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COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://twitter.com/nfl345>**PACKERS QB AARON RODGERS, 49ERS S ANTOINE BETHEA & EAGLES PR-RB DARREN SPROLES NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 4**

Quarterback **AARON RODGERS** of the Green Bay Packers, safety **ANTOINE BETHEA** of the San Francisco 49ers and punt returner-running back **DARREN SPROLES** of the Philadelphia Eagles are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the fourth week of the 2014 season (September 25, 28-29), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB AARON RODGERS, GREEN BAY PACKERS

- Rodgers completed 22 of 28 passes (78.6 percent) for 302 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 151.2 passer rating in the Packers' 38-17 win at Chicago.
- The performance marked his second career game with a 150+ passer rating, his 13th with at least four touchdown passes and his 34th with at least 300 passing yards.
- His 151.2 passer rating was the second-highest mark in his career (155.4, October 25, 2009 vs. Cleveland).
- Rodgers, who now has 25,196 career passing yards, reached 25,000 passing yards in 3,065 attempts, the fewest attempts in NFL history to reach the mark (**KURT WARNER**, 3,076).
- Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to both **RANDALL COBB** and **JORDY NELSON**. Cobb (113 yards) and Nelson (108) are the first Packers teammates to each have at least 100 receiving yards and two touchdowns in the same game since December 21, 1969.
- In his 10th season from California, this is Rodgers' ninth career Player of the Week Award and first since Week 2, 2013. This is the fifth consecutive season Rodgers has been named Player of the Week.
- Rodgers' nine Player of the Week Awards are the second-most in franchise history (**BRETT FAVRE**, 12).
- Since 2010, Rodgers and **TOM BRADY** are tied for the most Player of the Week Awards with nine.

DEFENSE: S ANTOINE BETHEA, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

- Bethea, making his 100th consecutive start, had an interception, a forced fumble and seven tackles in the 49ers' 26-21 win over Philadelphia.
- Early in the third quarter, with the 49ers trailing 21-13, Bethea forced a fumble at the Philadelphia 23-yard line which was recovered by teammate **PERRISH COX**. That led to a touchdown to cut the deficit to 21-20.
- Later in the third quarter, Bethea intercepted a pass to end another Philadelphia drive.
- He is the first 49ers safety with an interception and a forced fumble in a game since 2009 (**DASHON GOLDSON**).
- Late in the fourth quarter, with the 49ers clinging to a 26-21 lead, Bethea stopped Eagles running back **LE SEAN MC COY** on the one-yard line. The San Francisco defense would then hold with a goal-line stand.
- Bethea was part of a defensive unit that allowed 0 offensive points and 213 total net yards. The Eagles entered the game averaging 29 offensive points and 419 total net yards per game.
- In his ninth year from Howard, this is Bethea's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Bethea is the first 49ers safety to be honored since 2003 (**TONY PARRISH**, Week 16).

SPECIAL TEAMS: PR-RB DARREN SPROLES, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

- Sproles had a career-long 82-yard punt-return touchdown in the Eagles' loss at San Francisco. He was part of a unit that scored the only two special teams touchdowns in Week 4.
- It marked his fourth career punt-return touchdown and the sixth total kick-return touchdown for Sproles.
- In team history, Sproles' 82-yard touchdown is the fourth-longest punt-return score.
- Philadelphia also scored on special teams via a blocked punt (**BRAD SMITH**). Combined with **MALCOLM JENKINS'** interception-return touchdown, the Eagles are the only team in NFL history to score a touchdown via a punt return, blocked punt return and interception return in the first half of a game.
- In his 10th season from Kansas State, this is Sproles' third career Player of the Week Award and second this year (Offense, Week 2). He was the AFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Week 10, 2007 for San Diego.
- Sproles is the first player to be named Player of Week for both offense and special teams in the first month of a season since the Special Teams Player of the Week Award began in 1993.

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
Wk 2	RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia	CB Kyle Fuller, Chicago	PR Ted Ginn, Jr., Arizona
Wk 3	QB Matt Ryan, Atlanta	S Kam Chancellor, Seattle	PR-KR-WR Devin Hester, Atlanta
Wk 4	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	S Antoine Bethea, San Francisco	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 4 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Minnesota rookie quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**, who completed 19 of 30 passes (63.3 percent) for 317 yards for a 98.9 passer rating and rushed for a touchdown in the Vikings' 41-28 win over Atlanta.
- New York Giants tight end **LARRY DONNELL**, who had three touchdown receptions in the Giants' 45-14 win at Washington.
- Tampa Bay quarterback **MIKE GLENNON**, who passed for 302 yards and two touchdowns in the Buccaneers' 27-24 win at Pittsburgh.
- San Francisco running back **FRANK GORE**, who rushed for 119 yards and had a 55-yard touchdown reception.
- New York Giants quarterback **ELI MANNING**, who completed 28 of 39 passes (71.8 percent) for 300 yards with four touchdowns versus one interception for a 117.5 passer rating and rushed for a touchdown.
- Minnesota rookie running back **JERICK MC KINNON**, who rushed for a career-high 135 yards.
- Dallas running back **DE MARCO MURRAY**, who rushed for 149 yards and two touchdowns in the Cowboys' 38-17 win over New Orleans.
- Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**, who completed 24 of 34 passes (70.6 percent) for 293 yards with two touchdowns for a 116.4 passer rating and rushed for a touchdown in the Lions' 24-17 win at the New York Jets.
- Detroit wide receiver **GOLDEN TATE**, who had eight catches for 116 yards.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 4 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Dallas linebacker **JUSTIN DURANT**, who had eight tackles, an interception and a forced fumble.
- Tampa Bay defensive end **MICHAEL JOHNSON**, who had two sacks, a forced fumble and five tackles.
- New York Giants **MATHIAS KIWANUKA**, who had a sack, one forced fumble and four tackles.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 4 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- San Francisco kicker **PHIL DAWSON**, who converted all four field-goal attempts and both PATs.
- Detroit punter **SAM MARTIN**, who averaged 51.0 yards per punt with a 44.8-yard net average.
- Tampa Bay rookie kicker **PATRICK MURRAY**, who converted both field-goal attempts and three PATs.
- Minnesota kicker **BLAIR WALSH**, who converted four of five field-goal attempts and all three PATs.