



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/19/06

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

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

BRONCOS QB JAY CUTLER, TITANS DB CORTLAND FINNEGAN, EAGLES LB OMAR GAITHER, JAGUARS RB MAURICE JONES-DREW & RAVENS WR DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS

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

Quarterback **JAY CUTLER** of the Denver Broncos, defensive back **CORTLAND FINNEGAN** of the Tennessee Titans, linebacker **OMAR GAITHER** of the Philadelphia Eagles, running back **MAURICE JONES-DREW** of the Jacksonville Jaguars and wide receiver **DEMETRIUS WILLIAMS** of the Baltimore Ravens are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on December 14, 16-18, 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 <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u>. The <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> will be announced Thursday 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 Jay Cutler** completed 21 of 31 passes for 261 yards and two touchdowns for a passer rating of 101.7 in the Broncos' 37-20 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Cutler completed touchdown passes of 10 and 54 yards and now has six touchdowns in three career starts.
- Tennessee's Cortland Finnegan recorded three tackles and returned a fumble recovery 92 yards for a touchdown in the Titans' 24-17 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars. With the game tied at 10 and the Jaguars driving late in the third quarter, Finnegan scooped up a fumble and raced 92 yards for his first career NFL TD.
- Philadelphia's Omar Gaither recorded 10 tackles, tied for the team lead, and one sack in the Eagles' 36-22 victory over the New York Giants. Gaither, who was making his third-career NFL start, recorded his first NFL sack.
- **Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew** carried 25 times for 98 yards and one touchdown and caught three passes for 47 yards in the Jaguars' 24-17 loss to the Tennessee Titans. Jones-Drew, who scored on a 12-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, has 10 rushing touchdowns this season, along with two receiving TDs.

• Baltimore's Demetrius Williams caught two passes for 100 yards and one touchdown in the Ravens' 27-17 victory over the Cleveland Browns. With the game tied at 17 midway through the third quarter, Williams caught his first career NFL touchdown, a 77-yard strike from Kyle Boller to put the Ravens ahead for good.

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.