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COMMUNICATIONS

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STEELERS QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER, DOLPHINS CB BRENT GRIMES & PATRIOTS WR-PR JULIAN EDELMAN NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 9

Quarterback **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** of the Pittsburgh Steelers, cornerback **BRENT GRIMES** of the Miami Dolphins and wide receiver-punt returner **JULIAN EDELMAN** of the New England Patriots are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played in the ninth week of the 2014 season (October 30, November 2-3), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER, PITTSBURGH STEELERS

- Roethlisberger completed 25 of 37 passes (67.6 percent) for 340 yards with six touchdowns and no interceptions for a 136.3 passer rating in the Steelers' 43-23 win against Baltimore on *Sunday Night Football*.
- He is the first player in NFL history with six touchdown passes in back-to-back games and joins Pro Football Hall of Famer **Y.A. TITTLE** (1962) as the only players with multiple six-TD games in one season.
- Roethlisberger's six touchdowns, which tied the franchise record he set one week earlier, and 136.3 passer rating were the highest among NFL players in Week 9.
- Five different teammates were on the receiving end of Roethlisberger's six touchdown passes.
- He has posted a passer rating of at least 100 in seven games this season, the most in the NFL.
- In his 11th season from Miami (Ohio), this is Roethlisberger's 11th Player of the Week Award, the most of any Steelers player since the accolade was instituted in 1984, and his second in as many weeks.
- Roethlisberger is the first player to win back-to-back AFC Offensive Player of the Week Awards in the same season since **TOM BRADY** in 2010 (Weeks 12-13).

DEFENSE: CB BRENT GRIMES, MIAMI DOLPHINS

- Grimes posted two interceptions, which tied his career-high, with three tackles, including one for a loss, in the Dolphins' 37-0 win against San Diego.
- He was part of a unit that helped limit the Chargers, who averaged 353.3 yards per game entering the game, to their lowest offensive output of the season (178 total net yards).
- Grimes' two interceptions, which led all AFC players in Week 9, came on consecutive series in the third quarter. He returned his first interception 26 yards to help set up a 23-yard field goal by **CALEB STURGIS**.
- The Dolphins 37-point win was their largest shutout victory since October 11, 1987 (42-0 vs. Kansas City) and first shutout since 2006 (21-0 on December 10 vs. New England).
- In his eighth season from Shippensburg, this is Grimes' second career Player of the Week Award and first since joining the Dolphins. He was named NFC Defensive Player of the Week with Atlanta in 2010 (Week 15).
- The Dolphins are the first team with back-to-back AFC Defensive Player of the Week Award winners since Kansas City in 2011 (Weeks 7 and 8).

SPECIAL TEAMS: WR-PR JULIAN EDELMAN, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

- Edelman had an 84-yard punt-return touchdown in the Patriots' 43-21 win against Denver.
- Edelman's return touchdown came with 8:11 remaining in the first half and provided the Patriots with a 20-7 lead.
- He now has four career punt-return touchdowns, the most in franchise history.
- Edelman also started at wide receiver, posting nine catches for 89 yards with one touchdown. His five-yard scoring catch was the Patriots' first touchdown of the game.
- He is one of three players in franchise history with a touchdown catch and punt-return touchdown in the same game, along with **IRVING FRYAR** and **STANLEY MORGAN**. Edelman also accomplished the feat on November 18, 2012.
- In his sixth season from Kent State, this is Edelman's second career Player of the Week Award (Week 11, 2011).
- He is the second Patriot to be named Special Teams Player of the Week in three weeks (defensive tackle **CHRIS JONES** in Week 7).

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 |
| Wk 3 | QB Andrew Luck, Indianapolis | DE Corey Liuget, San Diego | K Justin Tucker, Baltimore |
| Wk 4 | RB Jamaal Charles, Kansas City | DE J.J. Watt, Houston | K Nick Novak, San Diego |
| Wk 5 | WR Demaryius Thomas, Denver | DT Marcell Dareus, Buffalo | LB Tank Carder, Cleveland |
| Wk 6 | QB Joe Flacco, Baltimore | DT Jurrell Casey, Tennessee | P Pat McAfee, Indianapolis |
| Wk 7 | QB Peyton Manning, Denver | LB Telvin Smith, Jacksonville | DT Chris Jones, New England |
| Wk 8 | QB Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh | S Louis Delmas, Miami | RB-KR Knile Davis, Kansas City |
| Wk 9 | QB Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh | CB Brent Grimes, Miami | PR-WR Julian Edelman, New England |

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 9 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who completed 33 of 53 passes (62.3 percent) for 333 yards with four touchdowns for a 97.4 passer rating.
- New England tight end **ROB GRONKOWSKI**, who had nine catches for 105 yards and one touchdown.
- Cincinnati rookie running back **JEREMY HILL**, who rushed for 154 yards on 24 carries (6.4 average) with two touchdowns in the Bengals' 33-23 win against Jacksonville.
- Cleveland quarterback **BRIAN HOYER**, who completed 21 of 34 passes (61.8 percent) for 300 yards with two touchdowns in the Browns' 22-17 win against Tampa Bay.
- Indianapolis quarterback **ANDREW LUCK**, who passed for 354 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions for a 108.4 passer rating in the Colts' 40-24 win at the New York Giants.
- Miami quarterback **RYAN TANNEHILL**, who completed 24 of 34 passes (70.6 percent) for 288 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 125.6 passer rating while rushing for 47 yards.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 9 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Cleveland safety **TASHAUN GIPSON**, who had five tackles and an interception.
- Pittsburgh linebacker **JAMES HARRISON**, who had seven tackles and two sacks.
- Kansas City linebacker **JUSTIN HOUSTON**, who had four tackles and two sacks.
- Indianapolis linebacker **JONATHAN NEWSOME**, who had seven tackles, two sacks and one forced fumble.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 9 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Cincinnati safety **TAYLOR MAYS**, who blocked a punt of out of the end zone for a safety.
- Indianapolis kicker **ADAM VINATIERI**, who converted all four field-goal attempts (48, 31, 48, 43) and four PATs.
- Cleveland defensive end **BILLY WINN**, who blocked a field-goal attempt.