

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

p. (212) 450-2000
f. (212) 681-7573

nflmedia.com



Greg.Aiello@nfl.com
Senior Vice President of Communications

Brian.McCarthy@nfl.com
Vice President of Corporate Communications

Michael.Signora@nfl.com
Vice President of Football Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9/17/14

<http://twitter.com/NFL345>

CHARGERS TE ANTONIO GATES, PATRIOTS DE CHANDLER JONES & BILLS RB-KR C.J. SPILLER NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 2

Tight end **ANTONIO GATES** of the San Diego Chargers, defensive end **CHANDLER JONES** of the New England Patriots and running back-kick returner **C.J. SPILLER** of the Buffalo Bills are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played in Week 2 (September 11, 14-15), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: TE ANTONIO GATES, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

- Gates had seven catches for 96 yards (13.7 average) and three touchdowns in San Diego's 30-21 win against Seattle.
- His three touchdowns equaled his career-high and were the most among AFC players in Week 2.
- Gates now has 90 career touchdown receptions and surpassed **LARRY FITZGERALD** (87) and Pro Football Hall of Famers **ANDRE REED** (87) and **DON MAYNARD** (88) for No. 11 all-time. He ranks second all-time amongst tight ends (**TONY GONZALEZ**, 111).
- Gates now has 16 career games with multiple touchdown catches, the most among active players.
- In his 12th season from Kent State, this is Gates' first career Player of the Week Award. He joins **ROD BERNSTINE** (Week 7, 1992) as the only tight ends in club history to win the award.
- This marks the first time that tight ends have won Offensive Player of Week Awards in back-to-back weeks since the accolade was instituted in 1984 (**JULIUS THOMAS**, Week 1).

DEFENSE: DE CHANDLER JONES, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

- Jones had eight tackles and two sacks and blocked a field goal that he returned for a touchdown in New England's 30-7 win at Minnesota.
- In the waning moments of the first half, Minnesota lined up for a 48-yard field-goal attempt. Jones blocked the kick and returned it 58 yards for a touchdown to give the Patriots a 24-7 lead heading into halftime.
- The play marked the fifth blocked field goal returned for a touchdown in franchise history and first since 2010 (**KYLE ARRINGTON** on October 4, 2010 vs. Miami).
- Jones, who help limited the Vikings to 217 total net yards, now has five two-sack games in his career.
- In his third season from Syracuse, this is Jones' first career Defensive Player of the Week Award.
- Jones is the first Patriot to be named AFC Defensive Player of the Week since defensive end **ANDRE CARTER** (Week 10, 2011).

SPECIAL TEAMS: RB-KR C.J. SPILLER, BUFFALO BILLS

- Spiller returned two kickoffs for 122 yards (61 average), including a career-long 102-yard touchdown, in Buffalo's 29-10 win against Miami.
- With the Bills holding a 9-3 lead in the third quarter, Spiller's touchdown was the first of the game and provided Buffalo with a 16-3 lead.
- Spiller also rushed for 69 yards on 12 carries (5.8 average), including a 47-yard run. He is the first player with a 100-yard kickoff-return touchdown and 45+ yard run in the same game since 1973 (**BOB GRESHAM**, September 23, 1973).
- He is the first NFL player to score a kickoff-return touchdown in 2014 and first Bills player to do so since **BRAD SMITH** (October 21, 2012 vs. Tennessee).
- Spiller (two) is now one of four players in franchise history with multiple kickoff-return touchdowns in their careers.
- In his fifth season from Clemson, this is Spiller's second career Special Teams Player of the Week Award. He also won the award in Week 3 of his rookie season (2010).
- He is the second consecutive Bills player to be named Special Teams Player of the Week this season (**DAN CARPENTER**), marking the first time since 1994 that two Buffalo players have won it in back-to-back weeks (**CHRIS MOHR** and **STEVE CHRISTIE** in Weeks 2 and 3).

2014 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	TE Julius Thomas, Denver	DE Cameron Wake, Miami	K Dan Carpenter, Buffalo
Wk 2	TE Antonio Gates, San Diego	DE Chandler Jones, New England	RB-KR C.J. Spiller, Buffalo

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 2 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Cincinnati running back **GIOVANI BERNARD**, who rushed for 90 yards on 27 carries & one touchdown and added 79 receiving yards on five catches in the Bengals' 24-10 win against Atlanta.
- Baltimore quarterback **JOE FLACCO**, who completed 21 of 29 passes (72.4 percent) for 166 yards and two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 109.3 passer rating in the Ravens' 26-6 win against Pittsburgh.
- Cleveland quarterback **BRIAN HOYER**, who completed 24 of 40 passes (60 percent) for 204 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions for an 81.7 passer rating in the Browns' 26-24 win against New Orleans.
- Denver quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**, who completed 21 of 26 passes (80.8 percent) for 242 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 143.9 passer rating in the Broncos' 24-17 win against Kansas City.
- Tennessee tight end **DELANIE WALKER**, who had 10 catches for 142 yards (14.2 average) and one touchdown in the Titans' 26-10 loss against Dallas.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 2 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Baltimore linebacker **ELVIS DUMERVIL**, who had two sacks.
- Cleveland cornerback **TASHAUN GIPSON**, who had eight tackles and a 62-yard interception-return touchdown.
- Cincinnati safety **GEORGE ILOKA**, who had two interceptions, three passes defensed and one tackle.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 2 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Cleveland kicker **BILLY CUNDIFF**, who converted both field-goal attempts and both PATs.
- San Diego kicker **NICK NOVAK**, who converted all three field-goal attempts and all three PATs.
- Indianapolis punter **PAT MC AFEE**, who punted four times for 221 yards (55.3 average) and placed one punt inside the 20-yard line in the Colts' 30-27 loss against Philadelphia.
- Baltimore kicker **JUSTIN TUCKER**, who converted all four field-goal attempts and both PATs.