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COMMUNICATIONS

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**TEXANS WR DE ANDRE HOPKINS & BILLS LB KIKO ALONSO
NAMED NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER**

Wide receiver **DE ANDRE HOPKINS** of the Houston Texans and linebacker **KIKO ALONSO** of the Buffalo Bills are the NFL Offensive and Defensive Rookies of the Month for September, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: WR DE ANDRE HOPKINS, HOUSTON TEXANS

- Hopkins, a first round selection in the 2013 NFL Draft (No. 27 overall) out of Clemson, led all rookies in receiving yards (270) and tied for an NFL rookie best with 20 receptions in September.
- In Week 2, Hopkins registered seven catches for 117 yards (16.7 average), including a game-winning three-yard touchdown reception in the Texans' 30-24 overtime win against Tennessee. Hopkins became the first rookie wide receiver to catch a touchdown pass in overtime since **SANTONIO HOLMES** (December 31, 2006). He posted the first 100-yard receiving game by a rookie this season.
- Hopkins' 270 scrimmage yards lead all rookies in 2013.
- Has recorded the second-most receptions and receiving yards through the first four games of a career in Texans history, trailing only **ANDRE JOHNSON** (26 receptions for 346 yards).
- Hopkins joins **DOMANICK WILLIAMS** (October of 2003) and **STEVE SLATON** (December of 2008) as the third Texans player to be named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month. He is the first Texans rookie wide receiver to win the award.
- Hopkins is the first rookie receiver to win the award since **JULIO JONES** in 2011 (December).

DEFENSE: LB KIKO ALONSO, BUFFALO BILLS

- Alonso, a second-round selection out of Oregon, tied for an NFL-best with four interceptions in September.
- Alonso finished September with 32 tackles (tied for the most in the NFL), one sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and four passes defended.
- In Week 4 against Baltimore, Alonso posted two interceptions and became only the fourth rookie to have two interceptions against a defending Super Bowl champion.
- Alonso's four interceptions tie for the most ever by a linebacker in September in one season (**JOHN ANDERSON**, **CHUCK HOWLEY** and **JACK LAMBERT**).
- He recorded an interception in three of four games during the month, registering five total takeaways in September.
- He is the first rookie linebacker in team history to record an interception in three consecutive games.
- Has helped the Bills register an NFL-best nine interceptions this season.
- Alonso is only the second Bills rookie linebacker to register four interceptions in a season (**MIKE STRATTON**, six in 1962).
- Alonso is the sixth Bills player to be named NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month. He is the first Bill to win the award since **JAIRUS BYRD** in 2009 (October).

2013 NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense (College)</u>	<u>Defense (College)</u>
September	WR DeAndre Hopkins, Houston (Clemson)	LB Kiko Alonso, Buffalo (Oregon)

Other nominees for the September NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:

- St. Louis wide receiver **TAVON AUSTIN** (first round, West Virginia), who tied for the lead among rookies with 20 receptions (124 yards) and scored two touchdowns.
- Cincinnati running back **GIOVANI BERNARD** (second round, North Carolina), who led NFL rookies with 147 rushing yards with two rushing touchdowns. He added 12 receptions for 122 yards (10.2 average) with one touchdown.
- Cincinnati tight end **TYLER EIFERT** (first round, Notre Dame), who posted 12 receptions for 159 yards (13.3 average).
- Buffalo quarterback **EJ MANUEL** (first round, Florida State), who completed 74 of 130 passes for 856 yards with five touchdowns and an 80.2 passer rating.
- Minnesota wide receiver-kick returner **CORDARRELLE PATTERSON** (first round, Tennessee), who led the NFL with a 33.8 yards-per-return average on kickoffs and had a 105-yard kick-return touchdown. He also had six catches for 82 yards.
- New York Jets quarterback **GENO SMITH** (second round, West Virginia), who completed 78 of 136 passes for 1,090 yards with four touchdowns. Smith rushed for 85 yards with one touchdown.
- New England wide receiver **KENBRELL THOMPkins** (undrafted, Cincinnati), who totaled 15 receptions for 257 yards (17.1 average) with three touchdowns.
- Buffalo wide receiver **ROBERT WOODS** (second round, Southern California), who recorded 11 catches for 201 yards (18.3 average) with two touchdown receptions.

Other nominees for the September NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:

- Detroit defensive end **EZEKIEL ANSAH** (first round, Brigham Young), who led NFC rookies with 2.5 sacks and added 12 tackles.
- New England defensive end **MICHAEL BUCHANAN** (seventh round, Illinois), who had two tackles and two sacks, the third-most among rookies.
- Carolina defensive tackle **STAR LOTULELEI** (first round, Utah), who had nine tackles and a sack.
- Arizona safety **TYRANN MATHIEU** (third round, Louisiana State), who had 29 tackles, an interception and a forced fumble.
- Cleveland linebacker **BARKEVIOUS MINGO** (first round, Louisiana State), who registered 10 tackles and led all rookies with three sacks.
- San Francisco safety **ERIC REID** (first round, Louisiana State), who had 13 tackles and two interceptions, tied for the NFC lead.