



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
280 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 450-2000 * FAX (212) 681-7573
WWW.NFLMedia.com

Joe Browne, Executive Vice President-Communications
Greg Aiello, Vice President-Public Relations

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NFC-POW-17 1/4/06

GIANTS RB TIKI BARBER, BUCCANEERS DE SIMEON RICE & REDSKINS TE MIKE SELLERS NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 17

Running back **TIKI BARBER** of the New York Giants, defensive end **SIMEON RICE** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and tight end **MIKE SELLERS** of the Washington Redskins are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 17th week of the 2005 season (December 31-January 1), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB TIKI BARBER, NEW YORK GIANTS

- Thanks in large part to the play of running back **TIKI BARBER**, the New York Giants earned their first NFC East division championship since 2000 with a 30-21 win over the Oakland Raiders on Saturday night in Oakland. Barber capped his All-Star season by rushing for 203 yards, including a 95-yard touchdown run, the longest run ever by a Giant and the ninth-longest in NFL history. Barber was also a threat as a receiver, posting six receptions for 60 yards as he concluded the campaign with 2,390 yards from scrimmage (1,860 rushing; 530 receiving), the second-highest total in NFL history, trailing only **MARSHALL FAULK**, who totaled 2,429 scrimmage yards for the 1999 St. Louis Rams. Barber rushed for 200 yards in three games this season, becoming only the third player in NFL history to accomplish that feat, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers **EARL CAMPBELL** (four, 1980) and **O.J. SIMPSON** (three, 1973).

In his ninth season from Virginia, this is Barber's fifth Player of the Week award and third of 2005.

DEFENSE: DE SIMEON RICE, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

- Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end **SIMEON RICE** continued his run of stellar play, helping the Bucs to an NFC South-clinching 27-13 win against the New Orleans Saints on Sunday at Raymond James Stadium. Rice posted his second consecutive 2.0-sack performance, totaling four tackles as the club clinched its second division championship in four seasons under head coach **JON GRUDEN**. With Tampa Bay holding a narrow 20-13 lead late in the fourth quarter, the Saints faced a fourth-and-three from the Bucs' 43-yard line. Rice rose to the occasion with his second sack, ending the Saints drive and helping ensure they would never again reach Buccaneer territory on the day. The three-time All-Star has 5.0 sacks in his past three games.

In his 10th season from Illinois, this is Rice's third Player of the Week Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: TE MIKE SELLERS, WASHINGTON REDSKINS

- The Washington Redskins return to the playoffs for the first time since 1999, clinching a spot in the postseason with a 31-20 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday at Lincoln Financial Field. Tight end **MIKE SELLERS** helped the Redskins overcome a slow start with a key special teams play in the first quarter. After Washington had gone three-and-out on its first two possessions, Sellers recovered a muffed punt, setting up the Redskins at the Philadelphia 37-yard line. Five plays later, Seller's four-yard touchdown catch gave the visitors a 7-3 advantage. Sellers, who also added two special teams tackles on the day, finished the regular season with 12 receptions, seven for touchdowns.

In his sixth season from Walla Walla (WA) Community College, this is Sellers' 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
Wk 17	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE Simeon Rice, Tampa Bay	TE Mike Sellers, Washington

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 17 were:

- Green Bay wide receiver **DONALD DRIVER**, who had six receptions for 118 yards, including a game-long 59-yard catch, in a 23-17 win over Seattle.
- Green Bay quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, who passed for 259 yards and one touchdown, becoming the first player in NFL history with 20 touchdown passes in 12 consecutive seasons.
- Carolina running back **DE SHAUN FOSTER**, who rushed for 165 yards on 18 carries, scoring on a 70-yard touchdown run in a playoff-clinching 44-11 win over Atlanta.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, who had touchdown receptions of seven and four yards, establishing a franchise single-season record with 10 touchdown receptions. He finished with four catches for 38 yards.
- San Francisco rookie running back **FRANK GORE**, who had his first career 100-yard rushing game, gaining 108 yards on 25 carries in a 20-17 overtime win over Houston.
- Washington running back **CLINTON PORTIS**, who posted his fifth consecutive 100-yard rushing game, gaining 112 yards on 27 carries, including touchdown runs of two and 22 yards.
- Minnesota quarterback **BRAD JOHNSON**, who completed 27 of 40 attempts for 247 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions, posting a 100.7 passer rating in a 34-10 win against Chicago.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 17 were:

- San Francisco cornerback **MIKE ADAMS**, who made his first career start at cornerback, scoring on a 40-yard interception return and setting up a game-winning field goal in overtime with his second interception of the game. Adams finished with six tackles.
- St. Louis defensive end **LEONARD LITTLE**, who had 2.5 sacks, four tackles and one forced fumble in a 20-10 road win over Dallas.
- Carolina cornerback **RICKY MANNING, JR**, who recovered two fumbles, returning one for an eight-yard touchdown.
- Carolina defensive tackle **KINDAL MOOREHEAD**, who had a career-high tying 2.0 sacks.
- Washington safety **SEAN TAYLOR**, who returned a fumble 39 yards for a touchdown and posted 11 tackles.
- Carolina defensive end **AL WALLACE**, who posted 2.0 sacks and four tackles.
- Tampa Bay defensive end **DEWAYNE WHITE**, who returned a fumble 34 yards for a game-clinching touchdown. White posted 1.0 sacks and finished with five tackles.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 17 were:

- Minnesota tight end **JIM KLEINSASSER**, whose third-quarter blocked punt led to a field goal against Chicago.
- Green Bay kicker **RYAN LONGWELL**, who hit field goals of 26, 32 and 28 yards.
- San Francisco kicker **JOE NEDNEY**, who connected on two of two field goals (42, 33), including a 33-yard overtime game-winner.
- Arizona kicker **NEIL RACKERS**, whose two field goals (28, 42) gave him 40 in 2005, the most in a single season in NFL history.