



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
280 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 450-2000 * FAX (212) 681-7573
WWW.NFLMedia.com

Joe Browne, Executive Vice President-Communications
Greg Aiello, Vice President-Public Relations

FOR USE AS DESIRED
NFC-POW-5 10/11/06

49ERS RB FRANK GORE, EAGLES CB LITO SHEPPARD & SAINTS RB-PR REGGIE BUSH NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 5

Running back **FRANK GORE** of the San Francisco 49ers, cornerback **LITO SHEPPARD** of the Philadelphia Eagles, and running back-punt returner **REGGIE BUSH** of the New Orleans Saints are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the fifth week of the 2006 season (October 8-9), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB FRANK GORE, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- In a showdown between Bay Area rivals, Gore rushed for a career-best 134 yards to help lead the 49ers to a 34-20 victory over the Oakland Raiders. Running behind an offensive line that did not allow a sack or commit a penalty, Gore carried the ball 27 times and averaged 5.0 yards per carry, including six first downs and a long of 26 yards. Gore's 134 rushing yards marked the highest ground total by a 49er running back since 2004 (**MAURICE HICKS**, 139, 12/12/04). The second-year back added three receptions for a team-best 38 yards as the 49ers controlled the ball for 35:13. This season, Gore is tied for the NFL rushing lead with 465 yards, has a league-best 23 rushing first downs, and ranks second with 632 scrimmage yards.

In his second season from Miami, this is Gore's first career Player of the Week Award.

DEFENSE: CB LITO SHEPPARD, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

- Playing against the division-rival Dallas Cowboys, Sheppard entertained the home fans with eight tackles, seven passes defended and two fourth-quarter interceptions in the Eagles' 38-24 victory. With 16 seconds remaining and the Cowboys on the Philadelphia six-yard line driving to tie the game, Sheppard intercepted a pass in the end zone and raced 102 yards for the game-clinching score. The five-year veteran is the only player in NFL history with two interception-return touchdowns of 100 yards or more – Sheppard had a 101-yard INT-TD on 11/15/04. Earlier in the fourth quarter, with the Cowboys moving in for the game-tying score, Sheppard recorded his first interception of the game at the Philadelphia seven-yard line. This is the second time in his career that the Jacksonville native has recorded two interceptions in a game. Both times, Sheppard has been named the Player of the Week (Week 6, 2004).

In his fifth year from Florida, this is Sheppard's second career Player of the Week Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: RB-PR REGGIE BUSH, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- Bush, the Saints' first-round draft pick, electrified the Superdome crowd with a dazzling 65-yard game-winning punt-return touchdown with 4:17 remaining in New Orleans' 24-21 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The touchdown was the first of Bush's young career and came on his 100th touch of the season (54 rush attempts, 34 receptions, 12 punt returns). The No. 2 overall selection in the 2006 NFL Draft is the first rookie in league annals to score the game-winning touchdown on a punt return in the final five minutes of a game. For the day, Bush returned three punts for 75 yards (25.0 avg.) and added 11 receptions for 63 yards and nine carries for 23 yards.

In his first season from USC, this is Bush's first career Player of the Week Award.

2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Week 1	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis
Week 2	QB Eli Manning, NY Giants	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Ryan Longwell, Minnesota
Week 3	QB Brett Favre, Green Bay	LB Scott Fujita, New Orleans	K John Kasay, Carolina
Week 4	WR Santana Moss, Washington	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Morten Andersen, Atlanta
Week 5	RB Frank Gore, San Francisco	CB Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia	RB-PR Reggie Bush, NO

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 5 were:

- Philadelphia rookie wide receiver **HANK BASKETT**, who notched his first career 100-yard receiving game with three catches for 112 yards, including an 87-yard touchdown.
- St. Louis quarterback **MARC BULGER**, who completed 18 of 28 passes (64.3 pct.) for 220 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 112.2 passer rating in the Rams' 23-20 road victory against the Green Bay Packers. Bulger has not thrown an interception in a franchise-record 214 consecutive attempts (**ROMAN GABRIEL**, 206, 1968-69).
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, who totaled four receptions for 110 yards (27.5 avg.) and one touchdown.
- Tampa Bay rookie quarterback **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI**, who made his first NFL start and completed 20 of 31 passes (64.5 pct.) for 225 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 107.6 passer rating.
- Chicago running back **THOMAS JONES**, who rushed for a season-high 109 yards on 22 carries (5.0 avg.) in the Bears' 40-7 home victory over the Buffalo Bills.
- New Orleans running back **DEUCE MC ALLISTER**, who rushed for 123 yards on 15 carries (8.2 avg.) and scored one touchdown. The performance was McAllister's 24th career 100-yard game, the most in franchise history.
- Philadelphia quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB**, who passed for a season-high 354 yards and accounted for three total touchdowns. McNabb posted a 112.4 passer rating, throwing TD passes of 87 and 40 yards, and added a one-yard touchdown run.
- Minnesota running back **CHESTER TAYLOR**, who rushed 26 times for 123 yards (4.7 avg.) & added five receptions for 31 yards in the Vikings' 26-17 home victory over the Detroit Lions.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 5 were:

- Chicago defensive end **ALEX BROWN**, who recorded his second career interception and added a sack as the Bears' defense held the Bills to 145 total yards.
- New Orleans defensive end **CHARLES GRANT**, who had seven tackles, three QB hurries, 1.0 sack and forced a fumble.
- San Francisco cornerback **WALT HARRIS**, who posted a career-high three interceptions. Harris' three interceptions is the most by a 49er since 2002 (**RONNIE HEARD**, 3, 10/27/02) and the second-best total in franchise history (**DAVE BAKER**, 4, 12/4/60).
- Minnesota linebacker **E.J. HENDERSON**, who sealed the Vikings' victory with a 45-yard interception-return touchdown with 1:31 remaining and posted three tackles on the day.
- St. Louis defensive end **LEONARD LITTLE**, who recorded four tackles and 1.0 sack.
- Carolina defensive end **JULIUS PEPPERS**, who totaled 1.0 sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, seven tackles and seven quarterback hurries in the Panthers' 20-12 victory over the Cleveland Browns.
- Philadelphia defensive tackle **DARWIN WALKER**, who had a career-high 3.0 sacks along with seven total tackles, three quarterback hurries and a forced fumble.
- Minnesota defensive tackle **PAT WILLIAMS**, who recorded 1.0 sack and forced a fumble that was recovered by teammate **BEN LEBER** for a Vikings TD.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 5 were:

- Chicago kicker **ROBBIE GOULD**, who was four of four in field goal attempts, hitting from 42, 43, 32 and 41 yards. Gould set a team record with 17 consecutive field goals to start a season (**KEVIN BUTLER**, 16, 1995) and has converted 19 field goals in a row dating back to last season, the third-longest streak in franchise annals.
- San Francisco rookie linebacker **MANNY LAWSON**, who blocked an Oakland punt in the second quarter that set up a 49ers touchdown. Lawson added four tackles, one quarterback pressure and deflected a pass that resulted in an interception.