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## **BEARS QB REX GROSSMAN, SEAHAWKS S KEN HAMLIN & SAINTS K JOHN CARNEY NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER**

Quarterback **REX GROSSMAN** of the Chicago Bears, safety **KEN HAMLIN** of the Seattle Seahawks, and kicker **JOHN CARNEY** of the New Orleans Saints are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for September, the NFL announced today.

The offensive and defensive winners will meet this week in Chicago in a matchup of undefeated NFC contenders when the Seahawks visit the Bears on Sunday Night Football.

### **OFFENSE: QB REX GROSSMAN, CHICAGO BEARS**

- Grossman led the Bears to a perfect 3-0 record in September, completing a three-game winning streak against their NFC North competitors in impressive fashion, with two of those wins coming on the road. The quarterback leads the NFL with an average gain of 8.82 yards per pass attempt, ties for third with six touchdown passes and ranks fifth with 829 passing yards, completing 64.9 percent of his passes (61 of 94) with a lofty 100.9 passer rating, second in the NFC and fifth in the NFL. Grossman opened the season by becoming the first Bears quarterback ever to win three consecutive starts at Lambeau Field, completing 18 of 26 for 262 yards and a touchdown in the win. Then on September 17 against Detroit, Grossman posted the NFL's highest passer rating of the year with a career-best 148.0 mark, including a career-high four touchdown passes. The club's final win of the month came Sunday in Minnesota, when Grossman's 24-yard touchdown pass with 1:53 remaining was the difference in a 19-16 win.

In his fourth season from Florida, this is Grossman's first Player of the Month Award. He is the first Bears' Offensive Player of the Month award winner since **NEAL ANDERSON** in September of 1989.

### **DEFENSE: S KEN HAMLIN, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**

- Hamlin returned to action in 2006 after missing 10 games last season, helping the Seahawks to a perfect 3-0 record in September and sole possession of first place in the NFC West. Hamlin finished the month tied for second in the NFL with two interceptions and third on the team with 18 tackles for the NFC's fourth-ranked defense (ninth in NFL), adding 1.0 sack and one forced fumble. In last week's 42-30 win over the Giants, Hamlin's two first-quarter interceptions led to 14 points en route to a 35-3 halftime advantage. In a 21-10 win versus Arizona on September 17, Hamlin's sack and forced fumble led to an Arizona punt, with the Seahawks then taking the ensuing possession for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead. Hamlin posted six tackles on Kickoff Weekend in Detroit, as Seattle held the Lions without a touchdown in a 9-6 road win.

In his fourth season from Arkansas, Hamlin is the first Seahawk defender honored since **CHAD BROWN** in November of 1998.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K JOHN CARNEY, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**

- Carney was a steady scoring presence for 3-0 New Orleans, finishing September third in the NFL with 34 points, converting a perfect nine of nine field goal attempts and seven of seven extra points. Four of Carney's nine field goals came from 40 yards and beyond, including a 51-yard effort in a three field goal outing last week against Atlanta. His four of four field goal performance was the difference in a narrow, 19-14 win at Cleveland in Week 1, followed by an unblemished two of two day in a 34-27 win at Green Bay.

In his 17th season from Notre Dame, this is Carney's fifth Player of the Month Award.

## **2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH**

	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Defense</u></b>	<b><u>Special Teams</u></b>
<b>September</b>	QB Rex Grossman, Chicago	S Ken Hamlin, Seattle	K John Carney, New Orleans