



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
280 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017  
(212) 450-2000 \* FAX (212) 681-7573  
[WWW.NFLMedia.com](http://WWW.NFLMedia.com)

Joe Browne, Executive Vice President-Communications  
Greg Aiello, Vice President-Public Relations

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## **COLTS QB PEYTON MANNING, JAGUARS CB RASHEAN MATHIS & BILLS S COY WIRE NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 2**

Quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** of the Indianapolis Colts, cornerback **RASHEAN MATHIS** of the Jacksonville Jaguars and safety **COY WIRE** of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the second week of the 2006 season (September 17-18), the NFL announced today.

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

- Directing an offensive fireworks display worthy of choreographed music, Manning completed 26 of 38 (68.4 percent) passes for 400 yards with three touchdowns for a 129.3 passer rating in a 43-24 win against Houston. Manning connected with each of his primary wideouts – **REGGIE WAYNE** (135) and **MARVIN HARRISON** (127) – for more than 100 yards. The leader of the 2-0 Colts reached 400 passing yards for the seventh time in his career, tying Pro Football Hall of Famers **JOE MONTANA** and **WARREN MOON** for the second-most such performances in a career as only Hall of Famer **DAN MARINO** (13) has more. Adding to Sunday's victory was Manning's (2,820) surpassing of Hall of Famer **JOHN UNITAS** (2,796) for most completions by a Colt.

In his ninth year from Tennessee, this is Manning's 13th Player of the Week award.

### **DEFENSE: CB RASHEAN MATHIS, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**

- A dominating performance by the Jaguars (2-0), keyed by a pair of Mathis fourth-quarter interceptions and his two additional passes defended, earned Jacksonville a physical 9-0 shutout victory at home on Monday night against Pittsburgh. Mathis, who leads the league with three interceptions, increased his career total to 15, tying **AARON BEASLEY** (1996-01) for the most in club history. The game marked the first time since 1981 that a defending Super Bowl champion was shutout (Oakland) as well as the fewest rushing yards gained by the Steelers (26 on 14 carries) in Bill Cowher's 15 years as head coach. Mathis and the Jacksonville defense did not allow a single rushing first down in the game, nor did they permit Pittsburgh to advance the ball beyond the Jaguars' 46-yard line the entire evening. Mathis' coverage and ball-hawking skills were a large reason as to why the Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger posted a 38.7 passer rating. The Jaguars (10) are tied with Seattle for the most wins in their last 11 games. Jacksonville travels to Indianapolis next week to face Manning and the Colts in a battle of AFC South unbeaten.

In his fourth season from Bethune-Cookman, this is the 6-1, 195-pound Mathis' second Player of the Week honor.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: S COY WIRE, BUFFALO BILLS**

- Wire broke through Dolphins blockers to register his first career blocked punt to help Buffalo earn a hard-fought 16-6 divisional win at Miami. With 2:02 remaining in the third quarter and the Bills leading 13-0, Wire burst in the Miami backfield to smother the punt on the Dolphins' 30-yard line, which was recovered by teammate **ANDRÉ DAVIS**. Bills kicker **RIAN LINDELL** turned Wire's stirring play into three points for a 16-0 advantage. Wire also added a special teams tackle on the afternoon.

In his fifth season from Stanford, this is the first Player of the Week distinction for Wire. He is the third Bills player to earn the AFC's special teams honor in the past 10 weeks.

### **2006 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Defense</u></b>	<b><u>Special Teams</u></b>
<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

**Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 2 were:**

- New England running back **COREY DILLON**, who rushed 20 times for 80 yards and a touchdown in a 24-17 road win against the Jets.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON**, who caught seven passes for 127 yards (18.1-yard average). Harrison (943) passed **ART MONK** (940) for the fifth-most receptions in NFL history.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who ran the ball 27 times for 126 yards (4.7-yard average) and caught five passes for 41 yards in a 9-6 overtime loss at Denver. Johnson (14) is now tied with **CHRISTIAN OKOYE** for the second-most 100-yard rushing games as a Chief (**PRIEST HOLMES**, 24).
- Cincinnati running back **RUDI JOHNSON**, who rumbled for 145 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries for a 5.6-yard per carry average in a 34-17 home-opening win against Cleveland.
- Baltimore running back **JAMAL LEWIS**, who totaled 70 rushing yards on 19 attempts, six of which were good for first downs, in a 28-6 home victory against Oakland.
- San Diego running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who piled up 122 total scrimmage yards (71 rushing, 51 receiving) with two touchdown runs in a 40-7 win against Tennessee. Tomlinson (83) is currently tied with Pro Football Hall of Famer **LANCE ALWORTH** for the most touchdowns scored in team history.

**Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 2 were:**

- Buffalo defensive end **RYAN DENNEY**, who notched 3.0 sacks – all in the first half – and posted the fourth forced fumble of his career.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who led his team with 10 tackles and a pass defended on Monday night.
- Buffalo linebacker **LONDON FLETCHER-BAKER**, who was the Bills' leading tackler Sunday with 14, including a crucial tackle on third-and-one in the third quarter to end a Miami drive, leading to a blocked punt on the next play.
- Indianapolis defensive end **ROBERT MATHIS**, who chalked-up 2.0 sacks, seven tackles, and a forced fumble.
- Cincinnati linebacker **BRIAN SIMMONS**, who was credited with a club-best nine tackles, an interception, and a forced fumble on the day.
- Baltimore linebacker **ADALIUS THOMAS**, who posted six tackles including 2.0 sacks – one of which was a safety – and an interception.
- New England defensive lineman **TY WARREN**, who led the Patriots with 11 tackles.

**Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 2 were:**

- Kansas City punter **DUSTIN COLQUITT**, who punted six times, placing three inside the 20 – including two inside the five-yard line.
- Denver kicker **JASON ELAM**, who was good on three of four field goal attempts (23, 22, and 39), including the game-winner (39 yards) in overtime for a 9-6 victory against Kansas City.
- San Diego kicker **NATE KAEDING**, who was a perfect four-for-four in field goal tries from 28, 31, 35, and 44 yards.
- New England rookie running back-kick returner **LAURENCE MARONEY**, who averaged 32.5 yards on a pair of kickoff returns.
- Buffalo punter **BRIAN MOORMAN**, who tied a club record and set a personal best with five punts inside the 20. Moorman is the first Bills punter to place five punts inside the 20-yard line in a single game since **CHRIS MOHR** did it on September 1, 1996 on the road against the Giants.
- Baltimore kick returner-punt returner **B.J. SAMS**, who averaged 40.8 yards on four kickoff returns, including a 72-yarder to open the game. Sams also returned one punt for 16 yards.
- Jacksonville kicker **JOSH SCOBEE**, who accounted for every point in Monday night's game, making all three of his field goal attempts from 31, 31, and 42 yards. Scobee has now made 10 field goals in a row and needs one more to surpass **MIKE HOLLIS** (1999) for the longest streak of consecutive field goals made in club history.



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## **GIANTS QB ELI MANNING, BEARS DT TOMMIE HARRIS & VIKINGS K RYAN LONGWELL NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 2**

Quarterback **ELI MANNING** of the New York Giants, defensive tackle **TOMMIE HARRIS** of the Chicago Bears and kicker **RYAN LONGWELL** of the Minnesota Vikings are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the second week of the 2006 season (September 17-18), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: QB ELI MANNING, NEW YORK GIANTS**

- Manning led the Giants to a historic comeback in a 30-24 overtime win over the NFC East-rival Philadelphia Eagles at Lincoln Financial Field, helping New York overcome a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit en route to the win. The victory marked the first time the Giants, trailing 24-7 entering the fourth quarter, overcame a 17-point margin in the final stanza since November 15, 1970, when Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** led the club out of a 33-14 hole to defeat the Washington Redskins, 35-33. On Sunday it was Manning guiding the club to a key win. After the Giants drew to within 24-14, Manning led a 33-yard scoring drive culminated by a 22-yard touchdown to **AMANI TOOMER** with 3:28 to play. Then after the Giants retained possession with 58 seconds remaining and no timeouts, Manning led the team 63 yards in six plays, with kicker **JAY FEELY** forcing overtime with a 35-yard field goal. Manning's mastery continued in the extra session on the final drive, finding **PLAXICO BURRESS** for the game-winning 31-yard touchdown pass. In the fourth quarter and overtime, Manning – who finished 31 of 43 for 371 yards, three touchdowns and one interception for a 111.7 – completed 20 of 26 attempts for 233 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

In his third season from Mississippi, this is Manning's first career Player of the Week Award.

### **DEFENSE: DT TOMMIE HARRIS, CHICAGO BEARS**

- Harris played a major role in another standout performance by the Chicago defense, helping the Bears to a convincing 34-7 win over the Detroit Lions at Soldier Field. Harris had a career-high 2.0 sacks and five tackles from his defensive tackle position as the Bears totaled six sacks, forced and recovered three fumbles and limited the Lions to one third down conversion in nine attempts. Early in the second quarter, with Detroit facing a third down deep in Chicago territory, Harris recorded his first sack of the day, forcing an ultimately unsuccessful field goal attempt on the ensuing play. The Bears then immediately drove 70 yards in eight plays, culminated by a 31-yard touchdown pass from **REX GROSSMAN** to **DESMOND CLARK**. Then with two minutes remaining in the half and the Lions driving near midfield, Harris again rose to the occasion on third down, notching his second sack and forcing a punt, as the Bears entered halftime with a 24-0 lead they would never relinquish.

In his third season from Oklahoma, this is Harris' first career Player of the Week Award.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K RYAN LONGWELL, MINNESOTA VIKINGS**

- Longwell was a pivotal factor with his arm and his leg in the Vikings second consecutive victory, an exciting 16-13 overtime win over the Carolina Panthers at the Metrodome. The kicker's 16-yard fourth-quarter touchdown pass to tight end **RICH OWENS** tied the score at 13-13, setting the stage for his game-winning 19-yard field goal in overtime to seal the victory. Longwell became the second player in NFL history to throw a fourth-quarter touchdown pass and kick a game-winning field goal in the same game, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer **GEORGE BLANDA**, who accomplished the feat on November 8, 1970 in Oakland's 23-20 win over Cleveland. Longwell connected on three of four field goals on the day, adding a 26 and 22-yarder in addition to the overtime game-winner.

In his 10th season from California, this is Longwell's sixth career Player of the Week Award.

## 2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Week 1</b>	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis
<b>Week 2</b>	QB Eli Manning, NY Giants	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Ryan Longwell, Minnesota

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 2 were:

- Chicago quarterback **REX GROSSMAN**, who completed 20 of 27 attempts for 289 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions, posting a 148.0 passer rating on the day. Grossman established single-game career-highs for yards, touchdowns and passer rating in the win.
- San Francisco wide receiver **ANTONIO BRYANT**, who became the first player in franchise history to open his career with consecutive 100-yard receiving games, posting four receptions for 131 yards, including a 72-yard touchdown catch, in a 20-13 win over St. Louis.
- Green Bay wide receiver **DONALD DRIVER**, who totaled eight receptions for 153 yards against New Orleans.
- Atlanta running back **WARRICK DUNN**, who rushed for 134 yards on 21 carries, his second consecutive 100-yard game, in a 14-3 win over Tampa Bay.
- Green Bay quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, who passed for 340 yards and three touchdowns, completing 31 of 55 attempts.
- San Francisco running back **FRANK GORE**, who rushed for a career-high 127 yards, including a 32-yard touchdown run. He also added two receptions for 10 yards in the victory.
- Seattle wide receiver **DARRELL JACKSON**, who totaled five receptions for 127 yards, including a 49-yard touchdown reception in a 21-10 win over Arizona.
- Philadelphia quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB**, who completed 27 of 45 attempts for 350 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions, adding 31 rushing yards on four carries.
- Minnesota running back **CHESTER TAYLOR**, who rushed for 113 yards on 24 carries and added three receptions for 15 yards.
- New York wide receiver **AMANI TOOMER**, who posted a career-high 12 receptions for 137 yards and two touchdowns.
- Atlanta quarterback **MICHAEL VICK**, who completed 10 of 15 attempts for 92 yards and one touchdown and added 127 rushing yards and one touchdown, averaging 9.1 yards per carry.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 2 were:

- Philadelphia second-year defensive end **TRENT COLE**, who had five tackles and 2.0 sacks against the Giants, his fourth-career multiple sack game.
- Atlanta cornerback **DE ANGELO HALL**, who had four tackles and two interceptions, helping hold Tampa Bay without a touchdown in the victory.
- Minnesota linebacker **NAPOLEON HARRIS**, who had a team-leading 10 tackles and 1.0 sack.
- Seattle second-year linebacker **LE ROY HILL**, who after missing Week 1 due to injury recorded eight tackles and one sack against Arizona.
- Chicago defensive tackle **TANK JOHNSON**, who had a sack and forced fumble, recovered by the Bears, on the Lions opening possession, leading to a touchdown two players later for a 7-0 advantage.
- Green Bay defensive end **AARON KAMPMAN**, who had four tackles – tying career-highs with 3.0 sacks and two forced fumbles – and recovered a fumble against New Orleans.
- San Francisco rookie linebacker **MANNY LAWSON**, who had 2.0 sacks, helping limit Rams quarterback Marc Bulger to 185 passing yards.
- Chicago defensive end **ADEWALE OGUNLEYE**, who had two tackles, including 1.5 sacks as the Bears' defense limited Detroit to 2.6-yards per rush.
- Carolina defensive end **JULIUS PEPPERS**, who tied a franchise record with a career-high tying 3.0 sacks for losses of 26 yards, forced an intentional grounding penalty and blocked a field goal against Minnesota.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 2 were:

- Washington kick returner **ROCK CARTWRIGHT**, who returned a second-quarter kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown, totaling 163 kickoff return yards against Dallas for an average of 40.8 yards per return.
- New York punter **JEFF FEAGLES**, who averaged 43.5 yards on eight punts with a long punt of 54 yards, thrice pinning Philadelphia inside the 20-yard line and helping limit the Eagles to six punt return yards.