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## **CHARGERS RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, DOLPHINS S LANCE SCHULTERS & PATRIOTS K ADAM VINATIERI NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 3**

Running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** of the San Diego Chargers, safety **LANCE SCHULTERS** of the Miami Dolphins and kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** of the New England Patriots are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the third week of the 2005 season (September 25-26), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS**

- San Diego running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** rushed for 192 yards and three touchdowns, caught six passes for 28 yards, and threw a 26-yard touchdown pass for good measure in a 45-23 win against the New York Giants Sunday night. Tomlinson's touchdowns marked the 15th consecutive game in which he scored one. The 5-10, 221-pound rusher's streak of consecutive games with a touchdown is the second-longest in NFL history, trailing only Pro Football Hall of Famer **LENNY MOORE** (19 games). Tomlinson's 220 total scrimmage yards stand as the league's single-game high thus far in 2005.

For the fifth-year veteran from TCU, this is his fourth career Player of the Week distinction.

### **DEFENSE: S LANCE SCHULTERS, MIAMI DOLPHINS**

- Safety **LANCE SCHULTERS** of the Miami Dolphins recorded four tackles, 1.0 sack, a forced fumble and a game-changing interception which led to a late field goal for a 27-24 home victory against Carolina. With 2:00 remaining in regulation and the Panthers possessing the ball on Miami's 43-yard line with the score tied 24-24, Schulters stepped in front of a Carolina receiver to intercept a pass on the Dolphins' 38-yard line and returned it 37 yards to Carolina's 25. With seven ticks left on the clock, Miami's **OLINDO MARE** was successful on a 32-yard field goal try for the win. Miami (2-1) after three games has equaled half of its 2004 win total.

In his eighth year from Hofstra, this is Schuler's first Player of the Week honor. He is the first Dolphins safety to win the award since **BROCK MARION** in Week 13 of 2001.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K ADAM VINATIERI, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

- New England kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** made his 18th career game-winning field goal Sunday, splitting the uprights from 43 yards in Heinz Field to help lift the Patriots to a 23-20 victory and halt the Steelers' winning streak at 16 games. Vinatieri made his final kick with :01 left in regulation. The 1996 NFL Europe veteran made three field goals from 48, 35, and 43 yards, respectively. His only miss was a 53-yard try. The 6-0, 202-pounder from South Dakota State finished the game with 11 points.

In his 10th season, this is Vinatieri's seventh-career Player of the Week honor and his second in 12 weeks (Week 9, 2004).

### **2005 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Defense</u></b>	<b><u>Special Teams</u></b>
<b>Wk 1</b>	RB Willie Parker, Pittsburgh	LB Gary Brackett, Indianapolis	K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville
<b>Wk 2</b>	QB Trent Dilfer, Cleveland	CB Deltha O'Neal, Cincinnati	P Hunter Smith, Indianapolis
<b>Wk 3</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	S Lance Schulters, Miami	K Adam Vinatieri, New England

**Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 3 were:**

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who threw for 372 yards on 31 of 41 passing (75.6 percent), including a 12-for-12 fourth quarter performance at Pittsburgh. The win was his 50th in only 65 career starts, the second-fewest games by a QB since 1970 to reach 50 victories (**KEN STABLER**, 62 games).
- Miami rookie running back **RONNIE BROWN**, who rushed for 132 yards and a touchdown on 32 carries against Carolina. Brown's rushing total was the fourth-highest by a rookie in franchise history.
- Indianapolis running back **EDGERRIN JAMES**, who rushed for 108 yards on 27 carries and a touchdown in a 13-6 win against Cleveland.
- Kansas City wide receiver **EDDIE KENNISON**, who caught eight passes for 112 yards in a 30-10 defeat at Denver.
- Buffalo running back **WILLIS MC GAHEE**, who rushed for a career-high 140 yards and a touchdown on 27 carries in a 24-16 loss to Tampa Bay.
- Cincinnati quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, who in a 24-7 win at Chicago threw three TDs without an interception on 16 of 23 passing (69.6 percent) for 169 yards and a 130.9 passer rating.
- Denver wide receiver **ROD SMITH**, who had seven receptions for 80 yards and a touchdown in a 30-10 win against Kansas City. Smith also became the 23rd player in NFL history to reach 10,000 career receiving yards.

**Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 3 were:**

- San Diego linebacker **DONNIE EDWARDS**, who led his team with 13 tackles along with notching 1.0 sack and a forced fumble against the Giants.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who led his team with 15 tackles.
- Indianapolis defensive end **DWIGHT FREENEY**, who chalked-up 3.0 sacks for 14 yards lost and recorded seven total tackles. The Colts' defense is the NFL's sixth since post-World War II to limit its opponent to single-digit points in its first three games of the season.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **CLARK HAGGANS**, who registered 12 tackles, 1.0 sack, and forced two fumbles.
- Kansas City rookie linebacker **DERRICK JOHNSON**, who registered five tackles and a forced fumble.
- New England defensive tackle **RICHARD SEYMOUR**, who led the Patriots with nine tackles from his position in the trenches. Seymour's tackles included 2.0 sacks for 17 yards lost and also defended a pass.
- Jacksonville defensive end **PAUL SPICER**, who totaled a career-high 3.0 sacks and eight tackles with a forced fumble in a 26-20 overtime win in New York against the Jets.

**Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 3 were:**

- Jacksonville punter **CHRIS HANSON**, who averaged 47.2 yards on six punts. Four of Hanson's kicks traveled more than 50 yards. Of the three Hanson punts that were returned, Jacksonville's coverage unit stifled their opponent with -3 total return yards.
- Miami punter **DONNIE JONES**, who punted six times for a 44.7-yard average with three punts inside the 20 without a touchback. Thanks in part to Jones' foot, Carolina's average drive start on the day was its own 25-yard line.
- Buffalo kicker **RIAN LINDELL**, who was three-for-three on field goal tries from 36, 41, and 30 yards, respectively. Lindell has made all nine for his FG attempts on the season.