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RAMS RB STEVEN JACKSON, EAGLES S BRIAN DAWKINS & BEARS KR-PR DEVIN HESTER NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR DECEMBER

Running back **STEVEN JACKSON** of the St. Louis Rams, safety **BRIAN DAWKINS** of the Philadelphia Eagles, and rookie kick returner-punt returner **DEVIN HESTER** of the Chicago Bears are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for December, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB STEVEN JACKSON, ST. LOUIS RAMS

- The All-Star running back led the NFL with 10 touchdowns during the month of December and amassed 849 total yards from scrimmage. In five games, Jackson rushed for 596 yards with seven touchdowns and added 27 receptions for 253 yards with three touchdowns. Jackson became just the fourth player in NFL history to score 10 touchdowns in December. On December 3, Jackson opened the month with 165 scrimmage yards against Arizona. He followed that performance against Chicago with 139 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns. In the December 17 game at Oakland, Jackson rushed for 127 yards with two touchdowns as the Rams defeated the Raiders 20-0. The next weekend, in a 37-31 victory over Washington, Jackson became the first player in team history with 100 yards rushing (150) and 100 yards receiving (102) in the same game as he earned NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors. Jackson also scored two touchdowns, including the game-winning score in overtime. In the final game of the month, Jackson had four touchdowns and 142 rushing yards as the Rams closed out 2006 with a 41-21 win over Minnesota. On the season, Jackson finished with 1,528 rushing yards and 90 catches, joining **LA DAINIAN TOMLINSON** as the only players in NFL history with 1,500 yards and 90 catches in one season.

In his third season from Oregon State, this is Jackson's first Player of the Month Award.

DEFENSE: S BRIAN DAWKINS, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

- The veteran safety recorded 48 tackles, three interceptions, two forced fumbles, six passes defensed, two quarterback hurries and one sack during the month as the Eagles went 5-0 and won the NFC East. Dawkins, who was named to the Pro Bowl this season for the sixth time in his career, opened the month with an interception and 38 return yards in Philadelphia's 27-24 win over the Carolina Panthers on Monday Night Football. On December 17, in a key divisional contest against the New York Giants, Dawkins earned NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors by registering two forced fumbles and an interception in the Eagles' victory. Dawkins added another interception in the next game as Philadelphia defeated the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadium on Christmas Day to take control of the division. The Eagles have won 15 of the past 18 games when Dawkins has had an interception.

In his 11th season from Clemson, this is Dawkins' first Player of the Month Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: KR-PR DEVIN HESTER, CHICAGO BEARS

- The rookie from Miami scored three touchdowns in the year's final month on his way to setting an NFL record with six return touchdowns in a single season. Hester, who was named to the Pro Bowl team, earned two NFC Special Teams Player of the Week Awards during the month. On December 11, in a victory over the St. Louis Rams on Monday night, Hester had kickoff-return touchdowns of 94 and 96 yards in his second game handling kickoff-return duties on a fulltime basis. In the month's opening game, Hester returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown in a win over the Minnesota Vikings. Hester averaged 12.4 yards per punt return and 27.6 yards per kickoff return in December as the Bears went 4-1 and clinched homefield advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

In his first season from Miami, this is Hester' first Player of the Month Award.

2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
September	QB Rex Grossman, Chicago	S Ken Hamlin, Seattle	K John Carney, New Orleans
October	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE Julius Peppers, Carolina	K Robbie Gould, Chicago
November	QB Tony Romo, Dallas	CB Walt Harris, San Francisco	PR-KR Nate Burleson, Seattle
December	RB Steven Jackson, St. Louis	S Brian Dawkins, Philadelphia	KR-PR Devin Hester, Chicago