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COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/31/13

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**SAINTS QB DREW BREES, PANTHERS DE GREG HARDY &
49ERS K PHIL DAWSON NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 17**

Quarterback **DREW BREES** of the New Orleans Saints, defensive end **GREG HARDY** of the Carolina Panthers and kicker **PHIL DAWSON** of the San Francisco 49ers are the NFC 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: QB DREW BREES, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- Brees completed 24 of 31 passes (77.4 percent) for 381 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 157.4 passer rating in the Saints' 42-17 win over Tampa Bay. He also had a nine-yard touchdown run. With the victory, the Saints clinched a playoff berth.
- It marked the 25th game in his career with at least four touchdown passes, the second-most in NFL history.
- Brees has five games in his career with a passer rating of at least 150.
- He is the first quarterback in NFL history to complete 75 percent of his passes with at least 350 yards, four touchdowns, no interceptions and a rushing touchdown in a single game.
- Brees, who was selected to his eighth Pro Bowl, finished the season with 5,162 passing yards, his third consecutive 5,000-yard season and fourth overall. He is the only player with multiple 5,000-yard passing seasons and owns four of the eight such performances in NFL history.
- In his 13th season from Purdue, this is Brees' 19th career Player of the Week Award and third this season (Weeks 4 and 10).
- Since joining the Saints in 2006, Brees has won 17 Player of the Week Awards, the most in franchise history. During that span, Brees' 17 Player of the Week Awards are tied for the most in the NFL (**TOM BRADY**).
- Brees' 19 Player of the Week Awards rank third all-time behind **PEYTON MANNING** (26) and Brady (24).

DEFENSE: DE GREG HARDY, CAROLINA PANTHERS

- Hardy had a franchise-record four sacks and six tackles in the Panthers' 21-20 win at Atlanta. With the victory, the Panthers clinched the NFC South division title and a first-round bye.
- He finished the season with 15 sacks, tied for the most in team history (**KEVIN GREENE**, 1998).
- In the final two games of the season, Hardy had seven sacks. He is the first player to enter the postseason with consecutive three-sack performances in the team's final two games.
- Hardy, who was selected to his first Pro Bowl, was part of a defensive unit that had a franchise-record nine sacks in the game. The Panthers finished the season with 60 sacks, tied for the most in a season in team history (1996).
- In his fourth year from Mississippi, this is Hardy's second career Player of the Week Award (Week 3, 2013).
- The Panthers have won five Defensive Player of the Week Awards this season, the most in a season in franchise history. In addition to Hardy's two, linebackers **LUKE KUECHLY** (two) and **THOMAS DAVIS** have been honored.
- Hardy is the fourth player in team history to be named Defensive Player of the Week multiple times. He joins Kuechly (three), **JULIUS PEPPERS** (three) and **MIKE RUCKER** (two).

SPECIAL TEAMS: K PHIL DAWSON, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- Dawson kicked three field goals, including the game-winner as time expired, and two PATS in the 49ers' 23-20 win at Arizona. With the win, San Francisco locked up the top Wild Card spot in the NFC.
- He scored 11 points, the most in the NFC by a kicker in Week 17.
- In the final 1:45 of the game, Dawson converted two field-goal attempts. He tied his career-long with a 56-yard field goal with 1:45 remaining to put San Francisco ahead 20-17. After the Cardinals tied the score, Dawson kicked the game-winner from 40 yards out as time expired to win the contest.
- In his 15th season from Texas, this is Dawson's fourth career Player of the Week Award and second this season (Week 14). He previously won twice with Cleveland (Week 3, 2001 and Week 15, 2005).
- Dawson and **DAVID AKERS** (Weeks 16 and 17, 2011) are the only players in franchise history to be named Special Teams Player of the Week twice in the same season.

2013 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	WR Anquan Boldin, San Francisco	DE Robert Quinn, St. Louis	WR-PR Dwayne Harris, Dallas
Wk 2	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	CB Richard Sherman, Seattle	KR-PR Devin Hester, Chicago
Wk 3	TE Jimmy Graham, New Orleans	DE Greg Hardy, Carolina	P Sam Martin, Detroit
Wk 4	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Patrick Peterson, Arizona	K Steven Hauschka, Seattle
Wk 5	WR DeSean Jackson, Philadelphia	CB Tramaine Brock, San Francisco	K Mason Crosby, Green Bay
Wk 6	QB Nick Foles, Philadelphia	LB Thomas Davis, Carolina	KR-PR Dwayne Harris, Dallas
Wk 7	QB Matt Ryan, Atlanta	LB Sean Lee, Dallas	P Andy Lee, San Francisco
Wk 8	WR Calvin Johnson, Detroit	CB Terrell Thomas, New York Giants	KR Cordarrelle Patterson, Minnesota
Wk 9	QB Nick Foles, Philadelphia	DE Shea McClellin, Chicago	PR-WR Golden Tate, Seattle
Wk 10	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	LB Luke Kuechly, Carolina	PR-WR Tavon Austin, St. Louis
Wk 11	RB Bobby Rainey, Tampa Bay	DE Jason Pierre-Paul, New York Giants	P Donnie Jones, Philadelphia
Wk 12	QB Carson Palmer, Arizona	LB Lavonte David, Tampa Bay	K Blair Walsh, Minnesota
Wk 13	QB Russell Wilson, Seattle	DE Justin Tuck, New York Giants	P Donnie Jones, Philadelphia
Wk 14	QB Josh McCown, Chicago	LB John Abraham, Arizona	K Phil Dawson, San Francisco
Wk 15	RB Eddie Lacy, Green Bay	CB Richard Sherman, Seattle	K Jay Feely, Arizona
Wk 16	RB LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia	LB Luke Kuechly, Carolina	K Josh Brown, New York Giants
Wk 17	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	DE Greg Hardy, Carolina	K Phil Dawson, San Francisco

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

- Minnesota running back **MATT ASIATA**, who rushed for 115 yards in the Vikings' 14-13 win over Detroit.
- San Francisco wide receiver **ANQUAN BOLDIN**, who had nine catches for 149 yards and a touchdown.
- Green Bay wide receiver **RANDALL COBB**, who had two touchdown catches, including the game-winner, in the Packers' 33-28 win at Chicago.
- San Francisco quarterback **COLIN KAEPERNICK**, who completed 21 of 34 passes (61.8 percent) for 310 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 111.2 passer rating.
- New York Giants wide receiver **JERREL JERNIGAN**, who had six catches for 90 yards with a touchdown and had a 49-yard touchdown run in the Giants' 20-6 win over Washington.
- Philadelphia running back **LE SEAN MC COY**, who rushed for 131 yards and had a touchdown reception in the Eagles' 24-22 win at Dallas.
- Minnesota rookie wide receiver **CORDARRELLE PATTERSON**, who had a 50-yard touchdown run and caught the game-winning touchdown pass.
- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, who passed for 318 yards and two touchdowns.
- Atlanta quarterback **MATT RYAN**, who completed 28 of 40 passes (70 percent) for 280 yards with two touchdowns and a 95.8 passer rating.
- Seattle wide receiver **GOLDEN TATE**, who had eight catches for 129 yards and a touchdown in the Seahawks' 27-9 win over St. Louis.

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

- Minnesota defensive end **JARED ALLEN**, who had two sacks, four tackles and a pass defensed.
- San Francisco linebacker **NA VORRO BOWMAN**, who had 10 tackles, an interception, a sack, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.
- Philadelphia cornerback **BRANDON BOYKIN**, who had an interception, three passes defensed and two tackles.
- New Orleans linebacker **JUNIOR GALETTE**, who had two sacks and four tackles.
- Dallas rookie linebacker **DE VONTE HOLLOMAN**, who had 11 tackles and two sacks.
- Philadelphia linebacker **MYCHAL KENDRICKS**, who had 12 tackles, an interception and a forced fumble.
- Seattle linebacker **MALCOLM SMITH**, who had a 37-yard interception-return touchdown and five tackles.

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

- Green Bay kicker **MASON CROSBY**, who converted both field-goal attempts and all three PATs.
- Seattle kicker **STEVEN HAUSCHKA**, who converted both field-goal attempts and all three PATs.