



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
12/12/06

CONTACT:  
MATT HILL, NFL, 212-450-2080  
[Hillm@nfl.com](mailto:Hillm@nfl.com)

DAVE DECECCO, PEPSI-COLA, 914-253-2655  
[David.DeCecco@Pepsi.com](mailto:David.DeCecco@Pepsi.com)

**SAINTS RB REGGIE BUSH, BEARS DB DEVIN HESTER**  
**JAGUARS RB MAURICE JONES-DREW, CARDINALS QB MATT LEINART**  
**& 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, defensive back **DEVIN HESTER** of the Chicago Bears, running back **MAURICE JONES-DREW** of the Jacksonville Jaguars, quarterback **MATT LEINART** of the Arizona Cardinals and quarterback **VINCE YOUNG** of the Tennessee Titans are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on December 7, 10-11, 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 six times for 37 yards and caught six passes for 125 yards and one touchdown in the Saints' 42-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys. Bush, who now has seven touchdowns this season, caught a screen pass from Drew Brees in the third quarter and dashed 61 yards for the score.
- **Chicago's Devin Hester** returned two kickoffs for touchdowns in the Bears' 42-27 victory over the St. Louis Rams. With Chicago trailing 6-0 in the second quarter, Hester returned a kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown. Then, in the fourth quarter, he scored on a 96-yard kickoff return. Hester has a NFL record six return TDs this season.
- **Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew** carried 15 times for 166 yards and two touchdowns and returned a punt 93 yards for another touchdown in the Jaguars' 44-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. Jones-Drew, who scored on touchdown runs of 18 and 48 yards, totaled 303 all-purpose yards in the game.
- **Arizona's Matt Leinart** completed 21 of 34 passes for 232 yards and two touchdowns in the Cardinals' 27-21 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. Leinart threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Bryant Johnson on the Cardinals' first possession. He later threw a five-yard touchdown pass to Larry Fitzgerald to put Arizona in front for good.

- **Tennessee's Vince Young** completed 19 of 29 passes for 218 yards and carried seven times for 86 yards and one touchdown in the Titans' 26-20 overtime victory over the Houston Texans. Young, who has run for 458 yards this season, scrambled 39 yards for the game-winning touchdown in overtime.

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.