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## **BRONCOS TE JULIUS THOMAS, MIAMI DE CAMERON WAKE & BILLS K DAN CARPENTER NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1**

Tight end **JULIUS THOMAS** of the Denver Broncos, defensive end **CAMERON WAKE** of the Miami Dolphins and kicker **DAN CARPENTER** of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on NFL Kickoff Weekend 2014 (September 4, 7-8), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: TE JULIUS THOMAS, DENVER BRONCOS**

- Thomas had seven catches for 104 yards (14.9 average) and a career-high three touchdowns in Denver's season-opening 31-24 win against Indianapolis on *Sunday Night Football*.
- His three touchdowns, which all came in the second quarter, led all NFL players on Kickoff Weekend and tied Pro Football Hall of Famer **SHANNON SHARPE** for the Broncos' single-game record for touchdown receptions by a tight end.
- Thomas is the first tight end with three touchdown catches in one quarter since 1997 (Colts **TE KEN DILGER**, 12/14/97 against Miami). He is also the first tight end with three touchdown catches on Kickoff Weekend since 1996 (Packers **TE KEITH JACKSON**, 9/1/96 at Tampa Bay).
- Thomas' 104 receiving yards led all tight ends in Week 1.
- In his fourth season from Portland State, this is Thomas' first career Player of the Week Award. He joins Shannon Sharpe (three times) as the only tight ends in club history to win the award.
- This marks the second Kickoff Weekend in a row in which a Bronco has been recognized as AFC Offensive Player of the Week (**PEYTON MANNING** in 2013).

### **DEFENSE: DE CAMERON WAKE, MIAMI DOLPHINS**

- Wake had three tackles, two sacks and two forced fumbles in Miami's 33-20 win against New England.
- He played a pivotal role for a defense that shut out the Patriots in the second half as Miami overcame a 20-10 halftime deficit, ending New England's streak of 10 consecutive wins on Kickoff Weekend.
- Both of Wake's career-high two forced fumbles were recovered by the Dolphins and led to 10 second-half points.
- His two sacks on Kickoff Weekend tied for the most in the NFL. Wake now has 6.5 sacks in five career Kickoff Weekend games.
- Since entering the NFL in 2009, Wake ranks third among AFC players with 53.5 sacks.
- In his sixth season from Penn State, this is Wake's second career Defensive Player of the Week Award (Week 9, 2013).
- Wake is the first Dolphins to be named AFC Defensive Player of the Week on Kickoff Weekend since linebacker **ZACH THOMAS** (2001).

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: K DAN CARPENTER, BUFFALO BILLS**

- Carpenter converted all three field-goal attempts, including the 27-yard game winner, and both PATs in the Bills' 23-20 overtime victory at Chicago.
- He kicked a 33-yard field goal with 4:02 remaining in the fourth quarter to give the Bills a 20-17 lead and sealed the win with a 27-yard field goal on Buffalo's first overtime possession.
- Carpenter also converted a 50-yard field-goal attempt in the second quarter, the longest of any AFC player on Kickoff Weekend.
- In his seventh season from Montana, this is Carpenter's fifth career Special Teams Player of the Week Award and first since 2010 (Week 8 with Miami).

## **2014 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

**Wk 1**      **Offense**  
TE Julius Thomas, Denver

**Defense**  
DE Cameron Wake, Miami

**Special Teams**  
K Dan Carpenter, Buffalo

**Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:**

- Pittsburgh running back **LE' VEON BELL**, who rushed for 109 yards on 21 carries (5.2 average) and one touchdown and had six catches for 88 yards (14.7 average) in the Steelers' 30-27 win against Cleveland.
- Cincinnati wide receiver **A.J. GREEN**, who had six catches for 131 yards (21.8 average) and one touchdown in the Bengals' 23-16 win at Baltimore.
- New York Jets running back **CHRIS IVORY**, who rushed for 102 yards on 10 carries (10.2 average) and one touchdown in the Jets' 19-14 win against Oakland.
- Indianapolis quarterback **ANDREW LUCK**, who completed 35 of 53 passes (66.0 percent) for 370 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for an 83.1 rating in the Colts' 31-24 loss at Denver.
- Miami running back **KNOWSHON MORENO**, who rushed for 134 yards on 24 carries (5.6 average) with one touchdown.

**Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:**

- Cincinnati defensive end **WALLACE GILBERRY**, who had four tackles, 1.5 sacks and one pass defended.
- Buffalo cornerback **COREY GRAHAM**, who had three tackles, one interception and three passes defended.
- Cleveland linebacker **PAUL KRUGER**, who had five tackles and two sacks in the Browns' 30-27 loss at Pittsburgh.
- Tennessee cornerback **JASON MC COURTY**, who had three tackles and two interceptions in the Titans' 26-10 win against Kansas City.
- Houston defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who had three tackles, one sack, one fumble recovery and a blocked PAT in the Texans' 17-6 win against Washington.

**Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:**

- Cincinnati kicker **MIKE NUGENT**, who converted five of six field-goal attempts.
- Miami rookie linebacker **CHRIS MC CAIN**, who blocked a punt and had one sack.
- Buffalo punter **COLTON SCHMIDT**, who punted five times for 215 yards (43.0 average) and placed four punts inside the 20-yard line.