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## **COLTS QB PEYTON MANNING, RAVENS CB CHRIS MC ALISTER & CHIEFS S BERNARD POLLARD NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 17**

Quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** of the Indianapolis Colts, cornerback **CHRIS MC ALISTER** of the Baltimore Ravens and rookie safety **BERNARD POLLARD** of the Kansas City Chiefs are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 17th week of the 2006 season (December 30-31), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: QB PEYTON MANNING, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS**

- Indianapolis' Manning accounted for all three of the team's touchdowns last Sunday in leading the Colts to a 27-22 home win in the season finale against the Miami Dolphins. The victory assured Indianapolis nothing lower than the AFC's No. 3 playoff seed with a 12-4 record. Manning completed 22 of 37 pass attempts for 282 yards and a pair of TDs without an interception for a 101.4 passer rating. Manning also escaped the pocket to elude the Miami pressure and ran 11 yards for a touchdown with 19 seconds remaining in the first half for a 14-6 Colts lead. His performance increased his seasonal passer rating to an NFL-best 101.0, the third consecutive season he has led the league in that category, marking the first time since Pro Football Hall of Famer **STEVE YOUNG** (four, 1991-94) that a quarterback has posted a 100-plus passer rating in three consecutive seasons. The Colts host the Kansas City Chiefs this Saturday afternoon to kick off the NFL Playoffs.

In his ninth year from Tennessee, this is Manning's 15th Player of the Week Award and his third of the season (Weeks 2 & 7).

### **DEFENSE: CB CHRIS MC ALISTER, BALTIMORE RAVENS**

- Eyeing a first-round bye, the Baltimore Ravens and cornerback Chris McAlister earned themselves a 19-7 victory against the visiting Buffalo Bills Sunday. The AFC All-Star registered three passes defended, including a 31-yard interception returned for a touchdown, and three tackles to salt away the win. Clinging to a 9-7 lead late in the third quarter, McAlister stepped in front of a Buffalo receiver, making his interception in stride, and raced 31 yards to seize a 16-7 advantage. McAlister's score was the Ravens' lone touchdown as the club finished 2006 with the best record in franchise history (13-3), riding a four-game winning streak. As a team, the Ravens limited Buffalo to 39 rushing yards. The club has won nine of its past 10 entering the postseason.

In his eighth season from Arizona, this is the second career Player of the Week honor for McAlister.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: S BERNARD POLLARD, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**

- In a game the Chiefs needed to win in order to keep their playoff hopes alive, Kansas City's young standout special teamer Pollard rushed the Jacksonville punter from his end position, blocked the punt with his right hand while fending off a blocker, located the ball and outran a Jaguar to the end zone to recover it for a touchdown in a 35-30 home victory. The win lifts the Chiefs to the playoffs in their first season under head coach **HERM EDWARDS**. Kansas City travels to face the Colts in Indianapolis on Saturday afternoon. Pollard also recorded two special teams tackles in the all-important Week 17 victory. Pollard has a pair of blocked punts in 2006 to tie for the third-most in a season in club history. The last time a Chiefs player blocked as many as two punts in a season was **ALBERT LEWIS**, who had a franchise-record four blocks in 1990.

In his rookie season from Purdue, this is Pollard's first Player of the Week Award.

## 2006 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Wk 1</b>	QB Chad Pennington, New York	LB Ray Lewis, Baltimore	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
<b>Wk 2</b>	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	CB Rashean Mathis, Jacksonville	S Coy Wire, Buffalo
<b>Wk 3</b>	WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	S Kerry Rhodes, New York	PR-WR Terrence Wilkins, Ind.
<b>Wk 4</b>	WR Andre Johnson, Houston	DE Jarvis Green, New England	KR-WR Joshua Cribbs, Cleveland
<b>Wk 5</b>	QB Damon Huard, Kansas City	DT Jamal Williams, San Diego	K Lawrence Tynes, Kansas City
<b>Wk 6</b>	QB Philip Rivers, San Diego	S Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh	TE Casey Cramer, Tennessee
<b>Wk 7</b>	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	DE Derrick Burgess, Oakland	KR-RB Laurence Maroney, NE
<b>Wk 8</b>	RB Larry Johnson, Kansas City	S Sean Jones, Cleveland	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
<b>Wk 9</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo
<b>Wk 10</b>	RB Willie Parker, Pittsburgh	DT Dewayne Robertson, New York	DE Trevor Pryce, Baltimore
<b>Wk 11</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	KR B.J. Sams, Baltimore
<b>Wk 12</b>	RB Joseph Addai, Indianapolis	CB Asante Samuel, New England	PR Roscoe Parrish, Buffalo
<b>Wk 13</b>	QB David Garrard, Jacksonville	LB DeMeco Ryans, Houston	K Rob Bironas, Tennessee
<b>Wk 14</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Aaron Schobel, Buffalo	KR-RB Maurice Jones-Drew, Jac.
<b>Wk 15</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, SD	DE Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo
<b>Wk 16</b>	QB Vince Young, Tennessee	LB Shawne Merriman, San Diego	K Kris Brown, Houston
<b>Wk 17</b>	QB Peyton Manning, Indianapolis	CB Chris McAlister, Baltimore	S Bernard Pollard, Kansas City

### Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 17 were:

- New England wide receiver **RECHE CALDWELL**, who totaled a career-high 134 receiving yards on four catches in a 40-23 win at Tennessee. Caldwell had catches of 49 and 62 yards on the day.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who produced his club-record 11th 100-yard rushing performance of the season (138) en route to three rushing TDs.
- San Diego quarterback **PHILIP RIVERS**, who had only five incomplete passes on 24 attempts for a 117.2 passer rating in a 27-20 against Arizona to secure homefield advantage throughout the playoff for the Chargers.
- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, who completed 19 of 28 passes (67.9 percent) for 280 yards and a touchdown against one interception for a 97.3 passer rating in a 23-17 win against Cincinnati, eliminating the Bengals from postseason contention.

### Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 17 were:

- New York linebacker **ERIC BARTON**, who recorded four tackles, 1.0 sack, and a forced fumble in a 23-3 win against Oakland to secure a playoff berth.
- Kansas City safety **SAMMY KNIGHT**, who totaled eight tackles and a sack.
- New England cornerback **ASANTE SAMUEL**, who recorded two fourth-quarter interceptions. Samuel tied Denver's **CHAMP BAILEY** for the league lead in interceptions on the year with 10.

### Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 17 were:

- Miami kicker **OLINDO MARE**, who was a perfect five-for-five on field goals and boomed six of his seven kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks. Mare was good on his field goals from 28, 38, 42, 27, and 34 yards.
- Baltimore kicker **MATT STOVER**, who was a perfect four-of-four in field goal attempts, splitting the uprights from 26, 37, 39, and 29 yards.