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**EAGLES WR HANK BASKETT, STEELERS WR SANTONIO HOLMES,
PANTHERS CB RICHARD MARSHALL, CHIEFS DB BERNARD POLLARD
& TEXANS RB CHRIS TAYLOR
CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK HONORS**

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

Wide receiver **HANK BASKETT** of the Philadelphia Eagles, wide receiver **SANTONIO HOLMES** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, cornerback **RICHARD MARSHALL** of the Carolina Panthers, defensive back **BERNARD POLLARD** of the Kansas City Chiefs and running back **CHRIS TAYLOR** of the Houston Texans are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on December 30-31, 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 **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:

- **Philadelphia's Hank Baskett** caught seven passes for 177 yards, including an 89-yard, game-winning touchdown reception in the Eagles' 24-17 victory over the Atlanta Falcons. Early in the fourth quarter, with the game tied at 17, Baskett caught a deep pass from A.J. Feeley and took it 89 yards for Philadelphia's final touchdown.
- **Pittsburgh's Santonio Holmes** caught four passes for 124 yards and one touchdown, a game-winning 67-yarder in overtime, in the Steelers' 23-17 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals. A little more than one minute into overtime, Holmes caught a short pass from Ben Roethlisberger on a slant pattern and sprinted all the way into the endzone.
- **Carolina's Richard Marshall** recorded seven tackles (four solo) and one sack, forcing a fumble in the Panthers' 31-21 victory over the New Orleans Saints. In the first quarter, Marshall sacked Saints quarterback Jamie Martin for a four-yard loss, causing a fumble on the play. Marshall finished fourth on the team with 82 tackles in 2006.
- **Kansas City's Bernard Pollard** recorded one tackle and blocked a punt, recovering the ball in the endzone for his first career NFL touchdown in the Chiefs' 35-30 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars. With the score tied 0-0

in the first quarter, Pollard came around the right end to block a punt and raced to fall on the ball in the endzone.

- **Houston's Chris Taylor** ran for 99 yards and one touchdown on 20 carries in the Texans' 14-6 victory over the Cleveland Browns. Taylor scored his first career NFL touchdown on a five-yard run in the third quarter. He had a long run of 17 yards and added one reception for 12 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.