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GIANTS RB TIKI BARBER, BEARS CB CHARLES TILLMAN & 49ERS K JOE NEDNEY NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 8

Running back **TIKI BARBER** of the New York Giants, cornerback **CHARLES TILLMAN** of the Chicago Bears and kicker **JOE NEDNEY** of the San Francisco 49ers are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the eighth week of the 2005 season (October 30-31), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB TIKI BARBER, NEW YORK GIANTS

- In the Giants' first game following the death of beloved team president and co-chief executive officer **WELLINGTON MARA**, running back **TIKI BARBER** enjoyed the best game of his career, helping New York to a 36-0 win over the Washington Redskins at Giants Stadium. Barber carried 24 times for a career high 206 yards, concluding the scoring on the day with a four-yard touchdown run. The 206-yard rushing performance represents the most in a single game this season. Barber set the tone on the game's first play from scrimmage, dashing 57 yards to set up a field goal for a 3-0 advantage. In the second quarter, the big-play threat struck again, rushing for 59 yards to the Washington one-yard line, setting up rookie **BRANDON JACOBS'** three-yard touchdown run for the game's first touchdown. Barber, the club's all-time rushing leader, improved his career total to 7,616 yards as the Giants improved to 5-2 and grabbed sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

In his ninth season from Virginia, this is Barber's third Player of the Week award.

DEFENSE: CB CHARLES TILLMAN, CHICAGO BEARS

- In a game for first place in the NFC North against a long-time rival, Bears cornerback **CHARLES TILLMAN** helped his team to a thrilling 19-13 overtime win against the Detroit Lions at Ford Field. After the Lions had forced a Chicago punt on their first overtime possession, Detroit faced a third and five at its own 18-yard line. Tillman responded with one of the biggest interceptions of his young career, returning the pick for a game-winning 22-yard touchdown. Tillman posted nine tackles on the day and added two pass breakups for a Bears defense that ranks third in the NFL, allowing 262.7 yards per game. The win was the third consecutive victory for the Bears, who at 4-3 are in first place in the division.

In his third season from Louisiana-Lafayette, this is Tillman's first Player of the Week award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K JOE NEDNEY, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- A career day for kicker **JOE NEDNEY** helped propel the 49ers to their second win of the season, a 15-10 triumph over the visiting Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Nedney connected on a career-high five field goals, hitting from 45, 47, 41, 46 and 28 yards on the day. His six field goal attempts also represented a career best, as the 49ers improved to 2-2 this season at Monster Park. Nedney's work on kickoffs helped limit the Buccaneers to an average return of 21 yards, as the 49ers hold opponents to an 18.8-yard kickoff return average on the season, best in the NFL. San Francisco's victory without the benefit of a touchdown was the club's first such win since a 6-3 conquest of the Buccaneers on December 10, 1978.

In his ninth season from San Jose State, this is Nedney's seventh 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
Wk 5	QB Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle	CB Al Harris, Green Bay	PR R.W. McQuarters, Detroit
Wk 6	RB Shaun Alexander, Seattle	CB Anthony Henry, Dallas	P Josh Bidwell, Tampa Bay
Wk 7	QB Daunte Culpepper, Minnesota	LB Jeremiah Trotter, Philadelphia	K Josh Brown, Seattle
Wk 8	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	CB Charles Tillman, Chicago	K Joe Nedney, San Francisco

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 8 were:

- Dallas rookie running back **MARION BARBER**, who in his first NFL start rushed for 127 yards on 27 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 28 and 10 yards. He also added two receptions for 15 yards in a 34-13 win over Arizona.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, had eight receptions for 149 yards, including a 78-yard touchdown catch.
- The **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS OFFENSIVE LINE**, who against the NFL's top-ranked defense helped pave the way for a 101-yard rushing day by running back **KEVAN BARLOW**, as the team finished with 158 yards rushing.
- St. Louis running back **STEVEN JACKSON**, who carried 25 times for 179 yards and added two receptions for 21 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown catch, in a 24-21 home win against Jacksonville.
- Carolina wide receiver **STEVE SMITH**, who established a franchise record with 201 yards receiving on a career high-tying 11 receptions, including a 13-yard touchdown catch, in a 38-13 win over Minnesota.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 8 were:

- Dallas cornerback **ANTHONY HENRY**, who had six tackles and returned an interception 58 yards for a touchdown.
- St. Louis safety **MIKE FURREY**, who had six tackles, one fumble recovery and one interception, which he returned 37 yards to set up the game-winning touchdown.
- New York Giants linebacker **ANTONIO PIERCE**, who totaled 11 tackles and added one interception and two passes defended.
- San Francisco defensive end **BRYANT YOUNG**, who had three tackles, 2.0 sacks and one forced fumble.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 8 were:

- St. Louis linebacker **DREW WAHLROOS**, who blocked a punt that was returned 29 yards by teammate **BRANDON CHILLAR** for a touchdown to open the scoring.
- New York Giants kicker **JAY FEELY**, who connected on five of six field goal attempts from 39, 50, 33, 39 and 44 yards