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GIANTS RB TIKI BARBER, PANTHERS DE JULIUS PEPPERS & BEARS K ROBBIE GOULD NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Running back **TIKI BARBER** of the New York Giants, defensive end **JULIUS PEPPERS** of the Carolina Panthers, and kicker **ROBBIE GOULD** of the Chicago Bears are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for October, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB TIKI BARBER, NEW YORK GIANTS

- Barber led the NFL with 490 rushing yards during the month as the Giants put together a 4-0 record to move into first place in the NFC East with a 5-2 mark. The 10-year veteran rushed for at least 100 yards in three of New York's four games as the Giants ranked second in the NFL averaging 169.3 rush yards per contest. Barber, who has led the team in rushing for an NFL-record 71 consecutive games, opened the month with a 123-yard performance versus Washington. The next week, facing an Atlanta defense that entered the game tops in the NFC against the run, Barber rushed for an NFL season-best 185 yards, netting him NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors. Facing Dallas on October 23, the former Virginia standout ran for 114 yards in front of a national TV audience on Monday Night Football. Barber added 13 receptions for 110 yards during the month. On the season, Barber leads the NFL with 715 rushing yards.

In his 10th season from Virginia, this is Barber's third Player of the Month Award (November 2002 & December 2005).

DEFENSE: DE JULIUS PEPPERS, CAROLINA PANTHERS

- Peppers was a defensive force in October, accumulating 32 tackles, 4.0 sacks, 12 quarterback hurries, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and two passes defended as the Panthers went 3-2. The athletic defensive end recorded a sack in each of the first three games of the month to extend his season streak to five games, tied for the longest in his career. In the team's first October contest, Peppers recorded a sack, forced a fumble and batted down a pass in a win against New Orleans. A week later in a victory over Cleveland, the former North Carolina star was all over the field, registering seven tackles, seven quarterback hurries, one pass defended and recording a sack, forcing a fumble and recovering the loose ball on the same play. At Baltimore on October 15, Peppers had 2.0 sacks, nine tackles, two quarterback hurries and a forced fumble. It marked the 11th time in his career and second time in 2006 that Peppers recorded at least 2.0 sacks in a game. This season, Peppers ranks third in the NFL with 8.0 sacks.

In his fifth season from North Carolina, this is Peppers' second Player of the Month Award (November 2004).

SPECIAL TEAMS: K ROBBIE GOULD, CHICAGO BEARS

- Gould and the Bears were both perfect during the month of October as the kicker converted all 10 field goals and 16 PATs while Chicago went 4-0 to improve to 7-0 on the season. Gould's 46 points during the month were the most in the NFC and his 10 field goals tied for the NFL lead. The two-year veteran leads the NFL in scoring with 83 points and has yet to miss a kick, connecting on all 20 field goals and 23 PATs. Gould's 20 consecutive field goals to start a season is a club record and he has converted 22 in a row dating back to last year. During the month, Gould kicked at least one field goal in every game, extending his streak of games with a field goal to a franchise-best 18 games.

In his second season from Penn State, this is Gould's first Player of the Month Award. Teammate **REX GROSSMAN** was the NFC Offensive Player of the Month for September.

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