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AFC-POM-2 11/2/06

COLTS QB PEYTON MANNING, BRONCOS CB CHAMP BAILEY & JETS KR-CB JUSTIN MILLER **NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR OCTOBER**

Quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** of the Indianapolis Colts, cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY** of the Denver Broncos, and kick returner-cornerback **JUSTIN MILLER** of the New York Jets are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for October, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB PEYTON MANNING, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- The Colts' Manning was a key ingredient to a perfect 4-0 October (7-0 on the season), completing 72.6 percent of his passes (98 of 135) for 1,070 yards with 10 touchdowns against one interception for an NFL October-best 117.2 passer rating. Even more impressive, in three of the four victories, Manning led the Colts to game-winning, fourth-quarter comebacks. In a 31-28 road win against the New York Jets on Oct. 1, Manning led two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, the first with 2:32 remaining, and scored the second himself on a one-yard TD run with 50 seconds left in the game. Using a fourth-quarter comeback for the second consecutive week, Manning led the Colts to a 14-13 home win over Tennessee on Oct. 8. On Oct. 22, the Colts' quarterback passed for 342 yards and four TDs for a 140.4 passer rating in a 36-22 win against Washington. Manning concluded the month with a 345-yard, three-touchdown performance for a 34-31 comeback win at Denver. He led five second-half scoring drives – and three touchdowns – including two in the last 7:00 against a Denver defense that had allowed just two touchdowns all season entering the game. He also surpassed 35,000 career yards against the Broncos in his 135th career game, the second-fastest pace to that plateau in NFL history (134, **DAN MARINO**).

In his ninth season from Tennessee, this is Manning's third career Player of the Month Award.

DEFENSE: CB CHAMP BAILEY, DENVER BRONCOS

- Doing his part in keeping opponents out of the Broncos' end zone, Bailey chalked-up an interception in three consecutive October games (all victories), broke up six additional passes, and was in on 20 tackles to help Denver attain a 3-1 record for the month and a share of first place in the AFC West with a 5-2 mark on the season. Two of Bailey's interceptions snuffed out drives deep in Denver territory. On Oct. 9 against Baltimore with the score tied at 3-3, the six-time All-Star picked off a pass in the Denver end zone en route to a 13-3 victory. One week later against Oakland, Bailey turned in an interception on the Broncos' one-yard line to hold on to a 13-0 lead as the club pocketed another 13-3 win. Bailey and the rest of the Denver defense allowed an average of 11.8 points per game in four October matchups.

In his eighth year from Georgia, this is Bailey's second career Player of the Month Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: KR-CB JUSTIN MILLER, NEW YORK JETS

- Leading all NFL kick returners by more than 100 yards in the month, Miller was a significant cog in the New York Jets' special team unit with 652 yards on 20 kick returns for a stellar 32.6-yard average, including two returns for touchdowns. The 5-10, 196-pounder opened October in grand fashion with the longest kick return in franchise history -- a 103-yard sprint against Indianapolis for a touchdown. Miller's second run to the end zone occurred last week. Following a Browns field goal, which put Cleveland ahead 20-3, Miller stunted the opponent's momentum with a 99-yard return. The second-year player recorded a kick return of 50-plus yards and at least 160 kick return yards in three of five October games to help the Jets attain a 4-4 record at the season's midpoint for second-place in the AFC East.

In his second year from Clemson, this is Miller's first Player of the Month Award. Miller is the second Jets player to earn a monthly honor this season as teammate and wide receiver **LAVERANUES COLES** was the conference's Offensive Player of the Month for September.

2006 AFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
September	WR Laveranues Coles, New York	LB Bart Scott, Baltimore	K Matt Stover, Baltimore
October	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	CB Champ Bailey, Denver	KR-CB Justin Miller, New York