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## **SAINTS WR MARQUES COLSTON & BEARS DE MARK ANDERSON NAMED NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER**

Wide receiver **MARQUES COLSTON** of the New Orleans Saints and defensive end **MARK ANDERSON** of the Chicago Bears are the NFL Offensive and Defensive Rookies of the Month for October, the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: WR MARQUES COLSTON, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**

- The 252nd of 255 players selected in the 2006 NFL Draft, Colston led all rookies in October with 373 receiving yards, third-most in the NFL, and four touchdown catches, tied for third in the league. The former Hofstra standout, who was second in the NFL with a 93.3 yards-per-game average, hauled in 18 catches during the month with 16 resulting in a first-down or touchdown (88.9 percent). Colston averaged 20.7 yards per catch in October, the highest average in the league among players with at least 15 receptions. In New Orleans' four games, Colston posted two 100-yard performances, including a 163-yard game with two touchdowns against Baltimore on October 29, the highest single-game yardage total by a rookie in team history. The seventh-round selection started the month with a five-catch, 132-yard day versus Carolina on October 1. During that contest, Colston recorded the longest touchdown reception by a rookie in club history with an 86-yard TD. This season, Colston leads all rookies with 577 receiving yards and six touchdown catches. The 6-4, 231-pound receiver needs 108 yards to become the franchise's all-time leading rookie receiver (**CAMERON CLEELAND**, 684 yards, 1998) and with three touchdown catches can pass **DONTE' STALLWORTH** (8 TDs, 2002) for the club's rookie record. Colston is second among rookies with 33 receptions, trailing only teammate **REGGIE BUSH** (42).

Colston is the first player from Hofstra to be honored as the Rookie of the Month since the award's inception in 1996.

### **DEFENSE: DE MARK ANDERSON, CHICAGO BEARS**

- The fifth-round selection out of Alabama has made an immediate impact on Chicago's No. 1-ranked defense, leading the team and all rookies with 7.5 sacks, the most sacks though a rookie's first seven games in NFL history. Anderson recorded 6.0 sacks in October, the most by a rookie and tied for second overall in the NFL. The defensive end posted a sack in all four games during the month, including multiple-sack contests against Seattle (October 1) and Buffalo (October 8), as the Bears won all four contests to improve to 7-0 on the season. Anderson forced three fumbles, including one against Arizona on Monday Night Football (October 16) that led directly to a defensive touchdown, and had a forced fumble in each of the final three games of the month. For October, Anderson totaled 16 tackles as the Chicago defense allowed an NFL-low 923 total net yards (230.8 yards per game) and was third with 46 points allowed (11.5 points per game). The Tulsa, Oklahoma native is currently on pace to set a new rookie record for sacks, surpassing **JEVON KEARSE**'s mark of 14.5 in 1999.

Anderson is the first Bears defensive player to earn a Rookie of the Month Award since **BRIAN URLACHER** in October of 2000.

### **2006 NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH**

	<b><u>Offense (College)</u></b>	<b><u>Defense (College)</u></b>
<b>September</b>	T Marcus McNeill, San Diego (Auburn)	S Donte Whitner, Buffalo (Ohio State)
<b>October</b>	WR Marques Colston, New Orleans (Hofstra)	DE Mark Anderson, Chicago (Alabama)

**Other nominees for the October NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month were:**

- Indianapolis running back **JOSEPH ADDAI** (first round, LSU), who ran for 324 yards on 61 carries and caught 11 passes for 87 receiving yards to help the Colts post a 4-0 October record. Addai surpassed 80 yards rushing in three of the team's four games in the month.
- Denver running back **MIKE BELL** (free agent, Arizona), who rushed 26 times for 163 yards (6.3 average) and two touchdowns, helping the Broncos reach a 3-1 October record.
- New Orleans running back-punt returner **REGGIE BUSH** (first round, USC), who led all rookies and tied for second in the NFL among running backs with 23 receptions during the month. In October, Bush had 151 receiving yards, 87 rushing yards and 103 punt-return yards, including a 65-yard touchdown.
- Tampa Bay quarterback **BRUCE GRADKOWSKI** (sixth round, Toledo), who guided the Buccaneers to two wins while passing for four touchdowns versus one interception. Gradkowski is one of three quarterbacks in NFL history to throw one interception in the first 150 attempts of his career.
- Pittsburgh wide receiver-kick returner-punt returner **SANTONIO HOLMES** (first round, Ohio State), who caught 11 passes for 214 yards for the month. Holmes accounted for 529 all-purpose yards during the Steelers' four October games.
- New England running back **LAURENCE MARONEY** (first round, Minnesota), who led the NFL in October with a 39.3-yard kick return average on six returns, including two for more than 70 yards. Maroney also posted 226 rushing yards on 49 carries (4.6 average) with two TDs as the Patriots won all four of their games last month.
- New York Jets running back **LEON WASHINGTON** (fourth round, Florida State), who posted 372 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns on 78 carries (4.8 average) with two 100-yard rushing games.
- Tennessee quarterback **VINCE YOUNG** (first round, Texas), who led his team to a 2-2 October record, completing 44 of 90 passes with three touchdowns against three interceptions. Young accounted for at least one touchdown (passing or rushing) in each of his four starts in the month.

**Other nominees for the October NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month Award were:**

- Denver defensive end **ELVIS DUMERVIL** (fourth round, Louisville), who posted 5.0 sacks in October among his seven total tackles. Dumervil's 3.0 sacks in Week 7 at Cleveland tied a club rookie record.
- Kansas City defensive end **TAMBA HALI** (first round, Penn State), who racked up 22 tackles, 3.5 sacks, forced four fumbles, defended two passes, and recovered a fumble to help the Chiefs attain a 4-1 October record.
- Green Bay linebacker **A.J. HAWK** (first round, Ohio State), who recorded 31 tackles, 1.5 sacks, two passes defended and a fumble recovery in October. Hawk led the team in tackles in each of the last two games of the month, including a career-high 12 tackles.
- San Francisco linebacker **MANNY LAWSON** (first round, North Carolina State), who totaled 19 tackles, one pass defended and blocked a punt during the month.
- Cleveland defensive end **KAMERION WIMBLEY** (first round, Florida State), who chalked up 21 tackles – including a tackle for loss in all four of the Browns' games in the month – along with 2.0 sacks and a fumble recovery.