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NFC-POW-1 9/13/06

## **CARDINALS QB KURT WARNER, FALCONS DE JOHN ABRAHAM & RAMS K JEFF WILKINS NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1**

Quarterback **KURT WARNER** of the Arizona Cardinals, defensive end **JOHN ABRAHAM** of the Atlanta Falcons and kicker **JEFF WILKINS** of the St. Louis Rams are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on NFL Kickoff 2006 Weekend (September 7, 10-11), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: QB KURT WARNER, ARIZONA CARDINALS**

- Warner helped Arizona open Cardinals Stadium in style, leading the team to a 34-27 win over the San Francisco 49ers. He completed 23 of 37 passes for 301 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions, posting an NFC Week 1-best 114.8 passer rating. Warner led the Cardinals to touchdowns on each of their first three possessions as the team posted three touchdowns in the first quarter for the first time since November 23, 1975 en route to a 37-6 road win against the New York Jets. The two-time Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player improved his career record as starter against the 49ers to 7-0.

In his ninth season from Northern Iowa, this is Warner's sixth career Player of the Week Award.

### **DEFENSE: DE JOHN ABRAHAM, ATLANTA FALCONS**

- After spending his first six NFL seasons with the Jets, Abraham made his debut with Atlanta one to remember, playing a key role in the Falcons' 20-6 road win over the NFC South-rival Carolina Panthers. The defensive end totaled five tackles, 2.0 sacks and two forced fumbles as Atlanta kept the Panthers out of the end zone. With the Falcons leading 13-3 late in the first half and Carolina aiming to close the gap, Abraham's sack and forced fumble ended the threat. Then after the Panthers had drawn to within a touchdown at 13-6 in the third quarter, Abraham's sack set up a third and long which Carolina could not convert. On the ensuing possession, Atlanta drove 50 yards for a touchdown and the final points of the day in the 20-6 victory.

In his seventh season from South Carolina, this is Abraham's second career Player of the Week Award.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K JEFF WILKINS, ST. LOUIS RAMS**

- It was a record-setting day for Rams kicker **JEFF WILKINS** as he helped usher in the **SCOTT LINEHAN** era with a victory in the club's 18-10 win against the Denver Broncos. Wilkins was responsible for all the Rams' scoring on the day, converting six of seven field goal attempts from 26, 38, 29, 51, 48 and 24 yards. The six field goals are a franchise record for the Pro Bowl performer, surpassing his previous five field goal performance (10/1/00) and that of **BOB WATERFIELD**, who accomplished the feat against the Detroit Lions on December 9, 1951. Wilkins' 18 points on the day made him the first player in Rams' history with 1,000, as he has now scored 1,013 in his 10 seasons in St. Louis.

In his 13th season from Youngstown State, this is Wilkins' third career Player of the Week Award.

### **2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Defense</u></b>	<b><u>Special Teams</u></b>
<b>Week 1</b>	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis

**Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 1 were:**

- Atlanta running back **WARRICK DUNN**, who rushed for a Week 1-best 132 yards on 29 carries for an average of 4.6 yards per rush.
- Chicago quarterback **REX GROSSMAN**, who completed 18 of 26 attempts for 262 yards, one touchdown and one interception, posting a 98.6 passer rating in a 26-0 win against Green Bay at Lambeau Field.
- Seattle quarterback **MATT HASSELBECK**, who completed 83.3 percent of his pass attempts (25 of 30), the third-best single-game total in franchise history, for 210 yards in a 9-6 win at Detroit.
- St. Louis running back **STEVEN JACKSON**, who rushed for 121 yards on 22 carries and added four receptions for 19 yards.
- Philadelphia quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB**, who passed for 314 yards and three touchdowns with one interception, posting a 113.3 passer rating in a 24-10 road win against Houston.
- Philadelphia wide receiver **DONTÉ STALLWORTH**, who totaled six receptions for 141 yards, including a 42-yard touchdown catch, in his Eagles debut.

**Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 1 were:**

- Philadelphia second-year linebacker **TRENT COLE**, whose 2.0 sack performance was his third multiple sack effort in only his 16th career game.
- Detroit defensive tackle **SHAUN ROGERS**, who played a key role in holding the defending NFC champion-Seahawks without a touchdown, posting five tackles, 2.0 sacks and blocking a field goal attempt.
- Chicago linebacker **LANCE BRIGGS**, who totaled nine tackles and 1.0 sack as part of a defensive unit that shutout the Packers.
- St. Louis defensive end **LEONARD LITTLE**, who posted five tackles, 2.0 sacks, three quarterback hurries and one forced fumble.
- New Orleans defensive tackle **BRIAN YOUNG**, who had a career-high 3.0 sacks, five tackles and one fumble recovery in the Saints 19-14 win at Cleveland.

**Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 1 were:**

- Seattle kicker **JOSH BROWN**, who connected on three of five field goals, including a game-winning 42-yarder as time expired. Brown also added a 51-yarder on the final play of the first half.
- New Orleans kicker **JOHN CARNEY**, who was good on all four of his field goal attempts from 43, 25, 21, and 20 yards.
- Chicago rookie second-rounder **DEVIN HESTER**, who returned five punts for 104 yards, including an 84-yard return for a touchdown for the Bears' final points of the day. Hester is the first club rookie to return a punt for a touchdown since **JOHNNY BAILEY**'s 95-yarder on December 29, 1990 against Kansas City.
- Dallas punter **MAT MC BRIAR**, who recorded a career-high 53.2-yard punting average, the fourth-best single-game total in franchise history. His five punts resulted in a net punting average of 43.2 yards with a long punt of 62 yards.