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JAGUARS QB DAVID GARRARD, TEXANS LB DE MECO RYANS & TITANS K ROB BIRONAS NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 13

Quarterback **DAVID GARRARD** of the Jacksonville Jaguars, linebacker **DE MECO RYANS** of the Houston Texans and kicker **ROB BIRONAS** of the Tennessee Titans are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 13th week of the 2006 season (November 30, December 3-4), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB DAVID GARRARD, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

- In a game the Jaguars needed to stay within close range of the AFC playoff picture, quarterback Garrard completed 16 of 22 passes for 229 yards and a pair of touchdowns without an interception for a sterling career-best 136.4 passer rating in a 24-10 win at in-state rival Miami. The victory lifts Jacksonville to 7-5 and snapped the Dolphins' four-game winning streak. In addition to his aerial artistry, Garrard tucked the ball under his arm six times for 24 yards and three first-downs. On his long rush of the day, Garrard was forced to retreat 15 yards to midfield before zigzagging between defenders for a 17-yard gain. The Jaguars' QB connected on a 16-yard TD pass to tight end **GEORGE WRIGHSTER** on the next play for a 17-7 lead just before halftime. The East Orange, N.J. native directed the club on two drives of more than 90 yards, both resulting in touchdowns. Ten of Garrard's 16 completions resulted in first-downs as he improved to 9-5 overall as a starter, winning eight of his last 11 starts. Garrard has not thrown an interception in five of his six starts since taking over for the injured **BYRON LEFTWICH** and has thrown for multiple touchdowns with a passer rating higher than 100.0 in three of the team's past six games.

In his fifth season from East Carolina, this is Garrard's first Player of the Week Award.

DEFENSE: LB DE MECO RYANS, HOUSTON TEXANS

- Seasoned veteran production in the form of rookie exuberance best described Ryans, the Texans' rookie middle linebacker, in Houston's 23-14 road win at Oakland Sunday. His flurry of big plays included a forced fumble, a fumble recovery, an interception, three total passes defended, 1.0 sack, and a team-best 15 tackles. Ryans' sack came in the first quarter on a third-and-five play to force an Oakland punt, but the 22-year-old made his biggest plays late in the game to earn Houston its second victory in four weeks. Leading 17-14 with 7:58 left in the fourth quarter, Ryans pounced on a Raiders fumble which the Texans converted into a field goal for a 20-14 edge. On Oakland's next possession, Ryans stripped a Raiders ballcarrier, whose fumble was scooped up by fellow Texan **MORLON GREENWOOD**, which resulted in another Houston field goal for a 23-14 lead. The Raiders then began their final drive of the game on their own 30-yard line with 2:11 left to play, driving to the Texans' seven. On second-and-goal from the seven, Ryans recorded his first career interception to cap the victory.

In his first season from Alabama, this is the first Player of the Week Award for Ryans.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K ROB BIRONAS, TENNESSEE TITANS

- With seven seconds remaining in a tightly-contested divisional home game against the Colts, Titans kicker Bironas booted a 60-yard field goal to give the Titans a 20-17 lead and eventual victory, sending Nashville into a frenzy. Bironas' kick – the longest in franchise history and only the third game-winner of 60-or-more yards in the NFL's 87 seasons – earned Tennessee the lead after trailing by 14 points in the second quarter. Bironas also opened the Titans' scoring ledger with a 25-yard second-quarter field goal to cut Indianapolis' lead to 14-3. Tennessee has now won three games in a row and five of its past seven.

In his second year from Georgia Southern, this is Bironas' first Player of the Week Award.

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
Wk 12	RB Joseph Addai, Indianapolis	CB Asante Samuel, New England	PR Roscoe Parrish, Buffalo
Wk 13	QB David Garrard, Jacksonville	LB DeMeco Ryans, Houston	K Rob Bironas, Tennessee

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 13 were:

- Cleveland quarterback **DEREK ANDERSON**, who played in relief of the injured **CHARLIE FRYE** to complete 12 of 21 passes for 171 yards and two TDs against an interception in a 31-28 overtime win against Kansas City. Anderson rallied the Browns from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit.
- New York receiver **JERRICHO COTCHERY**, who posted 99 receiving yards and a touchdown on nine receptions in a 38-10 win at Green Bay.
- New England running back **COREY DILLON**, who rushed for three touchdowns in a 28-21 home win against Detroit.
- Kansas City tight end **TONY GONZALEZ**, who caught nine passes for 105 yards and two touchdowns. Gonzalez now has 61 career TDs, one shy of tying **SHANNON SHARPE** for the most scored by a tight end in NFL history.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON**, who caught seven passes for 172 yards and a touchdown. The TD reception was the 100th between Harrison and **PEYTON MANNING** – the most by a duo in league history.
- New York running back **CEDRIC HOUSTON**, who rushed for two touchdowns and a career-best 105 yards on 22 carries.
- New York quarterback **CHAD PENNINGTON**, who completed 25 of 35 passes for 263 yards and two TDs against two interceptions for an 88.2 passer rating.
- San Diego running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who rushed for an NFL Week 13-best 178 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries in a 24-21 win at Buffalo.
- Pittsburgh wide receiver **NATE WASHINGTON**, who averaged 26.0 yards per catch on three receptions, including a long catch of 36 yards in a 20-3 win against Tampa Bay.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 13 were:

- Tennessee linebacker **KEITH BULLUCK**, who racked-up 12 tackles and an acrobatic interception near the end of the first half which led to a Titans touchdown.
- Cleveland linebacker **ANDRA DAVIS**, who led the Browns with 15 tackles, including one for a loss.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who notched a team-high 12 tackles and forced a fumble.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **LARRY FOOTE**, who intercepted his first pass of the season, recovered a fumble, and registered six tackles.
- New York linebacker **VICTOR HOBSON**, who posted 13 tackles and a pass defended.
- Pittsburgh cornerback **BRYANT MC FADDEN**, who caught an interception and chalked-up nine tackles along with another pass defended.
- Kansas City linebacker **KAWIKA MITCHELL**, who tallied nine tackles, two assists, and one interception.
- New York defensive end **BRYAN THOMAS**, who totaled 1.5 sacks and a forced fumble with five tackles.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 13 were:

- Cleveland kicker **PHIL DAWSON**, who was good from 33 yards on a game-winning field goal in overtime. The kick marks Dawson's eighth career game-winner.
- Pittsburgh kicker **JEFF REED**, who was two of three in field goal attempts, including splitting the uprights for 50 yards for the longest field goal in Heinz Field history.
- New York linebacker **CODY SPENCER**, who posted four special teams tackles.