

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

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PANTHERS QB CAM NEWTON, GIANTS LB DEVON KENNARD & RAMS PR-WR TAVON AUSTIN NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 14

Quarterback **CAM NEWTON** of the Carolina Panthers, rookie linebacker **DEVON KENNARD** of the New York Giants and punt returner-wide receiver **TAVON AUSTIN** of the St. Louis Rams are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 14th week of the 2014 season (December 4, 7-8), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB CAM NEWTON, CAROLINA PANTHERS

- Newton completed 21 of 33 passes (63.6 percent) for 226 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 114.0 passer rating in the Panthers' 41-10 win at New Orleans. He added 83 rushing yards and a touchdown.
- In his career, Newton has four games with at least 200 passing yards and 80 rushing yards with multiple touchdown passes and a rushing TD. That is the most such games in NFL history and only two other players – **MICHAEL VICK** and **RUSSELL WILSON** – have done it twice.
- The performance was Newton's fourth with at least three touchdown passes and a rushing touchdown. Since entering the NFL in 2011, his four such games are the most in the NFL.
- Newton led a Carolina offense that amassed 497 total net yards (271 rushing, 226 passing), the most since December 30, 2012 (530 yards).
- In his fourth season from Auburn, this is Newton's third career Player of the Week Award (Week 13, 2011 and Week 12, 2012).
- With three Offensive Player of the Week Awards, Newton is tied with running back **STEPHEN DAVIS** for the most in franchise history.

DEFENSE: LB DEVON KENNARD, NEW YORK GIANTS

- Kennard had two sacks, a forced fumble and six tackles in the Giants' 36-7 win at Tennessee.
- Late in the first quarter, with the Giants leading 10-0, Kennard recorded a sack and forced fumble at the Tennessee 26-yard line. Teammate **MARKUS KUHN** scooped up the loose ball and returned it for a touchdown.
- Kennard posted his second sack in the fourth quarter, giving him consecutive games with multiple sacks. He and **JASON PIERRE-PAUL** (2010) are the only Giants rookies to have at least two sacks in back-to-back games.
- Three of Kennard's six tackles occurred behind the line of scrimmage.
- Kennard was a member of a defensive unit that recorded eight sacks, forced three turnovers and limited the Titans to 207 total net yards (146 passing, 61 rushing).
- In his rookie year from Southern California, this is Kennard's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Kennard is the first Giants rookie to be named Defensive Player of the Week. Linebacker **JESSIE ARMSTEAD** (Special Teams, Week 11, 1993) and defensive end **OSI UMENYIORA** (Special Teams, Week 17, 2003) are the only Giants rookie defenders to win a Player of the Week Award.

SPECIAL TEAMS: PR-WR TAVON AUSTIN, ST. LOUIS RAMS

- Austin returned a punt 78 yards for a touchdown and averaged 35.8 yards per return in the Rams' 24-0 win at Washington. He finished with 143 punt-return yards, 46 rushing yards and 14 receiving yards.
- He had three punt returns of at least 25 yards (37, 28 and 78) and his 143 punt-return yards are the most by a player in a game this season. Austin's 143 punt-return yards are the most by an NFC player in a game since he had 145 yards on November 10, 2013 against Indianapolis.
- Austin has two career punt-return touchdowns and nine total touchdowns (four receiving, three rushing, two punt returns) in his first two NFL seasons.
- He ranks second in the NFL with 332 punt-return yards and his 11.1 yards per return average ranks second among players with at least 25 punt returns.
- In his second season from West Virginia, this is Austin's second career Player of the Week Award (Week 10, 2013).
- Austin is the first Ram to be named Player of the Week in each of his first two seasons with the club since **MARSHALL FAULK** (Offense, 1999 and 2000).

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
Wk 7	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	LB Keenan Robinson, Washington	PR Stedman Bailey, St. Louis
Wk 8	WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona	LB Anthony Barr, Minnesota	K Kai Forbath, Washington
Wk 9	WR Jeremy Maclin, Philadelphia	LB Junior Galette, New Orleans	ST Justin Bethel, Arizona
Wk 10	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	CB Patrick Peterson, Arizona	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
Wk 11	WR Mike Evans, Tampa Bay	LB Chris Borland, San Francisco	K Greg Zuerlein, St. Louis
Wk 12	RB Eddie Lacy, Green Bay	S Kam Chancellor, Seattle	KR Josh Huff, Philadelphia
Wk 13	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Richard Sherman, Seattle	ST Adam Thielen, Minnesota
Wk 14	QB Cam Newton, Carolina	LB Devon Kennard, New York Giants	PR-WR Tavon Austin, St. Louis

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 14 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- New York Giants rookie wide receiver **ODELL BECKHAM, JR.**, who had 11 catches for 130 yards and a touchdown.
- Minnesota rookie quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**, who completed 19 of 27 passes (70.4 percent) for 309 yards with two touchdowns and one interception for a 117.7 passer rating in the Vikings' 30-24 overtime win over the New York Jets.
- Detroit wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON**, who had eight catches for 158 yards and a touchdown in the Lions' 34-17 win over Tampa Bay.
- Atlanta wide receiver **JULIO JONES**, who had 11 catches for 259 yards and a touchdown.
- Dallas running back **DE MARCO MURRAY**, who rushed for 179 yards with one touchdown and had nine catches for 49 yards in the Cowboys' 41-28 win at Chicago.
- Green Bay wide receiver **JORDY NELSON**, who had eight catches for 146 yards and two touchdowns in the Packers' 43-37 win over Atlanta.
- Green Bay quarterback **AARON RODGERS**, who completed 24 of 36 passes (66.7 percent) for 327 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 123.3 passer rating.
- Dallas quarterback **TONY ROMO**, who completed 21 of 26 passes (80.8 percent) for 205 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 138.0 passer rating.
- Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**, who completed 26 of 34 passes (76.5 percent) for 311 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 133.3 passer rating.
- Carolina running back **JONATHAN STEWART**, who rushed for 155 yards and a touchdown.
- Arizona running back **KERWYNN WILLIAMS**, who rushed for 100 yards in his first game with an NFL carry.
- Seattle quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON**, who threw two touchdown passes and had a rushing touchdown in the Seahawks' 24-14 win at Philadelphia.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 14 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Carolina rookie cornerback **BENE BENWIKERE**, who had an interception, two passes defensed and eight tackles.
- Detroit linebacker **DE ANDRE LEVY**, who had two sacks and five tackles.
- Minnesota linebacker **GERALD HODGES**, who had eight tackles and returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown.
- Arizona defensive tackle **FROSTEE RUCKER**, who had two sacks, a pass defensed and three tackles.
- Detroit defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who had a sack and six tackles.
- Seattle linebacker **BOBBY WAGNER**, who had seven tackles and was part of a defensive unit that limited Philadelphia to 139 total net yards.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 14 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- New York Giants kicker **JOSH BROWN**, who converted all five field-goal attempts and scored 18 points.
- Minnesota punter **JEFF LOCKE**, who averaged 49.3 yards per punt with a net average of 45.0 yards.
- Detroit punter **SAM MARTIN**, who averaged 51.7 yards per punt with a net average of 45.0 yards.