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COMMUNICATIONS

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**BRONCOS QB PEYTON MANNING, COLTS LB ROBERT MATHIS &
CHIEFS PR DEXTER MC CLUSTER
NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF MONTH FOR DECEMBER**

Quarterback **PEYTON MANNING** of the Denver Broncos, linebacker **ROBERT MATHIS** of the Indianapolis Colts and punt returner **DEXTER MC CLUSTER** of the Kansas City Chiefs are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Month for December (November 28-December 29), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB PEYTON MANNING, DENVER BRONCOS

- Manning completed 145 of 214 passes (67.8 percent) for 1,755 yards with 19 touchdowns versus three interceptions and a 116.5 passer rating as he helped the Broncos to a 4-1 record in December.
- Ranked first in the NFL in passing yards (1,755), TD passes (19) and passer rating (116.5, minimum four games) in December.
- In Week 16, Manning earned AFC Offensive Player of the Week honors, completing 32 of 51 passes (62.7 percent) for 400 yards with four touchdowns versus zero interceptions and a 113.2 passer rating in the Broncos' 37-13 win at Houston. With 4:28 remaining in the fourth quarter, Manning registered his 51st TD pass of the season, surpassing **TOM BRADY** (50 in 2007) for the most touchdowns passes in a single season in NFL history.
- In Week 17, Manning 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' win as the team clinched the No. 1 seed in the AFC. Manning set the NFL's single-season passing-yard record with 5,477 yards, surpassing **DREW BREES'** mark of 5,476 yards in 2011.
- In his 16th season from Tennessee, this is Manning's eighth career Offensive Player of the Month Award, the most AFC Offensive Player of the Month awards since the accolade was instituted in 1986. Manning most recently won the award in September.

DEFENSE: LB ROBERT MATHIS, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

- Mathis registered 17 tackles, five sacks and four forced fumbles as he helped the Colts to a 4-1 record in December. Mathis' five sacks were the most in the AFC in December. He registered at least one sack in four of the Colts' five games in December.
- Posted four forced fumbles in December, tied with teammate **JERRELL FREEMAN** (four) for the most in the NFL.
- In Week 15, Mathis (108 career; 16.5 in 2013) surpassed **DWIGHT FREENEY** (107.5 career; 16 in 2004) for the most sacks in a career by a Colt and in a single-season since 1982.
- In Week 17, Mathis recorded six tackles and two sacks in the Colts' 30-10 win over Jacksonville.
- Mathis led the league with 19.5 sacks in 2013, winning the NFL's first ever **DEACON JONES AWARD**. He joined Dwight Freeney (16 in 2004) as the second Colt to lead the league in sacks.
- In his 11th season from Alabama A&M, this is Mathis' fourth career Player of the Month Award, the most Defensive Player of the Month awards by a Colts player. He most recently won the award in October.

SPECIAL TEAMS: PR DEXTER MC CLUSTER, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

- McCluster returned 12 punts for 232 yards (19.3 average), including a 74-yard punt return-touchdown in December.
- In Week 14, McCluster had a 74-yard PR-TD in the Chiefs' 45-10 win at Washington. His 74-yard PR-TD was the longest in the NFL in December. He was one of three players in the NFL to register a PR-TD for the month.
- His 19.3 punt return average in December ranked first in the AFC and second in the NFL, trailing only **DEVIN HESTER** (19.4 average).
- McCluster registered an NFL-best two PR-TDs this season (89, 74).
- In his fourth season from Mississippi, this is McCluster's first career Player of the Month Award. He is the first Chiefs returner to win Special Teams Player of the Month since **DANTE HALL** in 2003 (September).

2013 AFC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
September	QB Peyton Manning, Denver	LB Justin Houston, Kansas City	KR Trindon Holliday, Denver
October	QB Andy Dalton, Cincinnati	LB Robert Mathis, Indianapolis	K Stephen Gostkowski, New England
November	QB Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh	DE Chandler Jones, New England	K Justin Tucker, Baltimore
December	QB Peyton Manning, Denver	LB Robert Mathis, Indianapolis	PR Dexter McCluster, Kansas City