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## **49ERS RB FRANK GORE, PANTHERS DE MIKE RUCKER & COWBOYS P MAT MC BRIAR NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 11**

Running back **FRANK GORE** of the San Francisco 49ers, defensive end **MIKE RUCKER** of the Carolina Panthers and punter **MAT MC BRIAR** of the Dallas Cowboys are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 11th week of the 2006 season (November 19-20), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: RB FRANK GORE, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS**

- In a showdown between NFC West rivals, Gore rushed 24 times for a franchise-record 212 yards (8.8 average) in the 49ers' 20-14 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. Gore registered his fifth 100-yard rushing game of the season and currently stands second in the NFL with 1,043 yards (Kansas City's **LARRY JOHNSON**, 1,045). The second-year running back had four runs of more than 20 yards on the day, including two of at least 50 yards. For the year, Gore leads the NFL with 12 runs of 20 or more yards. In the first quarter, with San Francisco backed up at its own eight-yard line, Gore broke off a game-long 51-yard run that led to a 49ers field goal. During a second-quarter drive, the former Miami standout had rushes of 20 and 23 yards to set up quarterback **ALEX SMITH**'s one-yard touchdown run to put San Francisco ahead 17-0. In the third quarter, Gore added a 50-yard run that resulted in a field goal attempt. Gore added four catches for 26 yards on the day and ranks third in the NFL this season with 1,330 scrimmage yards. The 49ers have won three in a row and are in second place in the NFC West.

In his second season from Miami, this is Gore's second career Player of the Week Award and his second this season (Week 5).

### **DEFENSE: DE MIKE RUCKER, CAROLINA PANTHERS**

- Rucker had four tackles, three quarterback hurries and 2.0 sacks, including a safety in the Panthers' 15-0 win over the St. Louis Rams. The Carolina defense held the Rams scoreless for the first time since 1998 and allowed only 111 total net yards. The Panthers also tied a team record with seven sacks. Rucker recorded his first sack in the second quarter to help stop a St. Louis drive. On the ensuing Carolina possession, the Panthers scored the game's lone touchdown to take a 10-0 advantage heading into halftime. That sack marked the 50th of his career as Rucker became the second player in franchise history to reach that plateau. Late in the fourth quarter, with Carolina leading 13-0, Rucker sacked the St. Louis quarterback in the end zone for a safety, the first by a Panther since 2003 and the second of his career. Carolina has won six of its past eight games and is tied for first place in the NFC South.

In his eighth year from Nebraska, this is Rucker's second career Player of the Week Award and the second consecutive week a Panther has been honored (**JULIUS PEPPERS**).

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: P MAT MC BRIAR, DALLAS COWBOYS**

- In Dallas' 21-14 win over the Indianapolis Colts, McBriar punted three times for a 46.7 yard gross average and placed two punts inside the 20-yard line. The punter from Hawaii posted a net average of 40.0 yards per punt and did not allow any punt return yards by the Colts. Indianapolis' average drive start after McBriar's punts was the 14-yard line. In the opening quarter, McBriar's first punt of the game traveled 36 yards and was downed at the Indianapolis 11-yard line. McBriar's next punt went 41 yards and gave the Colts starting field position at their own 12. In the third quarter, McBriar had his longest punt of the afternoon with a 63-yard effort. Dallas, who handed Indianapolis its first loss of the season, has won three of its past four and has surged into a tie for first place in the NFC East.

In his third season from Hawaii, this is McBriar's first career Player of the Week Award.

## 2006 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Kurt Warner, Arizona	DE John Abraham, Atlanta	K Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis
Wk 2	QB Eli Manning, NY Giants	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Ryan Longwell, Minnesota
Wk 3	QB Brett Favre, Green Bay	LB Scott Fujita, New Orleans	K John Kasay, Carolina
Wk 4	WR Santana Moss, Washington	DT Tommie Harris, Chicago	K Morten Andersen, Atlanta
Wk 5	RB Frank Gore, San Francisco	CB Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia	RB-PR Reggie Bush, New Orleans
Wk 6	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	DE James Hall, Detroit	K Josh Brown, Seattle
Wk 7	TE Alge Crumpler, Atlanta	CB Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay	K Matt Bryant, Tampa Bay
Wk 8	QB Michael Vick, Atlanta	DE Aaron Kampman, Green Bay	WR Sam Hurd, Dallas
Wk 9	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	LB Brandon Moore, San Francisco	S Troy Vincent, Washington
Wk 10	QB Tony Romo, Dallas	DE Julius Peppers, Carolina	CB-PR Devin Hester, Chicago
Wk 11	RB Frank Gore, San Francisco	DE Mike Rucker, Carolina	P Mat McBriar, Dallas

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 11 were:

- Arizona rookie quarterback **MATT LEINART**, who recorded his first career victory while completing 19 of 29 passes (65.5 percent) for 233 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions for a 101.7 passer rating in the Cardinals' 17-10 win over the Detroit Lions. Leinart also added a nine-yard touchdown run.
- Chicago running back **THOMAS JONES**, who rushed for 121 yards on 23 carries in the Bears' 10-0 win at the New York Jets.
- Tampa Bay running back **CADILLAC WILLIAMS**, who had 27 carries for 122 yards in the Buccaneers' 20-17 victory over the Washington Redskins. Williams added two catches for 34 yards.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 11 were:

- Tampa Bay cornerback **RONDE BARBER**, who tied for the team lead with eight tackles and added a half-sack and a pass defended.
- Arizona defensive end **BERTRAND BERRY**, who had 2.0 sacks, a tackle for a loss and two quarterback hurries.
- Dallas linebacker **KEVIN BURNETT**, who returned an interception 39 yards for a touchdown in the Cowboys' win.
- San Francisco cornerback **WALT HARRIS**, who had two interceptions in San Francisco's victory. Harris now has a career-best six interceptions this season.
- Tampa Bay safety **JERMAINE PHILLIPS**, who had six tackles, a career-best three passes defended and a forced fumble.
- Chicago linebacker **BRIAN URLACHER**, who had a game-high 11 tackles and intercepted a pass in the end zone as the Bears shutout the Jets.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 11 were:

- Carolina punter **JASON BAKER**, who averaged a career-high 55.0 yards on five punts, including a season-long 61-yarder.
- San Francisco punter **ANDY LEE**, who had six punts for 260 yards (43.3 gross average) and placed two inside the 20.