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**FALCONS QB MATT RYAN, LIONS LB DE ANDRE LEVY &  
FALCONS K MATT BRYANT NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1**

Quarterback **MATT RYAN** of the Atlanta Falcons, linebacker **DE ANDRE LEVY** of the Detroit Lions and kicker **MATT BRYANT** of the Falcons are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on Kickoff Weekend 2014 (September 4, 7-8), the NFL announced today.

**OFFENSE: QB MATT RYAN, ATLANTA FALCONS**

- Ryan completed 31 of 43 passes (72.1 percent) for a franchise-record 448 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 128.8 passer rating in the Falcons' 37-34 overtime win over New Orleans.
- His 448 yards are the second-most on Kickoff Weekend by a quarterback without throwing an interception (462, **PEYTON MANNING**, September 5, 2013 vs. Baltimore).
- Ryan led his 24th career game-winning drive in the fourth quarter or overtime, the most in the NFL since he entered the league in 2008.
- His three touchdown passes give him 156 in his career, passing **STEVE BARTKOWSKI** (154) for the most in franchise history.
- The Falcons are now 35-2 (.946) when Ryan starts and has a 100+ passer rating.
- In his seventh season from Boston College, this is Ryan's fifth career Player of the Week Award. He has now been named Offensive Player of the Week in four consecutive seasons.
- Ryan's five Offensive Player of the Week Awards are the most in franchise history.

**DEFENSE: LB DE ANDRE LEVY, DETROIT LIONS**

- Levy had 10 tackles, including two for a loss, and an interception in the Lions' 35-14 win over the New York Giants. Four of Levy's tackles were at or behind the line of scrimmage.
- In the third quarter, with the Lions leading 14-7, Levy intercepted a pass and returned it 13 yards to the New York 18-yard line. That interception set up a field goal which put Detroit up by 10.
- Levy was part of a defensive unit that allowed just 197 total net yards, the fewest given up by the Lions in an opener since 1982.
- He has 12 career interceptions and is the sixth linebacker in franchise history to register at least 12 interceptions.
- In his sixth year from Wisconsin, this is Levy's first career Player of the Week Award.
- He is the third linebacker in team history to be named Defensive Player of the Week, joining **CHRIS SPIELMAN** (Week 2, 1990 and Week 8, 1994) and **STEPHEN BOYD** (Week 1, 1997).
- Levy is the first Lion to be honored on defense since Week 8, 2011 (**CLIFF AVRIL**).

**SPECIAL TEAMS: K MATT BRYANT, ATLANTA FALCONS**

- Bryant scored an NFC-best 13 points, converting all three field-goal attempts and four PATs in Atlanta's win. He is only the second player in NFL history to force overtime as time expired with a 50+ yard (51 yards) field goal and win the game with a 50+ yard (52 yards) field goal (**GREG ZUERLEIN**, December 2, 2012 vs. San Francisco).
- In his career, Bryant has made 20 of 21 potential game-tying or go-ahead field-goal attempts in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter or overtime.
- In his 13th season from Baylor, this is Bryant's seventh career Player of the Week Award and third with the Falcons (Weeks 4 and 12, 2010).
- He joins **MORTEN ANDERSEN** (seven) as the only Falcons kickers to be honored multiple times.
- Bryant, who previously won twice with both the New York Giants (Weeks 3 and 11, 2002) and Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Week 7, 2006 and Week 4, 2008), is the only player to win multiple Special Teams Player of the Week Awards with three different teams.
- Matt Ryan and Matt Bryant are the first QB/K teammates to be named NFC Offensive and Special Teams Players of Week in the same week since Week 6, 1998 when Atlanta's **CHRIS CHANDLER** (QB/Offense) and Morten Andersen accomplished the feat.

## 2014 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Matt Ryan, Atlanta	LB DeAndre Levy, Detroit	K Matt Bryant, Atlanta

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Carolina quarterback **DEREK ANDERSON**, who completed 24 of 34 passes (70.6 percent) for 230 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 108.7 passer rating in the Panthers' 20-14 win at Tampa Bay.
- Carolina rookie wide receiver **KELVIN BENJAMIN**, who had six catches for 92 yards and a 26-yard touchdown.
- Detroit wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON**, who had seven catches for 164 yards and two touchdowns.
- San Francisco quarterback **COLIN KAEPERNICK**, who completed 16 of 23 passes (69.6 percent) for 201 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 125.5 passer rating in the 49ers' 28-17 win at Dallas.
- Seattle running back **MARSHAWN LYNCH**, who rushed for 110 yards and two touchdowns in the Seahawks' 36-16 win over Green Bay.
- Carolina tight end **GREG OLSEN**, who had eight catches for 83 yards and a touchdown.
- Arizona quarterback **CARSON PALMER**, who completed 24 of 37 passes (64.9 percent) for 304 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 108.4 passer rating in the Cardinals' 18-17 win over San Diego.
- Minnesota wide receiver **CORDARRELLE PATTERSON**, who rushed for 102 yards on three carries (34.0 average) with one touchdown (67 yards) and had three catches for 26 yards in the Vikings' 34-6 win at St. Louis.
- Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**, who completed 22 of 32 passes (68.8 percent) for 346 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 125.3 passer rating. He also rushed for a touchdown.
- Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**, who completed 19 of 28 passes (67.9 percent) for 191 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 110.9 passer rating.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Seattle defensive end **CLIFF AVRIL**, who had a sack and two tackles.
- Arizona linebacker **LARRY FOOTE**, who had eight tackles and a pass defensed.
- Philadelphia linebacker **MYCHAL KENDRICKS**, who had six tackles, a sack and a pass defensed in the Eagles' 34-17 win over Jacksonville.
- Carolina linebacker **LUKE KUECHLY**, who had nine tackles, a sack and a forced fumble.
- Minnesota safety **HARRISON SMITH**, who had an 81-yard interception-return touchdown, a sack and two tackles.
- San Francisco linebacker **PATRICK WILLIS**, who had six tackles and an interception.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 1 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Philadelphia punter **DONNIE JONES**, who placed five of his six punts inside the 20-yard line.
- San Francisco punter **ANDY LEE**, who had a net average of 45.8 yards per punt and placed three of his four punts inside the 20-yard line.
- Carolina punter **BRAD NORTMAN**, who punted six times and averaged 47.0 yards per punt.
- Philadelphia rookie kicker **CODY PARKEY**, who converted both of his field-goal attempts and all four PATs.
- Minnesota kicker **BLAIR WALSH**, who converted both of his field-goal attempts and all four PATs.