

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

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**PANTHERS WR KELVIN BENJAMIN & BEARS CB KYLE FULLER
NAMED NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER**

Wide receiver **KELVIN BENJAMIN** of the Carolina Panthers and cornerback **KYLE FULLER** of the Chicago Bears are the NFL Offensive and Defensive Rookies of the Month for September, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: WR KELVIN BENJAMIN, CAROLINA PANTHERS

- Benjamin, a first-round selection (No. 28 overall) out of Florida State, led all rookies with 329 receiving yards, tied for first among rookies with three touchdowns and ranked second among rookies with 21 receptions.
- He had touchdown receptions of 35, 28 and 26 yards during the month. Benjamin is the only rookie in the past decade with a 25+ yard touchdown catch in three of his team's first four games to start a season.
- Benjamin had at least five catches in three of Carolina's four September games.
- He had at least 75 receiving yards in three of the Panthers' four games during the month, including a 115-yard performance in Week 3 against Pittsburgh.
- Benjamin had 17 first downs, the most by a rookie, and 81 percent of his catches resulted in a first down.
- He averaged 15.7 yards per catch and had a 20+ yard reception in all four games.
- Benjamin is the first Panther to be named NFL Rookie of the Month since linebacker **LUKE KUECHLY** (Defense, December 2012).
- Benjamin is the first Panther to be awarded NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month since quarterback **CAM NEWTON** in 2011 (September).

DEFENSE: CB KYLE FULLER, CHICAGO BEARS

- Fuller, a first-round selection (No. 14) out of Virginia Tech, tied for the NFL lead with three interceptions and was tied for second in the league with two forced fumbles. He led all rookies in both categories.
- In addition to his three interceptions and two forced fumbles, Fuller had 21 tackles and four passes defended.
- Fuller is the only player in the past 20 years with at least three interceptions and two forced fumbles in the first month of the season.
- In Week 2's come-from-behind victory in San Francisco, Fuller recorded two fourth-quarter interceptions that each set up a touchdown. He is the first rookie since 2007 (**AARON ROSS**) with two interceptions to set up touchdowns in the fourth quarter of a game.
- The following week in a win at the New York Jets, Fuller had an interception and forced two fumbles.
- He was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week in Week 2.
- Fuller is the third Bear to be named NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month. He joins linebacker **BRIAN URLACHER** (October 2000) and defensive end **MARK ANDERSON** (October 2006).
- Fuller is the first cornerback to be awarded NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month in the first month of a season since 2001 when Washington's **FRED SMOOT** was honored.

2014 NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

	<u>Offense (College)</u>	<u>Defense (College)</u>
September	WR Kelvin Benjamin, Carolina (Florida State)	CB Kyle Fuller, Chicago (Virginia Tech)

Other nominees for the September NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:

- Arizona wide receiver **JOHN BROWN** (third round, Pittsburg State), who had three touchdown catches, including two game-winners.
- Arizona kicker **CHANDLER CATANZARO** (undrafted, Clemson), who converted all nine field-goal attempts and scored 30 points.
- New Orleans wide receiver **BRANDIN COOKS** (first round, Oregon State), who had 23 catches for 199 yards and a touchdown.
- Cleveland running back **ISAIAH CROWELL** (undrafted, Alabama State), who rushed for 141 yards and led NFL rookies with three rushing touchdowns.
- Tampa Bay wide receiver **MIKE EVANS** (first round, Texas A&M), who had 17 catches for 203 yards and a touchdown.
- Cincinnati running back **JEREMY HILL** (second round, Louisiana State), who rushed for 132 yards on 26 carries (5.1 average) and two touchdowns in three games.
- Jacksonville wide receiver **ALLEN HURNS** (undrafted, Miami), who had 12 catches for 254 yards and three touchdowns, which tied for first among rookies.
- Philadelphia wide receiver **JORDAN MATTHEWS** (second round, Vanderbilt), who had 15 catches for 141 yards and two touchdowns.
- Philadelphia kicker **CODY PARKEY** (undrafted, Auburn), who scored 38 points and converted eight of nine field-goal attempts.
- Buffalo wide receiver **SAMMY WATKINS** (first round, Clemson), who had 17 catches for 197 yards and two touchdowns.
- Cleveland running back **TERRANCE WEST** (third round, Towson), who led all rookies with 204 rushing yards on 47 carries (4.3 average) and two touchdowns.

Other nominees for the September NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:

- Minnesota linebacker **ANTHONY BARR** (first round, UCLA), who started all four games and had 23 tackles with two sacks.
- Buffalo linebacker **PRESTON BROWN** (third round, Louisville), who started three of four games and had a team-high 40 tackles.
- Arizona safety **DEONE BUCANNON** (first round, Washington State), who started two of the team's three games and had 13 tackles.
- Green Bay safety **HA HA CLINTON-DIX** (first round, Alabama), who had 12 tackles, an interception, a fumble recovery and a sack.
- Oakland linebacker **KHALIL MACK** (first round, Buffalo), who started all four games and had 24 tackles, including four tackles for a loss.
- Baltimore linebacker **C.J. MOSLEY** (first round, Alabama), who started all four games and had a team-high 33 tackles with a forced fumble.