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COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://twitter.com/nfl345>**COWBOYS T TYRON SMITH, LIONS DE EZEKIEL ANSAH &
CARDINALS K CHANDLER CATANZARO NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 6**

Tackle **TYRON SMITH** of the Dallas Cowboys, defensive end **EZEKIEL ANSAH** of the Detroit Lions and rookie kicker **CHANDLER CATANZARO** of the Arizona Cardinals are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the sixth week of the 2014 season (October 9, 12-13), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: T TYRON SMITH, DALLAS COWBOYS

- Smith was the leader of an offensive line that helped Dallas rack up 401 total yards of offense – including 162 rushing yards – and hold the ball for 37:39 in the Cowboys' 30-23 win at Seattle.
- Smith, who graded out the highest among linemen by the Dallas coaching staff, helped running back **DE MARCO MURRAY** rush for 115 yards and a touchdown. Murray leads the NFL in rushing with 785 yards and joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **JIM BROWN** (1958) as the only players to rush for at least 100 yards in each of his team's first six games to start a season.
- The Cowboys ran 70 plays – 22 more than the Seahawks (48) – and were 10 of 17 (58.8 percent) on third-down conversions.
- Dallas is only the second team (Arizona) to defeat the Seahawks in Seattle since the start of the 2012 season (19-2, including the playoffs).
- The offensive line has helped the Cowboys lead the NFL in rushing this season (160.3 yards per game).
- In his fourth season from Southern California, this is Smith's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Smith is the first offensive lineman to be named Offensive Player of the Week since 2004 (Kansas City guard **BRIAN WATERS**, Week 7). The last tackle to win Offensive Player of the Week was Dallas' **ERIK WILLIAMS** in 1992 (Week 9).

DEFENSE: DE EZEKIEL ANSAH, DETROIT LIONS

- Ansaah had 2.5 sacks, five tackles – all for a loss – and a forced fumble in the Lions' 17-3 win at Minnesota.
- His five tackles, including the 2.5 sacks, all came behind the line of scrimmage and resulted in a loss of 26 yards.
- Ansaah's 2.5 sacks led the team, which had a season-high eight sacks in the game. It marked the first time since November 22, 1987 (at Chicago) that the Lions had at least eight sacks in a road game.
- Detroit leads the NFL in total defense (270.7 yards per game), pass defense (197.2), sacks (20) and points allowed (82). The Lions rank second in the league in rush defense (73.5).
- Against the Vikings, Detroit's defense allowed 212 total net yards, 143 net passing yards, 69 rushing yards and three points.
- In his second year from BYU, this is Ansaah's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Ansaah is the first Lions defensive end to be honored since **CLIFF AVRIL** in 2011 (Week 8).

SPECIAL TEAMS: K CHANDLER CATANZARO, ARIZONA CARDINALS

- Catanzaro converted all three field-goal attempts and scored 12 points in the Cardinals' 30-20 win over Washington. All seven of Catanzaro's kickoffs resulted in the Redskins starting a drive no further than their own 20-yard line (six touchbacks).
- He has converted all 14 field-goal attempts this season. The only rookie in NFL history to start a season with a longer streak of consecutive field goals made is St. Louis' **GREG ZUERLEIN**, who made 15 field goals in a row to start the 2012 season.
- Catanzaro's 14 field goals are the most by a kicker this season without a miss.
- Catanzaro has scored 50 points in five games this season and is one of only three players averaging at least 10.0 points per game (Denver's **JULIUS THOMAS**, 10.8 and New England's **STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI**, 10.7).
- In his rookie season from Clemson, this is Catanzaro's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Catanzaro is the first Cardinals rookie to be named Special Teams Player of the Week since **PATRICK PETERSON** in 2011 (Week 12).

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
Wk 5	QB Russell Wilson, Seattle	LB Julius Peppers, Green Bay	K Phil Dawson, San Francisco
Wk 6	T Tyron Smith, Dallas	DE Ezekiel Ansah, Detroit	K Chandler Catanzaro, Arizona

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 6 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Chicago quarterback **JAY CUTLER**, who completed 26 of 38 (68.4 percent) for 381 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions for a 109.6 passer rating in the Bears' 27-13 win at Atlanta.
- San Francisco quarterback **COLIN KAEPERNICK**, who completed 22 of 36 passes (61.1 percent) for 343 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 120.5 passer rating in the 49ers' 31-17 win at St. Louis.
- Philadelphia running back **LE SEAN MC COY**, who rushed for 149 yards in the Eagles' 27-0 win over the New York Giants.
- Carolina quarterback **CAM NEWTON**, who passed for 284 yards with two touchdowns and ran for 107 yards with one score in the Panthers' 37-37 tie at Cincinnati.
- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, who completed 24 of 42 passes (57.1 percent) for 264 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 99.7 passer rating in the Packers' 27-24 win at Miami.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 6 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Philadelphia linebacker **CONNOR BARWIN**, who had three sacks, five tackles and a forced fumble.
- Arizona safety **RASHAD JOHNSON**, who had seven tackles and two interceptions, including a 28-yard touchdown.
- San Francisco linebacker **DAN SKUTA**, who had two sacks, a forced fumble and three tackles.
- Detroit linebacker **TAHIR WHITEHEAD**, who had two interceptions and six tackles.
- Chicago defensive end **WILLIE YOUNG**, who had two sacks and three tackles.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 6 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Dallas kicker **DAN BAILEY**, who converted all three field-goal attempts, including a long of 56 yards.
- Atlanta kicker **MATT BRYANT**, who converted both 50+ yard field-goal attempts.