win at Green Bay. The 12-year pro from Fresno State reached the second-highest passing-yard total of his career as two of his three TD strikes stretched more than 60 yards. Making his second start for Cleveland, Dilfer completed 13 of his first 17 attempts, including his first eight. The 6-4 quarterback led the Browns' offense with 201 second-half passing yards and a pair of touchdown passes.

For Dilfer, currently the AFC's third-highest rated passer (95.1), this is his second career Player of the Week Award (Week 4, 1997 with Tampa Bay).

DEFENSE: CB DELTHA O'NEAL, CINCINNATI BENGALS

- Cincinnati cornerback **DELTHA O'NEAL** recorded three interceptions Sunday in a 37-8 win at home against the Minnesota Vikings. O'Neal's three interceptions tied a franchise record – last achieved by safety **DAVID FULCHER** in 1989 – and his eight tackles led the team. The sixth-year player from California was a key cog in a defense that permitted only one drive longer than 3:13 on the afternoon. Two of O'Neal's interceptions occurred within Cincinnati's 10-yard line to thwart Minnesota scoring opportunities. The Palo Alto native also defended two additional passes, one of which was intercepted by teammate **KEVIN KAESVIHARN**. A win Sunday in Soldier Field would give Cincinnati a 3-0 start. The Bengals have advanced to the playoffs the last two times they started a season 3-0 (1988, 1990).

This is O'Neal's second career Player of the Week distinction (Week 4, 2001 with Denver) and his first as a Bengal.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P HUNTER SMITH, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- In a game where field position proved crucial, Indianapolis punter **HUNTER SMITH** was spectacular, keeping the visiting Jaguars on a long field as the Colts upended their AFC South rival 10-3 and seized sole possession of first-place in the AFC South. Smith punted seven times for a 46.1-yard average. Three of his punts resulted in Jaguars possessions beginning inside their own 10-yard line. Smith's longest punt of the day traveled 55 yards and none of his kicks drew a touchback.

In his seventh year from Notre Dame, this is Smith's first career Player of the Week Award.

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

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 2 were:

- Kansas City running back **PRIEST HOLMES**, who ran for a touchdown and gained 75 rushing yards on 19 carries in a 23-17 Sunday night win at Oakland.
- Indianapolis running back **EDGERRIN JAMES**, who rushed for 128 yards on 27 carries and caught four passes for 39 yards in a 10-3 win against Jacksonville.
- Cincinnati wide receiver **CHAD JOHNSON**, who caught seven passes for 139 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown catch on the game's second play from scrimmage.
- Cincinnati quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, who completed 27 of 40 passes for 337 yards with three TDs against one interception for a 108.0 passer rating. Palmer has registered a 100-plus passer rating in five consecutive starts.
- Pittsburgh running back **WILLIE PARKER**, who rushed for 111 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries to help the Steelers attain their 16th consecutive victory in a 27-7 win at Houston. Parker leads the AFC and stands second in the NFL with 272 rushing yards.
- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, who registered a 139.8 passer rating by completing 14 of 21 passes (66.7 pct.) for 254 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Roethlisberger averaged a whopping 12.1-yards-per-attempt and guided a Steelers offense that did not punt until the fourth quarter.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 2 were:

- New York Jets linebacker **JOHN ABRAHAM**, who notched five tackles, including 1.0 sack with a pass defended and a forced fumble in a 17-7 victory at home against division-rival Miami.
- Denver cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY**, who returned an interception 25 yards for a TD and recorded three tackles in a 20-17 home win against San Diego. Bailey's score helped spur the Broncos to victory after trailing 14-3 at halftime. Bailey has interceptions in back-to-back games.
- Kansas City rookie linebacker **DERRICK JOHNSON**, who tallied eight tackles and a fumble recovery.
- Pittsburgh safety **TROY POLAMALU**, who registered 3.0 sacks – tying the most ever by an NFL safety – as he compiled six total tackles and a pass defended.
- Indianapolis defensive tackle **MONTAE REAGOR**, who chalked-up a career-high 3.0 sacks. Reagor is part of a defense that has limited opponents to single-digit scores in each of their first two games for the third time in franchise history.
- Tennessee defensive end **KYLE VANDEN BOSCH**, who recorded six tackles, including a career-high 3.0 sacks, with a fumble recovery in a 25-10 win against visiting Baltimore. Vanden Bosch was part of a Titans defense that allowed only 14 rushing yards.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 2 were:

- New York Jets punter **BEN GRAHAM**, who punted seven times for a 44.1-yard average with a long of 54 yards.
- Kansas City kick returner **DANTE HALL**, who averaged 34.0 yards on four kickoff returns, including a long return of 45 yards.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES HARRISON**, who posted three special teams tackles.
- Pittsburgh kicker **JEFF REED**, who was two for two in field goal attempts (37 and 35 yards) to extend his consecutive FG-made streak to 21, surpassing **GARY ANDERSON**'s former franchise-best streak of 19. Reed also booted four kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks.