



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

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

FOR USE AS DESIRED  
NFC-POW-10 11/15/06

## **COWBOYS QB TONY ROMO, PANTHERS DE JULIUS PEPPERS & BEARS CB-PR DEVIN HESTER NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 10**

Quarterback **TONY ROMO** of the Dallas Cowboys, defensive end **JULIUS PEPPERS** of the Carolina Panthers and rookie cornerback-punt returner **DEVIN HESTER** of the Chicago Bears are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 10th week of the 2006 season (November 12-13), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: QB TONY ROMO, DALLAS COWBOYS**

- Making just the third start of his career, Romo completed 20 of 29 passes (69.0 percent) for a career-high 308 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 126.8 passer rating in the Cowboys' 27-10 win at Arizona. The four-year veteran recorded five completions of at least 20 yards, including touchdown passes of 30 and 51 yards. In the second half, Romo was a perfect 10-for-10 for 144 yards with one touchdown and a 152.1 passer rating. On the Cowboys' first possession of the second quarter, Romo directed the Dallas offense 78 yards on seven plays. The quarterback from Eastern Illinois completed passes of 16 and 22 yards before finishing the drive with a 30-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver **PATRICK CRAYTON** to put the Cowboys up 10-0. In the third quarter, after an Arizona punt, Romo launched a deep pass to wide receiver **TERRELL OWENS** for a 51-yard touchdown that gave the Cowboys a commanding 20-3 lead. On the day, Romo guided a Dallas offense that amassed 434 total net yards.

In his fourth season from Eastern Illinois, this is Romo's first career Player of the Week Award.

### **DEFENSE: DE JULIUS PEPPERS, CAROLINA PANTHERS**

- In front of a national audience on Monday night, Peppers recorded four tackles, 3.0 sacks, three quarterback hurries, two passes defended and a fumble recovery in the Panthers' 24-10 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Peppers, who leads the NFL with 11.0 sacks, recorded his sixth 3.0-sack game since entering the league in 2002, the most in the NFL during that time. With those 3.0 sacks, Peppers increased his career total to 51.5, becoming the first Panther in history to reach 50.0 sacks and passing **MIKE RUCKER** (49.0) for the franchise record. In the second quarter, Peppers recorded 2.0 sacks. On Tampa Bay's first possession of the second half, Peppers recovered a fumble forced by linebacker **CHRIS DRAFT**. The Panthers scored a touchdown on the ensuing possession to take the lead for good at 10-7. Late in the fourth quarter, with the Buccaneers facing fourth down, Peppers put an end to Tampa Bay's chances with his third sack. For the game, the Panthers held the Buccaneers to 222 total net yards.

In his fifth year from North Carolina, this is Peppers' first career Player of the Week Award. Peppers was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Month for October.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: CB-PR DEVIN HESTER, CHICAGO BEARS**

- The rookie cornerback-punt returner put on a show in prime time on Sunday night by tying the NFL record for the longest play in league history during Chicago's 38-20 victory over the New York Giants. Standing in his own end zone as the Giants attempted a 52-yard field goal to cut the Bears' lead to 24-23, Hester caught the short kick on the fly. After a brief hesitation, Hester began walking out of the end zone before taking off down the right sideline untouched to put the Bears on top 31-20. Almost exactly one year ago (November 13, 2005), Chicago's **NATHAN VASHER** returned a missed San Francisco field goal 108 yards for a touchdown. Hester, who leads the NFL with two punt-return touchdowns, has now scored on three returns of at least 80 yards this season.

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

## 2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Wk 1</b>	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis
<b>Wk 2</b>	QB Eli Manning, NY Giants	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Ryan Longwell, Minnesota
<b>Wk 3</b>	QB Brett Favre, Green Bay	LB Scott Fujita, New Orleans	K John Kasay, Carolina
<b>Wk 4</b>	WR Santana Moss, Washington	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Morten Andersen, Atlanta
<b>Wk 5</b>	RB Frank Gore, San Francisco	CB Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia	RB-PR Reggie Bush, New Orleans
<b>Wk 6</b>	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE James Hall, Detroit	K Josh Brown, Seattle
<b>Wk 7</b>	TE Alge Crumpler, Atlanta	CB Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay	K Matt Bryant, Tampa Bay
<b>Wk 8</b>	QB Michael Vick, Atlanta	DE Aaron Kampman, Green Bay	WR Sam Hurd, Dallas
<b>Wk 9</b>	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	LB Brandon Moore, San Francisco	S Troy Vincent, Washington
<b>Wk 10</b>	QB Tony Romo, Dallas	DE Julius Peppers, Carolina	CB-PR Devin Hester, Chicago

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 10 were:

- Green Bay wide receiver **DONALD DRIVER**, who had six receptions for a career-high 191 yards (31.8 average), including an 82-yard touchdown in the Packers' 23-17 win over the Minnesota Vikings.
- San Francisco running back **FRANK GORE**, who rushed for a career-high 159 yards, including a 61-yard touchdown run in the 49ers' 19-13 win at Detroit. Gore set a franchise record with 148 rushing yards in the first half.
- Chicago quarterback **REX GROSSMAN**, who completed 18 of 30 passes (60.0 percent) for 246 yards with three touchdowns and one interception for a 105.7 passer rating.
- Seattle running back **MAURICE MORRIS**, who rushed for 124 yards on 21 carries (5.9 average) in the Seahawks' 24-22 win over the St. Louis Rams, Morris' second consecutive 100-yard performance.
- Carolina wide receiver **STEVE SMITH**, who had eight catches for 149 yards (18.6 average), including a 36-yard touchdown with 3:11 remaining to put the game out of reach.
- Philadelphia wide receiver **DONTE' STALLWORTH**, who had six receptions for 139 yards, including a career-long 84-yard touchdown catch in the Eagles' 27-3 win over the Washington Redskins.
- Philadelphia running back **BRIAN WESTBROOK**, who rushed for 113 yards and had three catches for 37 yards to total 150 scrimmage yards on the day.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 10 were:

- Tampa Bay cornerback **RONDE BARBER**, who had an interception, five tackles, two quarterback hurries, four passes defended and a forced fumble. Barber's interception was the 31st of his career, tying the franchise record.
- Philadelphia cornerback **SHELDON BROWN**, who had four tackles and a career-long 70-yard interception return for a touchdown.
- Philadelphia safety **BRIAN DAWKINS**, who posted 13 tackles and two passes defended, including a touchdown-saving play in the end zone.
- Green Bay rookie linebacker **A.J. HAWK**, who had 17 tackles, 1.5 sacks, two quarterback hurries and a forced fumble.
- San Francisco linebacker **BRANDON MOORE**, who had a team-best 11 tackles and tied a career-high with 2.0 sacks. The 49ers' defense held Detroit to 71 rushing yards and 251 total net yards.
- Chicago cornerback **CHARLES TILLMAN**, who had an interception and defended three passes as the Bears limited the Giants to 99 total net passing yards.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 10 were:

- Carolina punter **JASON BAKER**, who posted a gross average of 46.3 yards and a net average of 41.8 yards, placing four punts inside the 20 with a long of 54 yards.
- Seattle kicker **JOSH BROWN**, who kicked a game-winning 38-yard field goal with nine seconds remaining to put the Seahawks ahead 24-22.
- Seattle wide receiver-punt returner **NATE BURLESON**, who averaged 31.7 yards per return, including a 90-yard punt-return touchdown, the longest punt return in the NFL this season.
- Minnesota punter **CHRIS KLUWE**, who punted seven times for 336 yards for a 48.0 gross average and a 41.0 net average. Kluwe placed three punts inside the 20 and had a long of 55 yards.
- San Francisco kicker **JOE NEDNEY**, who converted all four field goal attempts (28, 23, 23 and 47 yards) and one PAT. It was the ninth time in his career that Nedney has kicked at least four field goals in a game.