



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/5/06

CONTACT:
MATT HILL, NFL, 212-450-2080
Hillm@nfl.com

DAVE DECECCO, PEPSI-COLA, 914-253-2655
David.DeCecco@Pepsi.com

**SAINTS RB REGGIE BUSH, CARDINALS QB MATT LEINART,
FALCONS RB JERIOUS NORWOOD, TEXANS LB DE MECO RYANS
& TITANS QB VINCE YOUNG
CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS**

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

Running back **REGGIE BUSH** of the New Orleans Saints, quarterback **MATT LEINART** of the Arizona Cardinals, running back **JERIOUS NORWOOD** of the Atlanta Falcons, linebacker **DE MECO RYANS** of the Houston Texans 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 30 and December 3-4, 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 12pm EST to determine the **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK**. The **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** will be announced Thursday afternoon on NFL.com.

In addition, for the second year, NFL fans may cast their votes for the **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** 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:

- **New Orleans' Reggie Bush** carried 10 times for 37 yards and three touchdowns and caught nine passes for 131 yards and one touchdown in the Saints' 34-10 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Bush tied a franchise record with four touchdowns, running for scores of one, eight and 10 yards, and catching a five-yard TD pass.
- **Arizona's Matt Leinart** completed 15 of 24 passes for 186 yards and one touchdown for a passer rating of 100.3 in the Cardinals' 34-20 victory over the St. Louis Rams. Leinart threw an 11-yard, second-quarter touchdown pass to help Arizona to a 17-7 halftime lead. He led the Cardinals on three additional scoring drives in the second half.
- **Atlanta's Jerious Norwood** ran for 109 yards and one touchdown on nine carries in the Falcons' 24-14 victory over the Washington Redskins. Norwood, who averaged nearly 12 yards per carry, broke away for a 69-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to help seal Atlanta's victory.
- **Houston's DeMeco Ryans** recorded 14 tackles (13 solo), one sack, one forced fumble and one interception in the Texans' 23-14 victory over the Oakland Raiders. Ryans, who leads the Texans with 113 tackles this season

and ranks second with 3.5 sacks, also recovered a fumble which led to a field goal to give Houston a 20-14 lead.

- **Tennessee's Vince Young** completed 15 of 25 passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns in the Titans' 20-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. Young, who also ran for 78 yards on 9 carries, threw touchdown passes of nine and 20 yards and led the Titans on a last-minute drive resulting in a 60-yard game-winning field goal.

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.