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**COLTS RB JOSEPH ADDAI, SAINTS WR MARQUES COLSTON,
49ERS LB MANNY LAWSON, PATRIOTS RB LAURENCE MARONEY
& PANTHERS RB DE ANGELO WILLIAMS
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, wide receiver **MARQUES COLSTON** of the New Orleans Saints, linebacker **MANNY LAWSON** of the San Francisco 49ers, running back **LAURENCE MARONEY** of the New England Patriots and running back **DE ANGELO WILLIAMS** of the Carolina Panthers are the finalists for **DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** honors for games played on September 17-18, the NFL announced today.

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

- **Indianapolis' Joseph Addai** carried 16 times for 82 yards in the Colts' 43-24 victory over the AFC South-rival Houston Texans. Addai added two receptions for 22 yards, including a 21-yard touchdown catch-and-run to put the Colts up 14-0 in the first quarter. It was Addai's first career NFL touchdown.
- **New Orleans' Marques Colston** caught four passes for 58 yards, including a 35-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter of the Saints' 34-27 victory over the Green Bay Packers. Colston has now caught a touchdown pass in each of his first two NFL games.
- **San Francisco's Manny Lawson** recorded three tackles, two sacks and two quarterback pressures in the 49ers' 20-13 win over the St. Louis Rams. Lawson was a key factor in San Francisco's defense holding the Rams to 185 passing yards on the day. He recorded sacks on the Rams' opening drives of both the first and third quarters.
- **New England's Laurence Maroney** ran for 65 yards and one touchdown on 16 carries in the Patriots' 24-17 victory over the New York Jets. Maroney recorded his first career NFL touchdown on a one-yard run in the third quarter to put the Patriots in front 24-0.

- **Carolina's DeAngelo Williams** carried 13 times for 74 yards and one touchdown in the Panthers' 16-13 overtime loss to the Minnesota Vikings. Williams scored his first career NFL touchdown on a three-yard run in the second quarter. He also added five catches for 24 yards and returned four kickoffs for 86 yards in the game.

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.