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RAMS QB RYAN FITZPATRICK, BEARS DE ALEX BROWN & EAGLES K DAVID AKERS NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 12

Quarterback **RYAN FITZPATRICK** of the St. Louis Rams, defensive end **ALEX BROWN** of the Chicago Bears and kicker **DAVID AKERS** of the Philadelphia Eagles are the NFC 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: QB RYAN FITZPATRICK, ST. LOUIS RAMS

- It was a debut St. Louis rookie quarterback **RYAN FITZPATRICK** will never forget. The seventh-round pick from Harvard saw his first NFL action on Sunday against the Houston Texans and turned in a historic performance, leading the Rams to a come-from-behind 33-27 overtime win. Trailing 24-3 in the third quarter, Fitzpatrick helped St. Louis storm back, completing 19 of 30 attempts for 310 yards and three touchdowns, finishing the day with a 117.4 passer rating. Overcoming the 21-point deficit en route to the win was the team's biggest comeback since December 6, 1992, when the Rams earned a 31-27 win over Tampa Bay after trailing by 24 points. Fitzpatrick became just the fifth player in NFL history to pass for 300 yards in his NFL debut, joining **OTTO GRAHAM** (1950), **ED RUBBERT** (1987), **MARK RYPIEN** (1988) and **PEYTON MANNING** (1998). His 56-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver **KEVIN CURTIS** in overtime was the game-winner and earned him the distinction as the only player in league history to throw an overtime touchdown pass in his first NFL game.

Fitzpatrick is the first NFL quarterback from Harvard and joins former Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver/punter **PAT MC INALLY** as the only Harvard products to throw a pass in an NFL game.

DEFENSE: DE ALEX BROWN, CHICAGO BEARS

- The Chicago Bears defense turned in another outstanding performance on Sunday, as the club earned its seventh consecutive victory with a 13-10 win against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Defensive end **ALEX BROWN** played a pivotal role, posting 2.0 sacks, breaking up four passes and forcing a fumble. On the Bucs' first possession, Brown recorded a sack and forced a fumble that was recovered by teammate **TOMMIE HARRIS** at the Tampa Bay one-yard line. It led to the Bears' only touchdown of the game on the next play, as quarterback **KYLE ORTON** found tight end **JOHN GILMORE** for the score. Brown's pressure also led to an intentional grounding penalty in the third quarter, which helped force a three-and-out series. On the ensuing possession, Chicago capped a 65-yard drive with a field goal for a 13-3 lead they would not relinquish.

In his fourth season from Florida, this is Brown's second career Player of the Week award and second consecutive honor for a Bears defender. Cornerback **NATHAN VASHER** earned defensive honors in Week 11.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K DAVID AKERS, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

- The Philadelphia Eagles ended their four-game losing streak with a 19-14 win over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday at Lincoln Financial Field, thanks in large part to the leg of kicker **DAVID AKERS**. The former Louisville Cardinal connected on all four of his field goal attempts from 44, 38, 37 and 33 yards as the Eagles improved to 5-6 on the season. On a day when points were hard to come by, Akers was a key performer, helping Philadelphia overcome a 14-10 halftime deficit by connecting on all three of his second half field goal attempts for the game's final nine points. Akers, who missed the month of October due to injury, has connected on eight of 10 attempts since returning to action.

A former NFL Europe League standout with the 1999 Berlin Thunder, this is Akers' seventh 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
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
Wk 9	RB Shaun Alexander, Seattle	DE Mike Rucker, Carolina	K Robbie Gould, Chicago
Wk 10	RB Samkon Gado, Green Bay	S Darren Sharper, Minnesota	CB Nathan Vasher, Chicago
Wk 11	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	CB Nathan Vasher, Chicago	WR David Tyree, NY Giants
Wk 12	QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, St. Louis	DE Alex Brown, Chicago	K David Akers, Philadelphia

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 12 were:

- New Orleans quarterback **AARON BROOKS**, who passed for three touchdowns with no interceptions, completing 73.9 percent of his pass attempts (17 of 23) for 181 yards and a 136.1 passer rating.
- Atlanta tight end **ALGE CRUMPLER**, who had seven receptions for 104 yards, including touchdown catches of six and 32 yards in a 27-7 win at Detroit.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, who totaled a game-high seven receptions for 138 yards, giving him 1,000 yards receiving this season, his fourth career 1,000-yard campaign and first since 1998.
- Minnesota quarterback **BRAD JOHNSON**, who completed 19 of 28 attempts for 207 yards and three touchdowns, posting a 110.3 passer rating in a 24-12 win against Cleveland.
- Seattle wide receiver **JOE JUREVICIUS**, who had eight receptions for a career-high tying 137 yards and two touchdowns (35, 16) in a 24-21 overtime win against New York.
- Minnesota wide receiver **MARCUS ROBINSON**, who posted two 15-yard touchdown receptions and a third of two yards in a 24-12 win over Cleveland.
- New York tight end **JEREMY SHOCKEY**, who had 10 receptions for 127 yards and one touchdown against Seattle, adding a key two-point conversion to force overtime.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 12 were:

- Tampa Bay cornerback **BRIAN KELLY**, who posted four tackles, one interception and two passes defended.
- Tampa Bay defensive end **SIMEON RICE**, who had two tackles, 1.0 sack and one forced fumble, marking his third consecutive game with a sack and forced fumble.
- Minnesota safety **DARREN SHARPER**, who had two interceptions and four passes defended.
- San Francisco cornerback **SHAWNTAE SPENCER**, who scored his first career touchdown on a 61-yard interception return against Tennessee, adding six tackles and five passes defended.
- New York defensive end **OSI UMENYIORA**, who had 2.0 sacks, one forced fumble and eight tackles.

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

- Seattle kicker **JOSH BROWN**, who hit his only field goal attempt of the day, a 36-yard overtime game-winner.
- St. Louis kicker **JEFF WILKINS**, who connected on two of two field goals, including a 47-yarder with four seconds remaining to force overtime. He also helped the club convert a successful onside kick, setting up the game-tying field goal.