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## **FALCONS TE ALGE CRUMPLER & BUCCANEERS CB RONDE BARBER & K MATT BRYANT NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 7**

Tight end **ALGE CRUMPLER** of the Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback **RONDE BARBER** and kicker **MATT BRYANT** are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the seventh week of the 2007 season (October 22-23), the NFL announced today.

The last time two teammates were named NFC Player of the Week in the same week was Week 6 of the 2003 season when Tampa Bay's **BRAD JOHNSON** (Offense) and **SIMEON RICE** (Defense) were honored.

### **OFFENSE: TE ALGE CRUMPLER, ATLANTA FALCONS**

- Facing the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, Crumpler produced one of the most productive offensive games of his six-year career in the Falcons' 41-38 overtime victory. The tight end from North Carolina had six catches for 117 yards and a career-high three touchdowns. Crumpler hauled in a 22-yard touchdown reception in the first quarter, a three-yard TD with just under five minutes to go before halftime and added a 31-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter. In overtime, with Atlanta facing a third-and-nine from its own 45-yard line, Crumpler took a short pass from quarterback **MICHAEL VICK** and raced 26 yards to the Pittsburgh 29 to set up **MORTEN ANDERSEN**'s game-winning 32-yard field goal. All six of Crumpler's catches resulted in a first down or touchdown, including four of at least 20 yards. For the season, Crumpler leads all tight ends with eight catches of 20 or more yards. The six-year veteran tied the franchise mark for the most touchdown receptions in a game and is the first tight end in team history to record three TDs in one contest.

In his sixth season from North Carolina, this is Crumpler's second career Player of the Week Award.

### **DEFENSE: CB RONDE BARBER, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**

- In a key NFC contest, Barber had six tackles, forced a fumble and recorded two interception-return touchdowns (37 and 66 yards) in the Buccaneers' 23-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles. Facing the NFL's No. 1 offense and the league's highest rated passer (**DONOVAN MC NABB**) entering the contest, Barber recorded his fifth multiple-interception game and scored two touchdowns for the first time in his career. McNabb had been intercepted only twice all season entering Week 7. Early in the second quarter, Barber picked off a pass and raced 37 yards to give Tampa Bay an early 7-0 lead. After a field goal put the Bucs up 10-0 in the third quarter, the Eagles promptly drove into Tampa Bay territory. However, Barber put an end to that drive, intercepting a pass and taking off 66 yards down the field into the end zone.

In his 10th year from Virginia, this is Barber's sixth career Player of the Week Award. Twin brother and New York Giants running back, **TIKI**, was named the NFC Offensive Player of the Week last week.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K MATT BRYANT, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**

- With Tampa Bay down by a point, Bryant connected on a 62-yard field goal as time expired, the second-longest game-winning field goal and the third-longest kick in NFL history. For the game, Bryant connected on all three field goal attempts (30, 44 and 62 yards) and converted both PAT tries. With the Buccaneers trailing 21-20 with four seconds remaining, Tampa Bay head coach **JON GRUDEN** decided to have Bryant attempt a career-long 62-yard field goal rather than try for one final pass into the end zone. Center **DAVE MOORE** snapped the ball to holder **JOSH BIDWELL** and Bryant's right foot sent the football through the uprights as the clock hit 0:00 to send the fans at Raymond James Stadium into a frenzy.

In his fifth season from Baylor, this is Bryant's third career Player of the Week Award.

## 2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Week 1</b>	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis
<b>Week 2</b>	QB Eli Manning, NY Giants	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Ryan Longwell, Minnesota
<b>Week 3</b>	QB Brett Favre, Green Bay	LB Scott Fujita, New Orleans	K John Kasay, Carolina
<b>Week 4</b>	WR Santana Moss, Washington	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Morten Andersen, Atlanta
<b>Week 5</b>	RB Frank Gore, San Francisco	CB Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia	RB-PR Reggie Bush, NO
<b>Week 6</b>	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE James Hall, Detroit	K Josh Brown, Seattle
<b>Week 7</b>	TE Alge Crumpler, Atlanta	CB Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay	K Matt Bryant, Tampa Bay

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 7 were:

- New York Giants running back **TIKI BARBER**, who rushed for 114 yards on a season-high 27 carries in the Giants' 36-22 win over the Dallas Cowboys. Barber has now rushed for at least 100 yards in three consecutive games.
- Green Bay wide receiver **DONALD DRIVER**, who had a game-high 10 receptions for 93 yards and one touchdown in the Packers' 34-24 win over the Miami Dolphins.
- Green Bay running back **AHMAN GREEN**, who rushed for 118 yards on 18 carries (6.6 avg.), including a 70-yard touchdown run.
- Minnesota running back **CHESTER TAYLOR**, who carried 26 times for a career-best 169 yards and one touchdown in the Vikings' 31-13 win at Seattle. Taylor's touchdown run went for 95 yards, the longest play from scrimmage in team annals and tied for the ninth-longest in NFL history. Taylor also added four catches for 19 yards.
- Philadelphia running back **BRIAN WESTBROOK**, who rushed for 101 yards and caught seven passes for 113 yards with one touchdown. Westbrook became the first player since **PRIEST HOLMES** in 2002 to gain 100 yards rushing and 100 yards receiving in the same game and the second player in team history to accomplish the feat (**TIMMY BROWN**, 1964).

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 7 were:

- Arizona defensive end **BERTRAND BERRY**, who had 3.0 sacks and forced two fumbles in the Cardinals' 22-9 loss at the Oakland Raiders. Both fumbles resulted in Arizona field goals.
- New York Giants defensive end **MICHAEL STRAHAN**, who had five tackles, 2.0 sacks and batted a pass that resulted in an interception. Strahan's 2.0 sacks brought his career total to 132.5, tying the franchise record held by Pro Football Hall of Famer **LAWRENCE TAYLOR**.
- Minnesota defensive tackle **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, who had four tackles, 1.0 sack, a pass defended and recovered a fumble for a touchdown. The Vikings lead the league with four defensive touchdowns.
- Green Bay cornerback **CHARLES WOODSON**, who totaled six tackles, three passes defended, 1.0 sack, a forced fumble and a 23-yard interception-return touchdown.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 7 were:

- New York Giants punter **JEFF FEAGLES**, who posted a 48.7-yard gross average and a net average of 46.3 yards on three punts. Feagles had a 54-yard punt downed at the one-yard line which resulted in a safety. The 19-year veteran's 146 yards increased his career total to 60,779, passing **SEAN LANDETA** for the most in NFL history.
- Washington punt returner **ANTWAAN RANDLE EL**, who returned two punts for 111 yards (55.5 avg.), including an 87-yard touchdown return in the Redskins' 36-22 loss to the Indianapolis Colts.