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COLTS RB JOSEPH ADDAI, SAINTS WR MARQUES COLSTON, GIANTS DE MATHIAS KIWANUKA, TEXANS LB DE MECO RYANS <u>& BILLS S KO SIMPSON</u> 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, defensive end **MATHIAS KIWANUKA** of the New York Giants, linebacker **DE MECO RYANS** of the Houston Texans and safety **KO SIMPSON** of the Buffalo Bills are the finalists for <u>DIET PEPSI NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK</u> honors for games played on November 5-6, 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 <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:

- Indianapolis' Joseph Addai carried 18 times for 43 yards and one touchdown in the Colts' 27-20 victory over the New England Patriots. Addai scored on a two-yard touchdown run to put Indianapolis in front 14-7 in the second quarter. He has two rushing touchdowns this season.
- New Orleans' Marques Colston caught 11 passes for 123 yards and one touchdown in the Saints' 31-14 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Colston, whose 15-yard touchdown reception gave New Orleans a 7-0 lead, is tied for the NFL lead with seven touchdown receptions and ranks fourth with 700 receiving yards this season
- The **New York Giants' Mathias Kiwanuka** recorded seven tackles and one sack in the Giants' 14-10 victory over the Houston Texans. Kiwanuka has started the past two games for the Giants and registered a sack in both of them. Against Houston, his fourth-quarter sack helped the Giants get the ball back for their game-winning drive.
- Houston's DeMeco Ryans recorded 10 tackles and one sack in the Texans' 14-10 loss to the New York Giants. Ryans led the Texans in tackles for the game and also leads the team for the season with 73 tackles through

eight games. In addition, the rookie linebacker has 2.5 sacks.

• **Buffalo's Ko Simpson** recorded six tackles and one interception in the Bills' 24-10 victory over the Green Bay Packers. With the Packers driving for a game-tying touchdown late in the fourth quarter, Simpson intercepted a pass in the endzone and returned it 76-yards to set up a Buffalo touchdown that sealed the win.

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.