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## COLTS RB JOSEPH ADDAI, CHIEFS DE TAMBA HALI, CARDINALS QB MATT LEINART, PATRIOTS RB LAURENCE MARONEY & TITANS QB VINCE YOUNG CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF WEEK HONORS

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

Running back **JOSEPH ADDAI** of the Indianapolis Colts, defensive end **TAMBA HALI** of the Kansas City Chiefs, quarterback **MATT LEINART** of the Arizona Cardinals, running back **LAURENCE MARONEY** of the New England Patriots and quarterback **VINCE YOUNG** of the Tennessee Titans are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on November 23, 26-27, the NFL announced today.

Fans can vote for one of these five players on NFL.com beginning Tuesday at 9am EST and ending Thursday at 5pm 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 Thursday evening 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:

- Indianapolis' Joseph Addai ran for 171 yards and four touchdowns on 24 carries in the Colts' 45-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles. Addai, who scored on touchdown runs of four, 10, 15 and 15 yards, set a franchise rookie record for touchdowns. He added two catches for 37 yards, giving him 208 total yards for the game.
- Kansas City's Tamba Hali recorded six total tackles and two sacks and forced one fumble in the Chief's 19-10 victory over the Denver Broncos. Hali, who now has 5.5 sacks on the season, recorded his first sack for a three-yard loss early in the third quarter and forced a fumble on a seven-yard sack on Denver's final possession.
- Arizona's Matt Leinart threw for a rookie-record 405 yards with one touchdown, completing 31 of 51 attempts in the Cardinals' 31-26 loss to the Minnesota Vikings. Leinart threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin late in the fourth quarter. He completed 20 passes for 312 yards to Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald combined.
- New England's Laurence Maroney ran for 33 yards and one touchdown, caught four passes for 45 yards and returned four kickoffs for 95 yards in the Patriots' 17-13 victory over the Chicago Bears. Maroney scored on a one-yard touchdown run to put New England in front 7-0 in the second quarter. He now has five touchdowns.

• **Tennessee's Vince Young** completed 24 of 35 passes for 249 yards with two touchdowns and a 107.9 passer rating in the Titans' 24-21 victory over the New York Giants. Young, who also ran for 69 yards and one TD, brought Tennessee back from a 21-0 fourth-quarter deficit. He threw touchdown passes of four and 14 yards.

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.