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CHARGERS QB PHILIP RIVERS, STEELERS S TROY POLAMALU & TITANS TE CASEY CRAMER NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 6

Quarterback **PHILIP RIVERS** of the San Diego Chargers, safety **TROY POLAMALU** of the Pittsburgh Steelers and tight end **CASEY CRAMER** of the Tennessee Titans are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the sixth week of the 2006 season (October 15-16), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB PHILIP RIVERS, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

- Making his fifth career NFL start, Rivers notched his first 300-yard passing game with 334 yards and a pair of touchdowns without an interception in a 48-19 win at San Francisco. The 6-5, 228-pound quarterback completed 29 of 39 pass attempts for a glittering 116.8 passer rating and posted a streak of 13 consecutive first half completions, equaling the third-longest stretch in team history. During his completion streak, Rivers racked up 195 yards through the air and completed his two TD strikes – a 57-yard catch-and-run by **ANTONIO GATES** and a 33-yard pass to the end zone to **VINCENT JACKSON**. The Chargers recorded four scoring drives (three TDs, one FG) in which Rivers did not throw a single incompleteness. The first-year starter was nine of 10 on third down passing for 142 yards and a touchdown and also had two short runs for first downs on third-and-one plays. Rivers owns the NFL's second-highest passer rating (100.6), second-highest completion percentage (68.8), second-highest third-down passer rating (114.8) and third-highest fourth-quarter passer rating (114.7).

In his third year from North Carolina State, this is Rivers' first Player of the Week Award.

DEFENSE: S TROY POLAMALU, PITTSBURGH STEELERS

- Pittsburgh's Polamalu produced a standout performance in the Steelers' 45-7 home win against Kansas City. Polamalu was in the middle of a Steelers defense that limited the Chiefs to 213 total yards, including 38 yards rushing. Among the league's top safeties, Polamalu led Pittsburgh with 10 tackles and defended three passes, including an interception which he returned 49 yards. Polamalu's outstanding run support helped limit Chiefs' All-Star running back **LARRY JOHNSON** to 1.7 yards-per-carry on 15 rushes. During one second-quarter possession, Polamalu was responsible for three consecutive tackles on Johnson – including one behind the line of scrimmage – to force a Kansas City punt.

In his fourth year from USC, this is Polamalu's second Player of the Week Award (Week 10, 2004).

SPECIAL TEAMS: TE CASEY CRAMER, TENNESSEE TITANS

- Contributing mightily toward Tennessee's first win of the season, tight end and special teams ace Cramer blocked a punt through the end zone in the third quarter for a safety in a 25-22 win at Washington. Cramer also recorded three special teams tackles and recovered a Titans' fumble on a punt return on the day. Cramer's safety gave the Titans a 22-14 lead midway through the third quarter to earn the visitors a significant eight-point cushion. Later in the game he recovered a fumble on a Titans' punt return. Tennessee's offense proceeded to drive into field goal range where kicker **ROB BIRONAS** split the uprights from 30 yards for a 25-22 lead and eventual victory. Cramer was claimed by the Titans off waivers from Carolina on September 3. He was originally selected by the Buccaneers in the seventh round (228th overall) of the 2004 NFL Draft.

In his third year from Dartmouth, this is Cramer's 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

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 6 were:

- New York wide receiver **LAVERANUES COLES**, who caught five passes for 106 yards (21.2-yard average) and scored both of the Jets' touchdowns in a 20-17 home win against Miami.
- Tennessee running back **TRAVIS HENRY**, who ran for a career-high 178 rushing yards on 32 carries for a 5.6-yard average per carry. He also rushed for one touchdown. It marked the highest rushing total for the Titans since **EDDIE GEORGE** chalked up 181 yards against Cincinnati in 2000.
- Kansas City wide receiver **SAMIE PARKER**, who caught five passes for 72 yards.
- Pittsburgh running back **WILLIE PARKER**, who rushed for more than 100 yards for the third time in five games this season when he gained 109 on 21 carries (5.2-yard average) with two touchdowns.
- Pittsburgh quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, who led the Steelers to a season-high 457 total yards while completing 16 of 19 passes for 238 yards, two TDs and a near-perfect 153.8 passer rating.
- San Diego running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON**, who rushed for a career-high four touchdowns with 71 yards on 21 carries. The four rushing scores tied a team record, last achieved by **CHUCK MUNCIE** in 1981. In addition, Tomlinson's first touchdown of the game was the 84th of his career, making him the team's all-time touchdown leader, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver **LANCE ALWORTH**.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 6 were:

- Kansas City rookie defensive end **TAMBA HALI**, who recorded nine tackles and forced two fumbles.
- New York linebacker **VICTOR HOBSON**, who posted an interception and a fumble recovery along with three tackles.
- San Diego linebacker **SHAUN PHILLIPS**, who notched 2.0 sacks and tipped a pass that was intercepted by a teammate.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 6 were:

- Kansas City punter **DUSTIN COLQUITT**, who punted seven times for a 40.9 net average, including two punts inside the 20 and a long of 59 yards.
- Pittsburgh rookie wide receiver-kick returner-punt returner **SANTONIO HOLMES**, who had his best day as a pro, accounting for 109 yards on kick returns against the Chiefs. Holmes returned five punts for 55 yards (11.0 avg.) and two kickoffs for 54 (27.0 avg.).
- San Diego kicker **NATE KAEDING**, who made both of his field goal attempts of 24 and 44 yards in a win against San Francisco. Kaeding also was six for six in point-after tries, tying **ROLF BENIRSCHKE**'s club record for consecutive successful PATs at 87.