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CHARGERS RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, COLTS DE DWIGHT FREENEY & BILLS P BRIAN MOORMAN NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 15

Running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** of the San Diego Chargers, defensive end **DWIGHT FREENEY** of the Indianapolis Colts and punter **BRIAN MOORMAN** of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 15th week of the 2006 season (December 14, 16-18), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

- In a year of superlatives for Tomlinson, the six-year veteran rushed for a personal season-high 199 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries before a national television audience Sunday night in a 20-9 win against AFC West rival Kansas City. The win was San Diego's 12th of the year, tying the franchise's record for most in a season. The team owns the league's longest current winning streak at eight games and possesses the inside track for homefield advantage throughout the AFC playoffs. Tomlinson's TD runs were 15- and 85-yards, respectively. His first score accounted for his 180th point of the season, vaulting him ahead of Pro Football Hall of Famer **PAUL HORNUNG**, whose former NFL single-season record total of 176 points stood since 1960. Tomlinson's second scoring run the was the team's longest since 1962 and extended his consecutive games streak with multiple TDs to an NFL-record eight games, surpassing Hall of Famer **JOHN RIGGINS'** mark of seven games in 1983. Tomlinson, the NFL's leading rusher (1,626), has a record 31 TDs on the year.

In his sixth season from TCU, this is Tomlinson's 10th career Player of the Week Award, his fourth of the season, and his second in as many weeks.

DEFENSE: DE DWIGHT FREENEY, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- Under the Monday night lights of the RCA Dome, Indianapolis' Freeney made his presence felt throughout the game, disrupting the high-powered Bengals offense with four tackles, including 3.0 sacks, and three forced fumbles in a 34-16 victory. Freeney now has five career 3.0-sack games to his credit and has forced at least two fumbles four times in his career. With 56.5 sacks in 77 career games, Freeney is the Colts' all-time leader in the category. In the defense's first big play of the game, Freeney knocked the ball loose from the Cincinnati quarterback, which was recovered by the Colts and led to a 30-yard field goal for the game's first score. Freeney added a pair of fourth-quarter sacks and a tackle for a loss to keep the Bengals in check and lift Indianapolis' record to 11-3.

In his fifth year from Syracuse, this is Freeney's third career Player of the Week Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P BRIAN MOORMAN, BUFFALO BILLS

- Fighting strong winds and rain at Ralph Wilson Stadium, Buffalo's Moorman exhibited why he will punt for the AFC All-Star team for the second consecutive year in a 21-0 victory against Miami, keeping the Bills alive in the AFC playoff race. The six-year vet punted seven times and pinned the Dolphins inside their 20-yard line on four occasions. Of Moorman's seven punts, three drew fair catches, one was downed by the Bills' special teams unit, one was directionally kicked out of bounds, and two were returned – one for minus-one yard and another for 12. The Dolphins' average drive start following a Moorman punt was its own 18.5-yard line. On the season, Moorman stands second in the NFL in net punting average (39.5) and also ranks second in punts inside the 20 with 29 such kicks.

In his sixth season from Pittsburg State, this is Moorman's fourth Player of the Week Award and his second of the season (Week 9). This marks the fourth time that a Bills player has earned the weekly AFC special teams honor this season.

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
Wk 14	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Aaron Schobel, Buffalo	KR-RB Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.
Wk 15	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 15 were:

- New York wide receiver **LAVERANUES COLES**, who tied a career-high with 12 receptions for 144 yards and a touchdown in a key 26-13 win at Minnesota as the playoff picture tightens.
- Denver rookie quarterback **JAY CUTLER**, who completed 21 of 31 (67.7 percent) for 261 yards and two TDs against one interception for a 101.7 passer rating in a 37-20 win at Arizona.
- New England running back **KEVIN FAULK**, who scored two first-quarter TDs to spark a 40-7 home win against Houston. Faulk scored on an 11-yard run and a 43-yard reception for the AFC East leaders.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON**, who hauled in three TD receptions and 86 yards on eight catches for the night. Harrison (82) now has reached 80 catches in eight consecutive seasons, tying **JERRY RICE** for the longest such streak in NFL history.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who rushed 19 times for 84 yards.
- Buffalo quarterback **J.P. LOSMAN**, who tied a career-high with three touchdown passes, completing 13 of 19 (68.4 percent) for 200 yards and a glittering 142.5 passer rating.
- Indianapolis quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**, who passed for an AFC Week 15-best four TDs and 282 passing yards on 29 of 36 passing (80.6 percent) and a 136.3 passer rating. Manning (26) has now passed for at least 25 TDs in an NFL-record nine consecutive seasons.
- Pittsburgh running back **WILLIE PARKER**, who rushed for 132 yards and a TD on 23 carries for a 5.7-yard average in a 37-3 win at Carolina. Parker's TD run covered 41 yards.
- New York quarterback **CHAD PENNINGTON**, who passed for a career-high 339 yards, connecting on 29 of 39 (74.4 percent) for one TD against an interception for a 98.1 passer rating.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 15 were:

- Denver cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY**, who notched a pair of interceptions and chalked up four tackles in a road victory.
- Buffalo cornerback **NATE CLEMENTS**, whose third-quarter interception led to a touchdown in a shutout victory. Clements played a key role in limiting Miami to 118 passing yards.
- San Diego linebacker **DONNIE EDWARDS**, who posted an interception, a sack, and a tackle for a loss Sunday night.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who led the Steelers with nine tackles and a sack while limiting Carolina to 43 rushing yards and three points.
- New York linebacker **VICTOR HOBSON**, who racked up eight tackles and a sack.
- Tennessee safety **CHRIS HOPE**, who chalked up 10 tackles and a 61-yard interception return for a touchdown in a 24-17 victory against AFC South-rival Jacksonville.
- Tennessee cornerback **PACMAN JONES**, who posted five tackles, an 83-yard interception return for a touchdown, and returned a kickoff for 70 yards.
- Kansas City safety **GREG WESLEY**, who registered five tackles and an interception.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 15 were:

- Denver kicker **JASON ELAM**, who accounted for 13 of Denver's 37 points, converting all three of his field goal attempts, splitting the uprights from 30, 22, and 30 yards.
- New England kick returner **ELLIS HOBBS**, who returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown to answer a Houston TD drive.

- Pittsburgh rookie punt returner **SANTONIO HOLMES**, who scored his first punt return for a touchdown on a 65-yard jaunt.
- New York kicker **MIKE NUGENT**, who made all four of his field goal attempts from distances of 25, 52, 45, and 20 yards.
- Kansas City kicker **LAWRENCE TYNES**, who was three-for-three in field goal tries, connecting from 45, 52, and 24 yards.