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## **SAINTS QB DREW BREES, SEAHAWKS CB RICHARD SHERMAN & VIKINGS ST ADAM THIELEN NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 13**

Quarterback **DREW BREES** of the New Orleans Saints, cornerback **RICHARD SHERMAN** of the Seattle Seahawks and special teamer **ADAM THIELEN** of the Minnesota Vikings are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 13th week of the 2014 season (November 27, 30 and December 1), the NFL announced today.

### **OFFENSE: QB DREW BREES, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**

- Brees completed 19 of 27 passes (70.4 percent) for 257 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions for a 140.0 passer rating in the Saints' 35-32 win at Pittsburgh.
- He has seven career games with at least five touchdown passes and no interceptions, the most in NFL history.
- Brees has thrown at least five touchdown passes in a game nine times in the regular season, tied with **PEYTON MANNING** for the most in league history. Brees' teams are 9-0 in those contests.
- He threw a touchdown pass to five different players, the third time in his career he has thrown a touchdown pass to five different players in a game (September 13, 2009 and November 30, 2009).
- Brees registered a 140.0+ passer rating for the 16th time in his career. His teams are 16-0 in those contests.
- In his 14th season from Purdue, this is Brees' 20th career Player of the Week Award.
- Since joining the Saints in 2006, Brees has won 18 Player of the Week Awards, the most in franchise history. During that span, Brees' 18 Player of the Week Awards are the most in the NFL.
- Brees is one of three players to win 20 Player of the Week Awards, joining **PEYTON MANNING** (27) and **TOM BRADY** (24).

### **DEFENSE: CB RICHARD SHERMAN, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**

- Sherman had two interceptions and two tackles in the Seahawks' 19-3 win at San Francisco.
- He recorded an opponent's passer rating of 0.0 in throws targeted in his direction, allowing just one of six completions for six yards and intercepting two passes.
- Sherman's first interception occurred in the first quarter of a scoreless game. He returned the interception to the San Francisco 45-yard line and helped set up the game's only touchdown.
- He helped seal the game with an interception in the fourth quarter to end a 49ers drive.
- Since entering the NFL in 2011, Sherman has 23 interceptions, the most in the NFL during that span. His 23 interceptions are the most by a player in his first four seasons in the past 25 years.
- Sherman led a defensive unit that allowed only 164 total net yards, 100 net passing yards and 64 rushing yards.
- In his fourth year from Stanford, this is Sherman's fourth career Player of the Week Award.
- Sherman is the only player in the NFL to win a Defensive Player of the Week Award in each of the past three seasons. Since 2011, his four Defensive Player of the Week Awards are tied for the most in the NFL with Houston's **J.J. WATT**.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS: ST ADAM THIELEN, MINNESOTA VIKINGS**

- Thielen blocked a punt and returned it 30 yards for a touchdown in the Vikings' 31-13 win over Carolina. He also added two tackles on special teams.
- With 7:00 to go in the first quarter and the Vikings leading 7-0, Thielen blocked the Carolina punt and scooped the ball up for a 30-yard touchdown return.
- Thielen was part of a special teams unit that scored two touchdowns on blocked punts. The Vikings are the first team to accomplish the feat in one half since the 1975 Detroit Lions (September 21).
- In NFL history, there have been only seven instances in which a team returned two blocked punts for a touchdown in the same game. Minnesota is the first team to do so since the 1990 Kansas City Chiefs (September 30).
- In his first season from Minnesota State, this is Thielen's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Thielen is the fifth Vikings non-kicker/punter to be named Special Teams Player of the Week.

## 2014 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Wk 1</b>	QB Matt Ryan, Atlanta	LB DeAndre Levy, Detroit	K Matt Bryant, Atlanta
<b>Wk 2</b>	RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia	CB Kyle Fuller, Chicago	PR Ted Ginn, Jr., Arizona
<b>Wk 3</b>	QB Matt Ryan, Atlanta	S Kam Chancellor, Seattle	PR-KR-WR Devin Hester, Atlanta
<b>Wk 4</b>	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	S Antoine Bethea, San Francisco	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
<b>Wk 5</b>	QB Russell Wilson, Seattle	LB Julius Peppers, Green Bay	K Phil Dawson, San Francisco
<b>Wk 6</b>	T Tyron Smith, Dallas	DE Ezekiel Ansah, Detroit	K Chandler Catanzaro, Arizona
<b>Wk 7</b>	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	LB Keenan Robinson, Washington	PR Stedman Bailey, St. Louis
<b>Wk 8</b>	WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona	LB Anthony Barr, Minnesota	K Kai Forbath, Washington
<b>Wk 9</b>	WR Jeremy Maclin, Philadelphia	LB Junior Galette, New Orleans	ST Justin Bethel, Arizona
<b>Wk 10</b>	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	CB Patrick Peterson, Arizona	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
<b>Wk 11</b>	WR Mike Evans, Tampa Bay	LB Chris Borland, San Francisco	K Greg Zuerlein, St. Louis
<b>Wk 12</b>	RB Eddie Lacy, Green Bay	S Kam Chancellor, Seattle	KR Josh Huff, Philadelphia
<b>Wk 13</b>	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Richard Sherman, Seattle	ST Adam Thielen, Minnesota

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 13 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Detroit wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON**, who had 11 catches for 146 yards and two touchdowns in the Lions' 34-17 win over Chicago.
- Atlanta wide receiver **JULIO JONES**, who had 10 catches for 189 yards and a touchdown in the Falcons' 29-18 win over Arizona.
- St. Louis rookie running back **TRE MASON**, who had 164 scrimmage yards (117 rushing, 47 receiving) and three touchdowns in the Rams' 52-0 win over Oakland.
- Philadelphia running back **LE SEAN MC COY**, who rushed for 159 yards and a touchdown in the Eagles' 33-10 win at Dallas.
- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, who completed 24 of 38 passes (63.2 percent) for 368 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 112.6 passer rating in the Packers' 26-21 win over New England.
- Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**, who completed 34 of 45 passes (75.6 percent) for 390 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 116.0 passer rating.
- New Orleans wide receiver **KENNY STILL**, who had five catches for 162 yards and a touchdown.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 13 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Philadelphia defensive end **FLETCHER COX**, who had a sack and four tackles.
- Minnesota defensive end **EVERSON GRIFFEN**, who had two sacks, five tackles and returned a blocked punt 43 yards for a touchdown.
- New Orleans defensive end **CAMERON JORDAN**, who had a sack, an interception and six tackles.
- Detroit linebacker **DE ANDRE LEVY**, who had 10 tackles and a pass defended.
- Green Bay linebacker **MIKE NEAL**, who had a half-sack.
- St. Louis defensive end **ROBERT QUINN**, who had three sacks, two forced fumbles and five tackles.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 13 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Atlanta kicker **MATT BRYANT**, who converted all five field-goal attempts and scored 17 points.
- Seattle kicker **STEVEN HAUSCHKA**, who converted all four field-goal attempts and scored 13 points.
- Philadelphia rookie kicker **CODY PARKEY**, who converted all four field-goal attempts and scored 15 points.