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COMMUNICATIONS

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TITANS QB MARCUS MARIOTA, BRONCOS CB AQIB TALIB & DOLPHINS WR-PR JARVIS LANDRY NAMED AFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1

Rookie quarterback **MARCUS MARIOTA** of the Tennessee Titans, cornerback **AQIB TALIB** of the Denver Broncos and wide receiver-punt returner **JARVIS LANDRY** of the Miami Dolphins are the AFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on NFL Kickoff Weekend 2015 (September 10, 13-14), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB MARCUS MARIOTA, TENNESSEE TITANS

- Mariota completed 13 of 16 passes (81.3 percent) for 209 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 158.3 passer rating, the highest attainable mark, in the Titans' 42-14 win at Tampa Bay.
- He is the first rookie to post a 158.3 passer rating on Kickoff Weekend in NFL history.
- All four of Mariota's touchdown passes came in the first half, and he is the only rookie in NFL history to pass for four touchdowns in one half.
- Mariota joined Pro Football Hall of Famer **FRAN TARKENTON** (1961) as the only NFL rookies with four touchdown passes on Kickoff Weekend.
- Tennessee's 28-point victory was the largest in a season opener by a team starting a rookie quarterback since 1948, when the Chicago Bears and **JOHNNY LUJACK** won by 38 points. Mariota (2014, Oregon) and Lujack (1947, Notre Dame) are both former Heisman Trophy winners.
- In his first season from Oregon, this is Mariota's first career Player of the Week Award.
- He is the first Titans rookie to be recognized as Offensive Player of the Week on Kickoff Weekend and the first Titans player to win the award since running back **CHRIS JOHNSON** (Week 7, 2012).

DEFENSE: CB AQIB TALIB, DENVER BRONCOS

- Talib returned an interception 51 yards for a touchdown and had three tackles with two passes defended in the Broncos' 19-13 win against Baltimore.
- With Denver trailing 13-9 late in the third quarter, Talib's 51-yard interception return for a touchdown gave the Broncos a lead they would not relinquish.
- Talib helped the Broncos' defense limit Baltimore to 173 total net yards, which included just 100 net passing yards, the fewest allowed by Denver since December 30, 2012 vs. Kansas City.
- Since entering the NFL in 2008, Talib has seven interception return-touchdowns, which is tied for the most in the NFL during that span (**CHARLES TILLMAN, CHARLES WOODSON**).
- In his eighth season from Kansas, this is Talib's third career Defensive Player of the Week Award and second since joining the Broncos (Week 15, 2014).
- Talib is the first Broncos defensive back to be named Defensive Player of the Week multiple times since the award's inception in 1984.

SPECIAL TEAMS: WR-PR JARVIS LANDRY, MIAMI DOLPHINS

- Landry returned two punts for 74 yards (37.0 average), including a 69-yard punt return-touchdown in the fourth quarter of the Dolphins' 17-10 win at Washington.
- With the score tied at 10-10, Landry's 69-yard touchdown with 10:22 remaining in the fourth quarter was the first of his career and gave Miami a lead it would not relinquish.
- He is the third Dolphins returner in franchise history with a punt-return touchdown in a season opener, joining **MARCUS THIGPEN** (2012) and **TOM VIGORITO** (1982).
- Landry also started at wide receiver and posted 53 receiving yards on a team-high eight catches.
- In his second season from Louisiana State, this is Landry's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Landry is the first Dolphins player to be named Special Teams Player of the Week since **OLIVIER VERNON** in 2012 (Week 8).

2015 AFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Marcus Mariota, Tennessee	CB Aqib Talib, Denver	PR-WR Jarvis Landry

Other nominees for AFC Offensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- New England quarterback **TOM BRADY**, who completed 25 of 32 passes (78.1 percent) for 288 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 143.8 rating in the Patriots' 28-21 win against Pittsburgh.
- New York Jets running back **CHRIS IVORY**, who rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns in the Jets' 31-10 win against Cleveland.
- San Diego quarterback **PHILIP RIVERS**, who completed 35 of 42 passes (83.3 percent) for 404 yards with two touchdowns for a 102.8 rating in the Chargers' 33-28 win against Detroit.
- Kansas City quarterback **ALEX SMITH**, who completed 22 of 33 passes (66.7 percent) for 243 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 118.6 passer rating in the Chiefs' 27-20 win at Houston.
- Buffalo quarterback **TYROD TAYLOR**, who completed 14 of 19 passes (73.7 percent) for 195 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions for a 123.8 passer rating in the Bills' 27-14 win against Indianapolis.

Other nominees for AFC Defensive Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Kansas City linebacker **JUSTIN HOUSTON**, who posted a sack-fumble and three tackles.
- Tennessee linebacker **DERRICK MORGAN**, who notched five tackles and two sacks.
- Kansas City rookie cornerback **MARCUS PETERS**, who had seven tackles and an interception.
- Jacksonville linebacker **PAUL POSLUSZNY**, who tallied nine tackles and an interception.
- New York Jets safety **CALVIN PRYOR**, who had 10 tackles and a forced fumble.
- Houston defensive end **J.J. WATT**, who had nine tackles, including two sacks and six tackles for a loss in the Texans' 27-20 loss against Kansas City.

Other nominees for AFC Special Teams Player of Week 1 as submitted by AFC clubs:

- Denver kicker **BRANDON MC MANUS**, who converted all four field-goal attempts (57, 56, 43 and 33) and one PAT.
- Buffalo punter **COLTON SCHMIDT**, who punted five times for 252 yards (50.4 average) and placed two punts inside the 20-yard line.