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AFC-POW-11 11/22/06

CHARGERS RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, DOLPHINS DE JASON TAYLOR & RAVENS KR B.J. SAMS NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 11

Running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** of the San Diego Chargers, defensive end **JASON TAYLOR** of the Miami Dolphins and kick returner **B.J. SAMS** of the Baltimore Ravens are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 11th week of the 2006 season (November 19-20), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

- The Chargers seized the AFC West lead on the road Sunday night with a 35-27 win at Denver, bolstered by Tomlinson's four touchdowns (three rushing, one receiving), 105 rushing yards on 20 carries, and 75 yards on three receptions. In his 89th career game, Tomlinson scored his 99th, 100th, 101st, and 102nd career touchdowns, reaching 100 TDs in the fewest games played. Tomlinson surpassed the previous-best mark of 93 games, reached by Pro Football Hall of Famer **JIM BROWN** and **EMMITT SMITH**. Trailing 24-7 midway through the third quarter, the San Diego rusher scored on a three-yard run and a 51-yard catch and run within 84 seconds to make the score 24-21, Denver. With 3:03 left in the game, a San Diego interception gave the Chargers possession on the Denver 23-yard line with a 28-27 lead. Tomlinson rushed for the team's next 23 yards – including a one-yard TD run – in a five-play scoring drive for the Chargers' eight-point margin of victory. Tomlinson has 22 TDs on the season and is only six touchdowns away from tying the single-season record of 28, set by Seattle's **SHAUN ALEXANDER** last season.

In his sixth season from TCU, this is Tomlinson's eighth Player of the Week Award and his fifth since the start of 2005.

DEFENSE: DE JASON TAYLOR, MIAMI DOLPHINS

- Miami's Taylor played a significant role in lifting the Dolphins over the Minnesota Vikings for a 24-20 home victory – the team's third win a row. On the day, Taylor recorded five tackles, 1.0 sack, two forced fumbles, an interception and another pass defended. With the Dolphins ahead 17-13 and 3:39 left in the game, the Vikings had the ball 1st and 10 on the Dolphins' 47-yard line. Taylor snuffed out the Vikings' chances on the next snap with an interception which he returned 51 yards for a 24-13 lead. The score was his second in the past three weeks and ties him with **GEORGE MARTIN** for the most career touchdowns scored by a defensive lineman since 1970 with seven.

In his 10th season from Akron, this is Taylor's seventh Player of the Week honor and his second in the past three weeks.

SPECIAL TEAMS: KR B.J. SAMS, BALTIMORE RAVENS

- In a 24-10 home win against Atlanta, Baltimore's Sams produced 212 return yards to boost the Ravens to 8-2 for the first time in club history. The New Orleans native returned three punts for 121 yards (40.3 average) and three kickoffs for 91 yards (30.3 average). Sams posted punt returns of 65 and 59 yards while also delivering a 59-yard kick return. Two of Sams' three 50-plus-yard returns led to eventual Ravens touchdowns.

In his third year from McNeese State, this is Sams' first Player of the Week honor and marks the second consecutive week that Ravens special teams player has earned the award (**TREVOR PRYCE**).

2006 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Chad Pennington, New York	LB Ray Lewis, Baltimore	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
Wk 2	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	CB Rashean Mathis, Jacksonville	S Coy Wire, Buffalo
Wk 3	WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	S Kerry Rhodes, New York	PR-WR Terrence Wilkins, Ind.
Wk 4	WR Andre Johnson, Houston	DE Jarvis Green, New England	KR-WR Joshua Cribbs, Cleveland
Wk 5	QB Damon Huard, Kansas City	DT Jamal Williams, San Diego	K Lawrence Tynes, Kansas City
Wk 6	QB Philip Rivers, San Diego	S Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh	TE Casey Cramer, Tennessee
Wk 7	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	DE Derrick Burgess, Oakland	KR-RB Laurence Maroney, NE
Wk 8	RB Larry Johnson, Kansas City	S Sean Jones, Cleveland	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
Wk 9	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo
Wk 10	RB Willie Parker, Pittsburgh	DT Dewayne Robertson, New York	DE Trevor Pryce, Baltimore
Wk 11	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	KR B.J. Sams, Baltimore

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 11 were:

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who tied a career-high with four TD passes, completing 20 of 31 (64.5 percent) for 244 yards and a 128.2 passer rating in a 35-0 win at Green Bay.
- Houston quarterback **DAVID CARR**, who completed 25 of 30 passes (83.3 percent) for 223 yards against one interception in a 24-21 loss against Buffalo. Carr tied an NFL record by completing 22 consecutive pass attempts in the game.
- Buffalo wide receiver **LEE EVANS**, who set a club record with 265 receiving yards on a career-high 11 catches. Evans posted two 83-yard TD receptions, making him the third player in NFL history with two TD catches of 80-plus yards in one game.
- Cincinnati wide receiver **CHAD JOHNSON**, who posted 190 receiving yards and career-high-tying three touchdowns on six catches in a 31-16 win at New Orleans. Johnson leads the NFL with 932 receiving yards.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who rushed for 154 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries (5.0-yard average) in a 17-13 win against Oakland.
- Baltimore running back **JAMAL LEWIS**, who carried the ball 22 times for 91 yards (4.1 avg.) and rushed for a career-high-tying three TDs.
- Buffalo quarterback **J.P. LOSMAN**, who threw a career-high 340 passing yards, completing 26 of 38 attempts with three TDs against one interception. Losman led the team on a seven-play, 55-yard TD drive to win the game with nine seconds left in regulation.
- Cincinnati quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, who completed 14 of 22 passes for 275 yards and three touchdowns against one interception for a 127.8 passer rating.
- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, who led the Steelers on three fourth-quarter touchdown drives of more than 75 yards in a 24-20 win at Cleveland. Roethlisberger completed 18 of 29 fourth-quarter passes for 224 yards and two TDs.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 11 were:

- Buffalo cornerback **NATE CLEMENTS**, who recorded an interception and a fumble recovery with two additional passes defended.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who led the Steelers with 12 tackles, including 1.0 sack.
- Cincinnati safety **KEVIN KAESVIHARN**, who had nine tackles, including 2.0 sacks, and an interception in a 31-16 win at New Orleans.
- Kansas City safety **JARED PAIGE**, who had three solo tackles and a game-clinching interception in the Chiefs' end zone.
- Pittsburgh safety **TROY POLAMALU**, who recorded seven tackles, 1.0 sack, and a pass defended in a 24-20 win at Cleveland.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JOEY PORTER**, who notched eight tackles and half of a sack.
- Baltimore defensive end **TREVOR PRYCE**, who posted five tackles, including 2.0 sacks.
- New England linebacker **MIKE VRABEL**, who notched 1.5 sacks and six tackles along with a shutout-preserving forced fumble.
- Denver cornerback **DARRENT WILLIAMS**, who tied for the team lead with eight tackles and scored on a 31-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 11 were:

- Kansas City kick returner **DANTE HALL**, who returned four kickoffs for 118 yards with a long of 47.
- Pittsburgh kick returner **SEAN MOREY**, who returned two kickoffs for 100 yards, including a 76-yarder.

- Houston punter **CHAD STANLEY**, who helped hold the Bills' punt return unit to a 6.0 return average, a full three yards below their season average. Stanley punted the ball six times with three landing inside the Bills' 5-yard line with no touchbacks
- Buffalo punter **BRIAN MOORMAN**, who averaged 46.9 yards on seven punts for 328 yards with a 41.0 net average. Two of Moorman's seven punts landed inside the 20.
- Jacksonville kicker **JOSH SCOBEE**, who was four-of-four in field goal attempts in a 26-10 win against the New York Giants. Scobee connected from 39, 24, 23 and 48 yards. Scobee has now made 15 consecutive field goals from beyond 40 yards. He also added two touchbacks on kickoffs.