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NEW YORK GIANTS RB TIKI BARBER, 49ERS CB WALT HARRIS & LIONS K JASON HANSON NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 17

Running back **TIKI BARBER** of the New York Giants, cornerback **WALT HARRIS** of the San Francisco 49ers and kicker **JASON HANSON** of the Detroit Lions are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 17th week of the 2006 season (December 30-31), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB TIKI BARBER, NEW YORK GIANTS

- Playing in his final regular-season game, Barber rushed for a franchise-record 234 yards and three touchdowns in the Giants' 34-28 win on Saturday night to help New York qualify for the playoffs. Barber's 234 rushing yards are the most by a player in his final regular-season game, surpassing Hall of Famer **CLIFF BATTLES'** mark of 165 yards set in 1937. The 200-yard performance marked the fifth such game of Barber's career, moving him into sole possession of second place all-time behind Pro Football Hall of Famer **O.J. SIMPSON**. With the Giants trailing 7-3 early in the second quarter, Barber scored on a 15-yard touchdown run to give New York the lead. Later in the second, Barber raced for a 55-yard TD to put the Giants on top 17-7. In the fourth quarter, after the Redskins had closed to within six points at 27-21, the 10-year veteran broke off a 50-yard touchdown run to increase New York's lead. Barber became the first player in team annals to record two touchdown runs of at least 50 yards in the same game. On the season, Barber led the Giants and finished second in the NFC with 1,662 rushing yards, the highest mark for a player in his final season, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer **JIM BROWN's** mark of 1,544 yards. Barber and the Giants travel to Philadelphia to face the Eagles this Sunday for a Wild Card contest.

In his 10th season from Virginia, this is Barber's seventh career Player of the Week Award and second weekly award this season (Week 6). Barber was also honored in October when he was named the NFC Offensive Player of the Month.

DEFENSE: CB WALT HARRIS, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- The 11-year veteran had two interceptions, including a 28-yard touchdown, a fumble recovery, four passes defended and four tackles in the 49ers' 26-23 overtime victory over the Denver Broncos. In the second quarter, with the Broncos leading 6-0, Harris intercepted a pass at the San Francisco 19-yard line and returned it 42 yards to the Denver 39. In the third quarter, after the 49ers had closed to within 13-10, Harris recorded his second interception and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown to put San Francisco ahead 17-13. Later in the game, Harris recovered a fumble for his third takeaway of the contest. Over the past three seasons, Harris is only the second player to record three takeaways and a touchdown in the same game. For the season, Harris tied for the NFC lead with a career-high eight interceptions.

In his 11th year from Mississippi State, this is Harris' first Player of the Week Award. Harris was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Month for November.

SPECIAL TEAMS: K JASON HANSON, DETROIT LIONS

- Hanson was a perfect four-for-four on field goal attempts and converted all three PATs to score 15 points in the Lions' 39-31 win over the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadium. The performance marked Hanson's 20th career game with at least four field goals as he became only the sixth player in NFL history to accomplish the feat. Hanson kicked two fields goals in the first quarter (33 and 25 yards), added a 26-yarder in the third and finished the scoring with a 23-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter. For the season, Hanson ranked third in the NFC with 117 points and tied for third with 29 field goals.

In his 15th season from Washington State, this is Hanson's ninth 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
Wk 12	QB Tony Romo, Dallas	S Sean Taylor, Washington	K Josh Brown, Seattle
Wk 13	RB Reggie Bush, New Orleans	S Lawyer Milloy, Atlanta	CB-PR-KR Devin Hester, Chicago
Wk 14	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Cedric Griffin, Minnesota	CB-PR-KR Devin Hester, Chicago
Wk 15	QB Rex Grossman, Chicago	S Brian Dawkins, Philadelphia	P Matt Turk, St. Louis
Wk 16	RB Steven Jackson, St. Louis	DE Aaron Kampman, Green Bay	K Robbie Gould, Chicago
Wk 17	RB Tiki Barber, NY Giants	CB Walt Harris, San Francisco	K Jason Hanson, Detroit

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 17 were:

- Philadelphia rookie wide receiver **HANK BASKETT**, who caught a career-best seven passes for 177 yards, including an 89-yard touchdown in the Eagles' 24-17 win. Baskett joined **BILLY HOWTON** (Green Bay, 1952) as the only rookies in NFL history with two touchdown receptions of at least 85 yards in a season.
- Green Bay quarterback **BRETT FAVRE**, who passed for 285 yards with one touchdown and one interception in the Packers' 26-7 road win over the Chicago Bears. Favre had 209 passing yards in the first half against the NFC's best defense.
- Philadelphia quarterback **A.J. FEELEY**, who completed 22 of 33 passes (66.7 percent) for a career-high 321 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 128.5 passer rating.
- Detroit wide receiver **MIKE FURREY**, who caught a team-best 11 receptions for 102 yards and one touchdown. Furrey led the NFC with 98 receptions this season.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **JOEY GALLOWAY**, who had eight catches for 108 yards with one touchdown in the Buccaneers' 23-7 loss to the Seattle Seahawks.
- San Francisco running back **FRANK GORE**, who rushed for 153 yards on a career-high 31 carries. Gore had nine 100-yard games in 2006 and was the NFC's leading rusher with 1,695 yards.
- St. Louis running back **STEVEN JACKSON**, who rushed for 142 yards with three touchdowns and added two receptions for 24 yards and a touchdown in the Rams' 41-21 win over the Minnesota Vikings. Jackson tied the franchise record with four touchdowns in a game.
- Detroit quarterback **JON KITNA**, who completed 28 of 42 passes (66.7 percent) for 306 yards with four touchdowns and one interception for a 109.8 passer rating. Kitna's four touchdown passes tied his career-high.
- Detroit wide receiver **ROY WILLIAMS**, who caught six passes for 104 yards and two touchdowns, his sixth 100-yard game of the year, tied for the most in the NFL this year.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 17 were:

- St. Louis safety **RON BARTELL**, who had four passes defended and two interceptions, including a 38-yard touchdown return.
- Green Bay safety **NICK COLLINS**, who had a team-high six tackles, three passes defended and two interceptions, including a 55-yard touchdown return.
- Philadelphia safety **SEAN CONSIDINE**, who had six tackles, 1.0 sack and his first career interception.
- Philadelphia defensive end **JUQUA THOMAS**, who posted a career-best 2.0 sacks and totaled three tackles.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 17 were:

- Carolina punter **JASON BAKER**, who had a gross average of 49.8 yards and a net average of 47.2 yards in the Panthers' 31-21 win over the New Orleans Saints.
- San Francisco kicker **JOE NEDNEY**, who was four-for-four on field goal attempts, including the 36-yard game-winner in overtime. Nedney has 16 game-winning field goals in his career.