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BRONCOS RB MIKE BELL, BUCCANEERS QB BRUCE GRADKOWSKI, STEELERS WR SANTONIO HOLMES, CARDINALS QB MATT LEINART, & PANTHERS RB DE ANGELO WILLIAMS CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF WEEK HONORS

Fans To Vote For Winner On NFL.com and Via Sprint Wireless Service

Running back **MIKE BELL** of the Denver Broncos, quarterback **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, wide receiver **SANTONIO HOLMES** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, quarterback **MATT LEINART** of the Arizona Cardinals and running back **DE ANGELO WILLIAMS** of the Carolina Panthers are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on November 19-20, the NFL announced today.

Fans can vote for one of these five players on NFL.com beginning Tuesday at 9am EST and ending Wednesday at 12pm EST to determine the <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u>. The <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> will be announced Wednesday afternoon on NFL.com.

In addition, for the second year, NFL fans may cast their votes for the <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> using phones with Sprint wireless service - an opportunity available only to Sprint customers. This fast, convenient voting method involves texting the word **PEPSI** to short code **7777**. Sprint customers will then receive an interactive text message that links fans to the ballot with the five finalists each week. Data and text messaging rates may apply.

After the regular season, five players will be nominated for Diet Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Year honors. Fans can vote for the winner on NFL.com and via Sprint wireless service throughout the month of January. The winner will be announced at a press conference at Super Bowl XLI in South Florida.

A closer look at the finalists:

- **Denver's Mike Bell** ran for 90 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries in the Broncos' 35-27 loss to the San Diego Chargers. Bell, who started the second game of his NFL career, had two three-yard touchdown runs in the second quarter to give Denver a 14-7 halftime lead. He added two receptions for 17 yards.
- Tampa Bay's Bruce Gradkowski completed 14 of 21 passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns for a passer rating of 104.9 in the Buccaneers' 20-17 victory over the Washington Redskins. Gradkowski threw touchdown passes of two and 34 yards to give him nine touchdowns on the season.
- **Pittsburgh's Santonio Holmes** caught five passes for 75 yards and one touchdown in the Steelers' 24-20 victory over the Cleveland Browns. Holmes caught a 20-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to bring the Steelers within 13-10. He added two receptions for 23 yards on the Steelers' game-winning drive.
- Arizona's Matt Leinart threw for 233 yards and one touchdown, completing 19 of 29 attempts for a 101.7passer rating in the Cardinals' 17-10 victory over the Detroit Lions. Leinart completed a two-yard touchdown pass to give Arizona a 7-0 second-quarter lead and later ran nine yards for a touchdown to put the Cardinals ahead 17-0.

• Carolina's DeAngelo Williams carried 20 times for 114 yards in the Panthers' 15-0 victory over the St. Louis Rams. Williams enjoyed the first 100-yard rushing performance of his NFL career, averaging more than five yards per carry. He also added two receptions for 24 yards in the win.

This is Pepsi's fifth year as the official soft drink sponsor of the NFL and the second year that Diet Pepsi will present the NFL Rookie of the Week and NFL Rookie of the Year awards.