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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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## **CHARGERS RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, DOLPHINS DE JASON TAYLOR & BILLS P BRIAN MOORMAN NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 9**

Running back **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** of the San Diego Chargers, defensive end **JASON TAYLOR** of the Miami Dolphins and punter **BRIAN MOORMAN** of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the ninth week of the 2006 season (November 5-6), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: RB LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS**

- San Diego's Tomlinson rushed for 172 yards against Cleveland on Sunday, tying the league's fourth-highest single-game rushing output this season. Tomlinson reached his lofty total on only 18 carries for a towering 9.6-yard-per-carry average. After being limited to 43 yards and no touchdowns on seven carries in the first half, Tomlinson struck for 129 yards and all three of his touchdowns in the second, with scoring runs from 41, seven and eight yards, respectively. His 41-yard TD late in the third quarter turned a 12-10 deficit into a 17-12 lead which the Chargers would not relinquish. Heading into Week 10, Tomlinson leads the NFL with 14 touchdowns and total yards from scrimmage (1,151). He stands as the league's second-leading rusher at 828, two yards behind the New York Giants' **TIKI BARBER** (830). San Diego (6-2) is tied with Denver (6-2) for first place in the AFC West.

In his sixth year from TCU, this is Tomlinson's seventh Player of the Week Award and his fourth since the start of 2005.

### **DEFENSE: DE JASON TAYLOR, MIAMI DOLPHINS**

- In a 31-13 victory at Soldier Field, delivering the Chicago Bears their first loss of the season, Taylor supplied a bevy of big plays for the Dolphins. In perhaps the game's signature play, Taylor shadowed the Chicago quarterback on a rollout, timed his leap, and snatched the ball out of the air for a spectacular interception and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown to give Miami a 14-3 lead that they would maintain for the balance of the day. In addition to his score, Taylor notched another pass defended and three tackles, including a sack and a forced fumble. Taylor's pressure was a key reason as to how the Dolphins limited the Bears' passing attack to a 36.8 rating after it had accounted for 11 TDs without an interception in Chicago's previous four home games. In those four games, the Bears had scored at least 34 points, averaging 38.0. Taylor now has 100.5 sacks in his career, which is the most in club history.

In his 10th season from Akron, this is Taylor's sixth Player of the Week honor. Since the award's inception in 1984, Taylor is the first defensive player to earn a conference weekly honor in five consecutive seasons.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: P BRIAN MOORMAN, BUFFALO BILLS**

- The Bills' Moorman boomed eight punts for a whopping 46.3-yard net average in windy Buffalo with enough hang time and accurate directional kicking to shackle the visiting Green Bay Packers to a total of nine return yards in a 24-10 victory. Of his eight kicks, Moorman's only punt of less than 44 yards was a 34-yarder kicked directionally out of bounds at the Green Bay 12. Moorman placed two of his punts out of bounds, both inside the Packers' 15. Five of his punts were returned for five yards or less and another – a 53-yard rocket – resulted in the Packers' long return of nine yards. Moorman's second punt of the day pinned the Packers on their own 14-yard line while a Green Bay holding penalty moved the visitors back to their own seven. Buffalo's defense capitalized three plays later when linebacker **LONDON FLETCHER-BAKER** intercepted a pass on the Packers' 17 and returned it for a touchdown.

In his sixth year from Pittsburg State, this is Moorman's third Player of the Week Award. Moorman has now netted a conference weekly honor in each of the past three seasons.

## 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, Cincinnati	S Kerry Rhodes, New York	PR-WR Terrence Wilkins, Indianapolis
<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, New England
<b>Wk 8</b>	RB Larry Johnson, Kansas City	S Sean Jones, Cleveland	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
<b>Wk 9</b>	RB LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego	DE Jason Taylor, Miami	P Brian Moorman, Buffalo

### Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 9 were:

- Miami running back **RONNIE BROWN**, who rushed for 157 yards on 29 carries against a Bears defense that had yielded an average of 81 yards rushing entering the game. Both figures mark career-bests. Brown also caught two passes for 33 yards.
- Jacksonville quarterback **DAVID GARRARD**, who passed for a career-high three touchdowns without an interception for a 120.6 passer rating in a 37-7 home victory against Tennessee.
- Indianapolis wide receiver **MARVIN HARRISON**, who caught a pair of touchdowns on eight receptions for 145 yards in a 27-20 win at New England Sunday night. Harrison now has 115 career TDs, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **LENNY MOORE** (113) for the most in club history.
- Kansas City running back **LARRY JOHNSON**, who rushed for a personal season-best 172 yards and a touchdown on 27 rushes in a 31-17 road win against in-state rival St. Louis.
- Pittsburgh running back **WILLIE PARKER**, who accounted for 137 total yards (70 rushing, 67 receiving) and two touchdowns – one receiving and one rushing – in the Steelers' 31-20 loss to Denver.
- Buffalo running back **ANTHONY THOMAS**, who rushed for 95 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown run, on 20 carries in a victory.
- Denver wide receiver **JAVON WALKER**, who accounted for 206 of his team's 336 yards (61.3 percent). Walker caught six passes for 134 yards and two TDs and also scored on a 72-yard end-around.
- Pittsburgh wide receiver **HINES WARD**, who caught seven passes for 127 yards and threw a key block for a Steelers touchdown run.

### Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 9 were:

- Kansas City defensive end **JARED ALLEN**, who posted seven tackles, a pair of forced fumbles, and a fumble recovery.
- Denver cornerback **CHAMP BAILEY**, who recorded two interceptions at Pittsburgh while adding 10 tackles and four pass break-ups.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES FARRIOR**, who led his team with 11 tackles and helped limit the Broncos to a three-of-12 (25 percent) mark on third down conversion tries.
- Buffalo linebacker **LONDON FLETCHER-BAKER**, who returned an interception 17 yards for a touchdown and compiled a game-high 14 tackles. Fletcher-Baker also defended five passes on the day.
- Indianapolis linebacker **CATO JUNE**, who registered 10 tackles and two interceptions in the club's road win to remain undefeated at 8-0.
- Jacksonville cornerback **RASHEAN MATHIS**, who posted two interceptions last week. Mathis returned his second interception 55 yards, one yard shy of a touchdown.
- Buffalo defensive end **AARON SCHOBEL**, who had 2.0 sacks and a fumble recovery.

### Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 9 were:

- Kansas City punter **DUSTIN COLQUITT**, who punted six times for a 43.7-yard average as the Chiefs' coverage unit forced St. Louis into minus-two punt return yards on the day.
- San Diego rookie cornerback **ANTONIO CROMARTIE**, who made a touchdown-saving tackle on an 81-yard punt return, forcing his opponents to settle for a field goal. He later downed a punt on the two-yard line.
- Cleveland kicker **PHIL DAWSON**, who established a franchise record, going six-for-six on field goal tries. Dawson, who scored 19 points in the game, split the uprights from 37, 20, 42, 30, 36, and 35 yards.
- Miami running back **SAMMY MORRIS**, who posted three special teams tackles and forced a fumble.