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COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/31/13

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PATRIOTS RB LE GARRETTE BLOUNT, JETS CB DEE MILLINER & COLTS K ADAM VINATIERI NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 17

Running back **LE GARRETTE BLOUNT** of the New England Patriots, cornerback **DEE MILLINER** of the New York Jets and kicker **ADAM VINATIERI** of the Indianapolis Colts are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 17th week of the 2013 season (December 29), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB LE GARRETTE BLOUNT, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

- Blount rushed for 189 yards on 24 carries (7.9 average) with two rushing touchdowns in the Patriots' 34-20 win over Buffalo. Blount also returned two kickoffs for 145 yards (72.5 average).
- Blount's 189 rushing yards are the fourth-most by an NFL player in a game this season.
- He joined **LE SEAN MC COY** as the only players in the NFL to register at least 180 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns in a game this season.
- His 189 rushing yards are the most by a Patriots player in a game since December 13, 1998 (**ROBERT EDWARDS**, 196).
- Blount's 334 total yards are the most in a game by a Patriot in franchise history.
- His 83-yard kickoff return in the third quarter was a career-long.
- In his fourth season from Oregon, this is Blount's first career Offensive Player of the Week Award.
- Blount is the first Patriots running back to be named Offensive Player of the Week since **CURTIS MARTIN** in 1997 (Week 3).

DEFENSE: CB DEE MILLINER, NEW YORK JETS

- Milliner recorded four tackles, two interceptions and five passes defended in the Jets' 20-7 win at Miami.
- Milliner's two interceptions tied for the most in the NFL in Week 17.
- Played a key role for a Jets defense that registered three interceptions, seven passes defended and limited the Dolphins to 296 yards of total offense.
- With 1:30 remaining in the fourth quarter, Milliner registered his second interception of the game to seal a Jets victory.
- Milliner registered three interceptions in December, tied for the most in the AFC for the month.
- In his rookie season from Alabama, this is Milliner's first career Defensive Player of the Week Award.
- Milliner is the second Jets rookie to win Defensive Player of the Week honors since the accolade was instituted in 1984 (**RUSSELL CARTER** in 1984, Week 15).

SPECIAL TEAMS: K ADAM VINATIERI, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- Vinatieri converted all three field-goals (23, 26, 39) in the Colts' 30-10 win over Jacksonville.
- On the final play of the first half, Vinatieri converted a 26-yard field goal and became the seventh player in NFL history to reach 2,000 career points.
- He surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **GEORGE BLANDA** (2,002) and **MATT STOVER** (2,004) for the fifth-most points scored in NFL history.
- Vinatieri converted a career-high 35 field goals this season, the third-most in the NFL (**STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI**, 38; **JUSTIN TUCKER**, 38).
- Totaled 139 points in 2013, the second-highest single-season point total of his career (141 in 2004).
- Improved his streak of consecutive games scoring at least one point to 161.
- In his 18th season from South Dakota State, this is Vinatieri's 15th career Special Teams Player of the Week Award, the most since the award originated in 1984. He most recently won the award in Week 11.

2013 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Peyton Manning, Denver	LB Justin Houston, Kansas City	K Nick Folk, New York Jets
Wk 2	QB Philip Rivers, San Diego	DE Mario Williams, Buffalo	PR Trindon Holliday, Denver
Wk 3	QB Peyton Manning, Denver	LB Justin Houston, Kansas City	P Spencer Lanning, Cleveland
Wk 4	QB Philip Rivers, San Diego	CB Alterraun Verner, Tennessee	PR Dexter McCluster, Kansas City
Wk 5	QB Geno Smith, New York Jets	S Charles Woodson, Oakland	PR Travis Benjamin, Cleveland
Wk 6	QB Andy Dalton, Cincinnati	LB Tamba Hali, Kansas City	K Nick Novak, San Diego
Wk 7	QB Andrew Luck, Indianapolis	DE Mario Williams, Buffalo	K Shaun Suisham, Pittsburgh
Wk 8	WR Marvin Jones, Cincinnati	CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Denver	K Ryan Succop, Kansas City
Wk 9	QB Jason Campbell, Cleveland	DE Cameron Wake, Miami	K Nick Folk, New York Jets
Wk 10	WR Demaryius Thomas, Denver	LB Paul Posluszny, Jacksonville	K Justin Tucker, Baltimore
Wk 11	QB Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh	LB Vontaze Burfict, Cincinnati	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis
Wk 12	QB Tom Brady, New England	S Troy Polamalu, Pittsburgh	K Justin Tucker, Baltimore
Wk 13	WR Eric Decker, Denver	DE Olivier Vernon, Miami	P Kevin Huber, Cincinnati
Wk 14	QB Andy Dalton, Cincinnati	LB Tamba Hali, Kansas City	K Matt Prater, Denver
Wk 15	RB Jamaal Charles, Kansas City	S Michael Thomas, Miami	K Justin Tucker, Baltimore
Wk 16	QB Peyton Manning, Denver	LB Jerrell Freeman, Indianapolis	K Nick Novak, San Diego
Wk 17	RB LeGarrette Blount, New England	CB Dee Milliner, New York Jets	K Adam Vinatieri, Indianapolis

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 17 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Indianapolis wide receiver **T.Y. HILTON**, who had 11 catches for 155 receiving yards (14.1 average).
- Tennessee running back **CHRIS JOHNSON**, who rushed for 127 yards on 27 carries (4.7 average) with one touchdown in the Titans' 16-10 win over Houston.
- Denver quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**, who completed 25 of 28 passes (89.3 percent) for 266 yards with four touchdowns versus zero interceptions and a 145.8 passer rating in the Broncos' 34-14 win at Oakland.
- San Diego running back **RYAN MATHEWS**, who rushed for 144 yards on 24 carries (6 average) in the Chargers' 27-24 overtime win over Kansas City.
- New York Jets rookie quarterback **GENO SMITH**, who completed 17 of 27 passes (63 percent) for 190 yards and a 83.9 passer rating. Smith also rushed for 44 yards with one rushing touchdown.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 17 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Tennessee linebacker **AKEEM AYERS**, who had three tackles, one interception, one forced fumble and one pass defensed.
- Cincinnati linebacker **VONTAZE BURFICT**, who had a team-high 14 tackles.
- Indianapolis linebacker **ROBERT MATHIS**, who had six tackles and two sacks.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 17 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Tennessee punter **BRETT KERN**, who punted six times for 253 yards (42.2 average), including all six punts inside the 20-yard line.
- San Diego kicker **NICK NOVAK**, who converted both field goals (22, 36).
- Denver kicker **MATT PRATER**, who converted both field goals (34, 54).