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**BUCCANEERS QB BRUCE GRADKOWSKI, BEARS DB DEVIN HESTER,
STEELERS WR SANTONIO HOLMES, CARDINALS QB MATT LEINART
& TITANS QB VINCE YOUNG
CANDIDATES FOR DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF WEEK HONORS**

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

Quarterback **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, defensive back **DEVIN HESTER** of the Chicago Bears, wide receiver **SANTONIO HOLMES** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, 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 October 15-16, 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 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:

- **Tampa Bay's Bruce Gradkowski** completed 25 of 44 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns in the Buccaneers' 14-13 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals. On 4th-and-three from the Bengals' eight-yard line, with 0:35 remaining in the game, Gradkowski found WR Michael Clayton for the game-winning touchdown pass.
- **Chicago's Devin Hester** scored on an 83-yard punt return touchdown to give the Bears a 24-23 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. With 2:58 remaining in the game and Chicago trailing 23-17, Hester fielded a punt at his own 17, sprinted up the middle of the field, made a couple of quick cuts and ran virtually untouched into the endzone.
- **Pittsburgh's Santonio Holmes** accounted for 180 total yards in the Steelers' 45-7 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. Holmes returned five punts for 55 yards and two kickoffs for 54 yards in the game. He also caught two passes for 58 yards – including a career-long 50-yard catch – and had one carry for 13 yards.
- **Arizona's Matt Leinart** completed 24 of 42 passes for 232 yards and two touchdowns in the Cardinals' 24-23 loss to the Chicago Bears. Facing one of the league's stiffest defenses, Leinart threw touchdown passes of 11 and 26 yards in the first quarter and led Arizona to a 23-3 third-quarter lead.

- **Tennessee's Vince Young** threw for 161 yards and one touchdown, completing 13 of 25 passes in the Titans' 25-22 victory over the Washington Redskins. Young led Tennessee to its first win of the season, engineering five scoring drives and throwing a three-yard touchdown pass to WR Brandon Jones in the second quarter.

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.