

**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

10/8/14

<http://twitter.com/NFL345>

**BRONCOS WR DEMARYIUS THOMAS, BILLS DT MARCELL DAREUS & BROWNS LB TANK CARDER NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 5**

Wide receiver **DEMARYIUS THOMAS** of the Denver Broncos, defensive tackle **MARCELL DAREUS** of the Buffalo Bills and linebacker **TANK CARDER** of the Cleveland Browns are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played in the fifth week of the 2014 season (October 2, 5-6), the NFL announced today.

**OFFENSE: WR DEMARYIUS THOMAS, DENVER BRONCOS**

- Thomas had eight catches for a career-high 226 yards (28.3 average) and two touchdowns in the Broncos' 41-20 win against Arizona.
- He is the first player in NFL history with at least 225 receiving yards and two touchdown catches against a previously undefeated team with a record of 3-0 or better.
- Thomas' 226 receiving yards are the most of any NFL player in a game this season and surpassed Pro Football Hall of Fame tight end **SHANNON SHARPE** (214 yards on October 20, 2002 vs. Kansas City) for the Broncos' single-game record.
- In the second quarter, Thomas caught a 31-yard touchdown pass to give the Broncos a 14-6 lead. With Denver holding a 14-13 lead later in the quarter, he caught a career-long 86-yard touchdown to provide a 21-13 margin before halftime.
- Since the start of the 2012 season, Thomas leads all AFC players with 27 touchdown catches.
- In his fifth season from Georgia Tech, this is Thomas' second career Player of the Week Award (Week 10, 2013).
- Thomas is the second Broncos player to be named AFC Offensive Player of the Week this season, joining tight end **JULIUS THOMAS** (Kickoff Weekend).

**DEFENSE: DT MARCELL DAREUS, BUFFALO BILLS**

- Dareus had a career-high three sacks, a forced fumble and five tackles in the Bills' 17-14 win at Detroit.
- He led a defensive front that limited the Lions to 69 rushing yards and 263 total net yards, Detroit's lowest totals this season.
- Each of Dareus' three sacks came during series in which the Lions were forced to later punt, including a sack-fumble in the fourth quarter that resulted in a 10-yard loss.
- His three sacks are the most of any AFC player in a game this season.
- Dareus has five sacks in 2014, the most among NFL defensive tackles.
- In his fourth season from Alabama, this is Dareus' first career Player of the Week Award.
- Dareus is the third Bills player to win a Player of the Week Award in 2014, joining kicker **DAN CARPENTER** (Kickoff Weekend) and kick returner-running back **C.J. SPILLER** (Week 2), who were both recognized on Special Teams.

**SPECIAL TEAMS: LB TANK CARDER, CLEVELAND BROWNS**

- Carder blocked a punt out of bounds in the end zone for a safety and added a special teams tackle in the Browns' 29-28 win at Tennessee.
- With Cleveland trailing 28-13 in the fourth quarter, Carder blocked **BRETT KERN**'s punt at the goal line, which resulted in a safety after the ball bounced out of the back of the end zone. It marked the Browns' first blocked punt since November 30, 2003 (at Seattle) and first safety since November 22, 2009 (at Detroit).
- His safety helped the Browns' overcome a 25-point deficit, the largest any road team has overcome en route to a victory in NFL history.
- In the third quarter, Carder helped pin Tennessee deep in its own territory by tackling kick returner **LEON WASHINGTON** at the 11-yard line on the Titans' first possession of the second half.
- In his third season from Texas Christian, this is Carder's first career Player of the Week Award.
- He is the first Browns defender to win a Player of the Week award since linebacker **D'QWELL JACKSON** in 2012 (Week 12, Defense).

## 2014 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

|             | <u>Offense</u>                 | <u>Defense</u>                 | <u>Special Teams</u>        |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Wk 1</b> | TE Julius Thomas, Denver       | DE Cameron Wake, Miami         | K Dan Carpenter, Buffalo    |
| <b>Wk 2</b> | TE Antonio Gates, San Diego    | DE Chandler Jones, New England | RB-KR C.J. Spiller, Buffalo |
| <b>Wk 3</b> | QB Andrew Luck, Indianapolis   | DE Corey Liuget, San Diego     | K Justin Tucker, Baltimore  |
| <b>Wk 4</b> | RB Jamaal Charles, Kansas City | DE J.J. Watt, Houston          | K Nick Novak, San Diego     |
| <b>Wk 5</b> | WR Demaryius Thomas, Denver    | DT Marcell Dareus, Buffalo     | LB Tank Carder, Cleveland   |

### Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 5 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who completed 23 of 35 passes (65.7 percent) for 292 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 110.7 passer rating in the Patriots' 43-17 win against Cincinnati.
- New England tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI**, who had six catches for 100 yards (16.7 average) and one touchdown.
- Cleveland quarterback **BRIAN HOYER**, who completed 21 of 37 passes (56.8 percent) for 292 yards with three touchdowns and one interception for a 98.0 passer rating.
- Indianapolis quarterback **ANDREW LUCK**, who completed 32 of 49 passes (65.3 percent) for 312 yards with one touchdown in the Colts' 20-13 win against Baltimore.
- San Diego rookie running back **BRANDEN OLIVER**, who rushed for 114 yards on 19 carries (6.0 average) with one touchdown in the Chargers' 31-0 win against the New York Jets.
- New England running back **STEVAN RIDLEY**, who rushed for 113 yards on 27 carries (4.2 average) and one touchdown.

### Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 5 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- New England cornerback **KYLE ARRINGTON**, who had seven tackles, a forced fumble and a nine-yard fumble-return touchdown.
- Tennessee safety **MICHAEL GRIFFIN**, who had 14 tackles, a sack and an interception in the Titans' 29-28 loss against Cleveland.
- Denver cornerback **CHRIS HARRIS, JR.**, who had two tackles and four passes defensed.
- Indianapolis linebacker **BJOERN WERNER**, who had six tackles and two sacks.

### Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 5 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Buffalo kicker **DAN CARPENTER**, who converted three of four field-goal attempts, including the game-winning 58-yard field goal in the final moments of the fourth quarter.
- New England kicker **STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI**, who converted all five field-goal attempts and all four PATs.
- Indianapolis kicker **ADAM VINATIERI**, who converted both field-goal attempts and both PATs.