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COMMUNICATIONS

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**BENGALS RB JEREMY HILL, BRONCOS CB AQIB TALIB &
CHIEFS PR-RB DE' ANTHONY THOMAS NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 15**

Running back **JEREMY HILL** of the Cincinnati Bengals, cornerback **AQIB TALIB** of the Denver Broncos and rookie punt returner-running back **DE' ANTHONY THOMAS** of the Kansas City Chiefs are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played in the 15th week of the 2014 season (December 11, 14-15), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: RB JEREMY HILL, CINCINNATI BENGALS

- Hill rushed for 148 yards on 25 carries (5.9 average) and two touchdowns in the Bengals' 30-0 win at Cleveland.
- His 148 rushing yards were the most of any NFL player in Week 15, and his two rushing scores tied for the most in the league.
- Both of Hill's touchdowns and 103 of his rushing yards came in the first half. He is the first Bengal to rush for at least 100 yards and two touchdowns in the first half since **COREY DILLON** (December 12, 1999 vs. Cleveland).
- Hill leads NFL rookies with 877 rushing yards and has eight rushing touchdowns, tied for first among rookies.
- Hill, who rushed for 154 yards in Week 9 against Jacksonville and 152 yards in Week 11 at New Orleans, is the first rookie with three 140-yard rushing performances since 2005 (**CADILLAC WILLIAMS**).
- In his first season from Louisiana State, this is Hill's first career Player of the Week Award.
- He is the third Bengals rookie running back to be named Offensive Player of the Week since the award's inception in 1984, joining **ICKEY WOODS** (1988, Week 6) and **COREY DILLON** in (1997, Week 15).

DEFENSE: CB AQIB TALIB, DENVER BRONCOS

- Talib had eight tackles, an interception and three passes defended in the Broncos' division-clinching 22-10 win at San Diego.
- With 4:27 remaining in the fourth quarter, Talib intercepted a short pass over the middle to help set up a 44-yard field goal by **CONNOR BARTH** that gave the Broncos a 22-10 lead and capped the scoring.
- He led a unit that limited the Chargers to 10 points, their second-lowest output this season.
- Two of Talib's team-high eight tackles came within one-yard of the line of scrimmage, including one stop for no gain.
- In his seventh season from Kansas, this is Talib's second career Player of the Week Award and first since 2010 with Tampa Bay (Week 8).
- He is the first Broncos player to win a Defensive Player of the Week Award this season and first since **DOMINIQUE RODGERS-CROMARTIE** in 2013 (Week 8).

SPECIAL TEAMS: PR-RB DE' ANTHONY THOMAS, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

- Thomas returned eight punts for 156 yards (19.5 average), including an 81-yard punt-return touchdown, in the Chiefs' 31-13 win against Oakland.
- His 81-yard punt-return touchdown, which opened the scoring against the Raiders, was Thomas' first NFL return touchdown.
- Thomas' career-high 156 punt-return yards were the highest single-game total in the NFL this season and the most by a rookie since 1976 (New England's **MIKE HAYNES**, 156 yards vs. Buffalo).
- He also contributed 19 scrimmage yards as a running back, rushing twice for 14 yards and adding a five-yard reception.
- In his first season from Oregon, this is Thomas' first career Player of the Week Award.
- Thomas is the third Chiefs player to be named Special Teams Player of the Week in 2014, joining running back-kick returner **KNILE DAVIS** (Week 8) and fullback **ANTHONY SHERMAN** (Week 10).

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
Wk 10	RB Justin Forsett, Baltimore	S Jaiquawn Jarrett, N.Y. Jets	FB Anthony Sherman, Kansas City
Wk 11	RB Jonas Gray, New England	DE J.J. Watt, Houston	P Mike Scifres, San Diego
Wk 12	RB Justin Forsett, Baltimore	S Charles Woodson, Oakland	RB Boobie Dixon, Buffalo
Wk 13	QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, Houston	LB D'Qwell Jackson, Indianapolis	K Josh Scobee, Jacksonville
Wk 14	RB Le'Veon Bell, Pittsburgh	LB Elvis Dumervil, Baltimore	P Ryan Allen, New England
Wk 15	RB Jeremy Hill, Cincinnati	CB Aqib Talib, Denver	PR-RB De'Anthony Thomas, Kansas City

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 15 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Baltimore quarterback **JOE FLACCO**, who completed 20 of 30 passes (66.7 percent) for 221 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions for a 99.4 passer rating in the Ravens' 20-12 win against Jacksonville.
- Indianapolis quarterback **ANDREW LUCK**, who passed for 187 yards and two touchdowns in the Colts' 17-10 win against Houston.
- Kansas City quarterback **ALEX SMITH**, who passed for 297 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 115.6 passer rating.
- Denver wide receiver **DEMARIUS THOMAS**, who had six catches for 123 yards (20.5 average) and one touchdown.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 15 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Indianapolis cornerback **VONTAE DAVIS**, who had three tackles and an interception.
- Pittsburgh cornerback **WILLIAM GAY**, who had had eight tackles and a 52-yard interception-return touchdown in the Steelers' 27-20 win at Atlanta.
- Buffalo safety **BACCARI RAMBO**, who had two tackles and two interceptions in the Bills' 21-13 win against Green Bay.
- Baltimore linebacker **TERRELL SUGGS**, who posted four tackles and 2.5 sacks.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 15 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Baltimore wide receiver **KAMAR AIKEN**, who blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown and added two special teams tackles.
- Denver kicker **CONNOR BARTH**, who converted all five field-goal attempts (19, 26, 19, 49, 44) and one PAT.
- Buffalo kicker **DAN CARPENTER**, who converted all four field-goal attempts (27, 51, 35, 48) and one PAT.
- New England linebacker **JAMIE COLLINS**, who blocked a field goal that was returned for a touchdown in the Patriots' 41-13 win against Miami.
- Indianapolis punter **PAT MC AFEE**, who punted seven times for 325 yards (46.4 average) and placed four inside the 20-yard line.
- Buffalo punt returner **MARCUS THIGPEN**, who had a 75-yard punt-return touchdown.