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REDSKINS WR SANTANA MOSS, COWBOYS LB DE MARCUS WARE & BUCCANEERS DE DEWAYNE WHITE NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 16

Wide receiver **SANTANA MOSS** of the Washington Redskins, linebacker **DE MARCUS WARE** of the Dallas Cowboys and defensive end **DEWAYNE WHITE** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 16th week of the 2005 season (December 24-26), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: WR SANTANA MOSS, WASHINGTON REDSKINS

- The Washington Redskins are one win away from their first playoff appearance since the 1999 season after earning a 35-20 win on Saturday over the division-rival New York Giants at FedEx Field. Pro Bowl wide receiver **SANTANA MOSS** was a key offensive performer for the Redskins, posting five receptions for 160 yards and three touchdowns. Moss gave the home team a first quarter lead with a 17-yard touchdown reception. Then, after New York seized a 10-7 advantage, Moss' 59-yard score gave Washington a 14-10 lead they would not relinquish. With the Redskins clinging to a 21-17 third quarter lead, Moss' 72-yard score widened the gap to 11 points, as Washington earned a split of its season series with New York. With his 160-yard performance, Moss has 1,400 receiving yards this season and needs 37 to pass Pro Football Hall of Famer **BOBBY MITCHELL** (1,436, '63) for the most in single season in franchise history.

In his fifth season from Miami, this is Moss' third career Player of the Week award and second of 2005 (Week 2). The last Redskins receiver to earn Offensive honors was **ROD GARDNER** in 2001 (Week 6).

DEFENSE: LB DE MARCUS WARE, DALLAS COWBOYS

- The Dallas Cowboys kept their playoff hopes alive with a 24-20 road win over the Carolina Panthers on Saturday in Charlotte. Rookie linebacker **DE MARCUS WARE** played a huge part in the victory, as the Cowboys defense yielded just 13 first downs in the win. Ware wreaked havoc on the Panthers' offense throughout the day, totaling 3.0 sacks, the most by a Cowboys' rookie in a single game since the sack stat was instituted in 1982. The Auburn, Alabama native also forced three fumbles, the most by a Dallas defender since the team began keeping single-game defensive statistics in 1984. Ware's first sack and forced fumble led to a Carolina punt, his second sack and forced fumble resulted in a Dallas field goal attempt on the ensuing possession and his final sack and forced fumble on the day also resulted in a Panthers' punt. Ware posted his season-high with eight tackles on the day and with 7.0 sacks in 2005, he ties for second-most among NFL rookies.

A first-round pick from Troy, this is Ware's first Player of the Week award. He was previously honored as the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month for October.

SPECIAL TEAMS: DE DEWAYNE WHITE, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

- The Tampa Bay Buccaneers moved a step closer to a trip to the playoffs, earning an exciting 27-24 overtime win against their NFC South rivals, the Atlanta Falcons, on Saturday at Raymond James Stadium. After forcing the extra session with a touchdown in the waning seconds, the Bucs fumbled the overtime kickoff, setting up the Falcons for a potential game-winning 28-yard field goal attempt three plays later. But thanks to Tampa Bay defensive end **DEWAYNE WHITE**, the Atlanta victory was not to be, as White blocked the field goal attempt to keep the Bucs' hopes alive. The Falcons would never again enter Tampa Bay territory and kicker **MATT BRYANT** sealed the win for the home team with a 41-yard field goal. In addition to his key special teams contribution, White totaled four tackles and one forced fumble from his defensive end position.

In his third season from Louisville, this is White's first 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
Wk 13	RB DeShaun Foster, Carolina	CB Andre Dyson, Seattle	P Jeff Feagles, NY Giants
Wk 14	QB Drew Bledsoe, Dallas	CB Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay	KR Antonio Brown, Washington
Wk 15	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE Phillip Daniels, Washington	PR Bernard Berrian, Chicago
Wk 16	WR Santana Moss, Washington	LB DeMarcus Ware, Dallas	DE Dewayne White, Tampa Bay

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 16 were:

- Dallas running back **JULIUS JONES**, who rushed for 194 yards, the fourth-highest single game total in franchise history, including touchdown runs of eight and 43 yards, averaging 5.7 yards per carry in the win.
- Chicago running back **THOMAS JONES**, who rushed for 105 yards on 25 carries, scoring on a two-yard touchdown run in a 24-17 win against Green Bay.
- Washington running back **CLINTON PORTIS**, who rushed 108 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown run, against the Giants. He also added a 17-yard touchdown pass in the win.
- Detroit wide receiver **ROY WILLIAMS**, who had four receptions for 111 yards, all in the fourth quarter, in a 13-12 win against New Orleans. His 40-yard catch on a fourth-and-17 helped set up the game-winning field goal as time expired.
- The **SAN FRANCISCO OFFENSIVE LINE**, which helped the club rush for its season-high 217 yards versus St. Louis, with a 7.5 yards per carry average and three rushing touchdowns.
- Tampa Bay rookie running back **CARNELL "CADILLAC" WILLIAMS**, who rushed 31 times for 150 yards, scoring on a six-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds remaining to force overtime in the win over Atlanta.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 16 were:

- Chicago safety **CHRIS HARRIS**, who had two fourth-quarter interceptions and eight tackles in the division-clinching win against Green Bay.
- Washington linebacker **LEMAR MARSHALL**, who had seven tackles and one interception to set up a touchdown.
- Tampa Bay defensive end **SIMEON RICE**, who had four tackles and 2.0 sacks, the 32nd multiple-sack game of his career.
- Detroit defensive tackle **SHAUN ROGERS**, who scored his first career touchdown on a 21-yard fumble return and added three tackles.
- San Francisco linebacker **DEREK SMITH**, who led the team with 12 tackles, including a key stop on a fourth-and-one play deep in 49ers' territory in the fourth quarter against St. Louis.
- Arizona safety **ADRIAN WILSON**, who had 2.0 sacks and three additional tackles for loss in a 27-21 win over Philadelphia. Wilson's 8.0 sacks on the season are the most by an NFL defensive back since the sack stat was made official in 1982.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 16 were:

- Tampa Bay kicker **MATT BRYANT**, who connected on two of three field goal attempts, including a 41-yard game-winner in overtime.
- Green Bay punt returner **ANTONIO CHATMAN**, who sparked a Packer comeback attempt against Chicago with an 85-yard punt return touchdown, the first by Green Bay since 2001.
- Detroit kicker **JASON HANSON**, who connected on a game-winning 39-yard field goal as time expired. He also added a 21-yarder earlier in the game.
- Philadelphia punter **SEAN LANDETA**, who tied a career high with 10 punts for a career-best 501 yards against Arizona, averaging 50.1 yards per punt. He pinned four punts inside the 20-yard line and had a net punting average on the day of 44.2.
- San Francisco kicker **JOE NEDNEY**, who connected on a career-long and franchise-record tying 56-yard field goal on the final play of the first half, reducing the club's deficit to 20-17 at halftime.