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GIANTS WR PLAXICO BURRESS, SAINTS DE DARREN HOWARD & CARDINALS K NEIL RACKERS NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 4

Wide receiver **PLAXICO BURRESS** of the New York Giants, defensive end **DARREN HOWARD** of the New Orleans Saints and kicker **NEIL RACKERS** of the Arizona Cardinals are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the fourth week of the 2005 season (October 2-3), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: WR PLAXICO BURRESS, NEW YORK GIANTS

- Burress was a key performer in the Giants' 44-24 win over the St. Louis Rams at Giants Stadium, improving the club to 3-1. Burress posted a career-high 10 catches for 204 yards, the highest single-game receiving yardage total in the NFL this season. The first-year Giant opened the scoring with a 31-yard touchdown catch and later added a 17-yard touchdown that put New York ahead 24-7 in the second quarter. Burress becomes just the fourth player in franchise history to post 200 yards receiving in one game, joining **DEL SHOFNER** (269 vs. Redskins, 10/28/62), **GENE ROBERTS** (212 at Packers, 11/13/49; 201 vs. Bears, 10/23/49) and **AMANI TOOMER** (204 vs. Colts, 12/22/02).

In his sixth season from Michigan State, this is Burress' first career Player of the Week award. Burress becomes the third Giants wide receiver to earn offensive honors, joining **AMANI TOOMER** (Week 9, 2003) and **CHRIS CALLOWAY** (Week 8, 1997).

DEFENSE: DE DARREN HOWARD, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- Howard was a top performer on a Saints defense that helped the team improve to 2-2 on the season, earning an impressive 19-7 victory over the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Howard posted three tackles, 2.0 sacks, one forced fumble and batted down one pass in the win, aiding the Saints in limiting the Bills to 67 passing yards – the lowest total surrendered by New Orleans since allowing 20 passing yards against the Kansas City Chiefs on December 21, 1997. Howard helped the defense play its best in the fourth quarter, as the team did not allow a touchdown in the final stanza for the fourth consecutive game, the third-longest active streak in the NFL (Houston, 7; Tampa Bay, 5).

In his sixth season from Kansas State, this is Howard's second career Player of the Week honor.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K NEIL RACKERS, ARIZONA CARDINALS

- Rackers connected on a career-best six of six field goals from 40, 45, 48, 23, 43 and 24 yards, helping Arizona to its first win of the season, a 31-14 triumph over the San Francisco 49ers in Mexico City. Rackers added seven touchbacks on kickoffs, becoming the first player since **JASON HANSON** on October 17, 1993 to kick seven in one game. Rackers is a perfect 16 of 16 on field goal attempts in 2005 and his 16 field goals through four games is the most in NFL history.

In his sixth season from Illinois, this is Rackers' second career Player of the Week award.

2005 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Drew Bledsoe, Dallas	DT Bryant Young, San Francisco	K John Carney, New Orleans
Wk 2	WR Santana Moss, Washington	LB Shelton Quarles, Tampa Bay	PR Bobby Wade, Chicago
Wk 3	RB Shaun Alexander, Seattle	DT Rod Coleman, Atlanta	P Josh Bidwell, Tampa Bay
Wk 4	WR Plaxico Burress, NY Giants	DE Darren Howard, New Orleans	K Neil Rackers, Arizona

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 4 were:

- Atlanta running back **WARRICK DUNN**, who rushed for 126 yards on 18 carries, including a 37-yard touchdown run in a 30-10 win over Minnesota.
- Green Bay quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, who completed 28 of 47 attempts for 303 yards and four touchdowns, posting a 98.1 passer rating against Carolina.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, who totaled seven receptions for a career-high 166 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown catch in a 17-13 win over Detroit.
- New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING**, who passed for a career high four touchdowns, completing 19 of 35 attempts for 296 yards and a 120.7 passer rating.
- New Orleans running back **DEUCE MC ALLISTER**, who rushed for 130 yards on 27 carries and added 2 receptions for 16 yards.
- Arizona quarterback **JOSH MC COWN**, who set career highs with 32 completions, 46 attempts, 385 yards and a 109.4 passer rating. He also added two touchdowns with no interceptions in the win.
- Philadelphia quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB**, who passed for 300 yards in his third consecutive game (369) and added three touchdown passes, helping his team to a come-from-behind 37-31 win at Kansas City.
- Philadelphia wide receiver **TERRELL OWENS**, who totaled 11 receptions for 171 yards and one touchdown.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 4 were:

- Tampa Bay cornerback **RONDE BARBER**, who totaled nine tackles and added 1.0 sack.
- Atlanta linebacker **KEITH BROOKING**, who finished with 10 tackles, 1.0 sack and one interception, helping limit Minnesota to 63 rushing yards.
- Philadelphia cornerback **SHELDON BROWN**, who had two interceptions, returning one for a 40-yard touchdown.
- Atlanta defensive tackle **ROD COLEMAN**, who posted three tackles, 2.0 sacks and one forced fumble.
- Green Bay defensive end **KABEER GBAJA-BIAMILA**, who posted seven tackles, 2.0 sacks and one forced fumble.
- Tampa Bay defensive end **SIMEON RICE**, who led the defensive line with six tackles and had 1.0 sack and one pass defensed.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 4 were:

- New Orleans kicker **JOHN CARNEY**, who connected on four of five field goals from 23, 40, 20 and 37 yards.
- Philadelphia kicker **TODD FRANCE**, who in his first NFL game connected on three of four field goals from 44, 37 and 26 yards.