

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

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COMMUNICATIONS

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**REDSKINS QB KIRK COUSINS, SEAHAWKS DE MICHAEL BENNETT & GIANTS KR DWAYNE HARRIS NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 7**

Quarterback **KIRK COUSINS** of the Washington Redskins, defensive end **MICHAEL BENNETT** of the Seattle Seahawks and kick returner **DWAYNE HARRIS** of the New York Giants are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the seventh week of the 2015 season (October 22, 25-26), the NFL announced today.

**OFFENSE: QB KIRK COUSINS, WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

- Cousins completed 33 of 40 passes (82.5 percent) for 317 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 124.7 passer rating in the Redskins' 31-30 come-from-behind victory over Tampa Bay. He also rushed for a TD.
- He threw the game-winning six-yard touchdown pass to tight end **JORDAN REED** with 0:24 remaining. The Redskins overcame a 24-point deficit (24-0), the largest deficit overcome in a victory in franchise history.
- Cousins is the first Redskins quarterback to complete more than 80 percent of his passes with at least 300 passing yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions in a game.
- This season, Cousins is the only quarterback in the league to complete more than 80 percent of his passes with at least 300 passing yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions in a game. Last year, only **TOM BRADY**, **DREW BREES**, **PEYTON MANNING** and **BEN ROETHLISBERGER** accomplished the feat.
- Cousins, who also threw a game-winning touchdown pass to **PIERRE GARÇON** with 26 seconds remaining against Philadelphia in Week 4 (October 4), is the only active player to throw game-winning touchdown passes in the final 30 seconds of the fourth quarter two times in the same calendar month.
- In his fourth season from Michigan State, this is Cousin's first career Player of the Week Award.
- He is the first Redskins player to be named Offensive Player of the Week since running back **ALFRED MORRIS** in 2012 (Week 17).

**DEFENSE: DE MICHAEL BENNETT, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**

- Bennett had 3.5 sacks and five tackles in the Seahawks' 20-3 win at San Francisco.
- He led a Seattle pass rush that generated six sacks for a loss of 43 yards. Bennett contributed to four of those sacks for a total loss of 20 yards.
- Bennett was part of a defense that limited the 49ers to 142 total net yards, 81 net passing yards and 61 net rushing yards. The Seahawks allowed only eight first downs and just one of 11 third-down conversions.
- Bennett is tied for the NFL lead with 6.5 sacks this season.
- In his seventh year from Texas A&M, this is Bennett's first career Player of the Week Award.
- Bennett is the fourth defensive end in franchise history to be named Defensive Player of the Week, joining **JACOB GREEN** (three times), **CHRIS CLEMONS** (two) and **MICHAEL MC CRARY**.

**SPECIAL TEAMS: KR DWAYNE HARRIS, NEW YORK GIANTS**

- Harris returned a kickoff 100 yards for the game-winning touchdown in the Giants' 27-20 win over Dallas.
- After the Cowboys tied the game at 20 with 7:14 remaining in the fourth quarter, Harris returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for the game-winning score.
- Harris tied Pro Football Hall of Famer **EMLÉN TUNNELL** (November 4, 1951) and **CLARENCE CHILDS** (December 6, 1964) for the longest kickoff return (100 yards) in franchise history.
- Harris, who played four seasons for the Cowboys (2011-14), is the first player in NFL history to score a game-winning kickoff-return touchdown against a team he played for in the previous season.
- In his fifth season from East Carolina, this is Harris' fourth career Player of the Week Award. He was previously honored three times with Dallas (Week 10, 2012; Week 1, 2013; Week 6, 2013).
- He is the first Giants returner to win Special Teams Player of the Week since 2012 (**DAVID WILSON**, Week 14).

## 2015 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
<b>Wk 1</b>	WR Julio Jones, Atlanta	DT Aaron Donald, St. Louis	PR-WR Tavon Austin, St. Louis
<b>Wk 2</b>	WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona	LB Sean Lee, Dallas	KR-RB David Johnson, Arizona
<b>Wk 3</b>	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	S Tyrann Mathieu, Arizona	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
<b>Wk 4</b>	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Josh Norman, Carolina	K Robbie Gould, Chicago
<b>Wk 5</b>	QB Eli Manning, New York Giants	DE Fletcher Cox, Philadelphia	PR Bobby Rainey, Tampa Bay
<b>Wk 6</b>	WR Calvin Johnson, Detroit	DT Kawann Short, Carolina	LB Michael Mauti, New Orleans
<b>Wk 7</b>	QB Kirk Cousins, Washington	DE Michael Bennett, Seattle	KR Dwayne Harris, New York Giants

### Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 7 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Minnesota quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**, who completed 25 of 35 passes (71.4 percent) for 316 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 118.3 passer rating in the Vikings' 28-19 win at Detroit.
- Minnesota rookie wide receiver **STEFON DIGGS**, who had six catches for 108 yards and a touchdown.
- St. Louis rookie running back **TODD GURLEY**, who rushed for 128 yards and two touchdowns in the Rams' 24-6 win over Cleveland.
- New Orleans running back **MARK INGRAM**, who rushed for 143 yards and a touchdown in the Saints' 27-21 win at Indianapolis.
- Arizona running back **CHRIS JOHNSON**, who rushed for 122 yards and a touchdown in the Cardinals' 26-18 win over Baltimore.
- Carolina running back **JONATHAN STEWART**, who rushed for 125 yards in the Panthers' 27-16 win over Philadelphia.

### Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 7 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Carolina linebacker **THOMAS DAVIS**, who had 13 tackles.
- Washington safety **DASHON GOLDSON**, who had 14 tackles and a pass defended.
- St. Louis defensive end **WILLIAM HAYES**, who had two sacks, two forced fumbles and three tackles.
- Arizona safety **TONY JEFFERSON**, who had a game-sealing interception and five tackles.
- New Orleans defensive end **CAMERON JORDAN**, who had two sacks.
- Minnesota rookie linebacker **ERIC KENDRICKS**, who had two sacks and six tackles.
- Arizona safety **TYRANN MATHIEU**, who had seven tackles, a sack and one pass defended.
- New York Giants cornerback **DOMINIQUE RODGERS-CROMARTIE**, who had two interceptions, including a 58-yard touchdown return.
- Carolina defensive tackle **KAWANN SHORT**, who had three sacks, a forced fumble and eight tackles.
- Minnesota safety **HARRISON SMITH**, who had nine tackles and a sack.

### Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 7 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Arizona special teamer **JUSTIN BETHEL**, who had a tackle, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery on a punt return.
- St. Louis punter **JOHNNY HEKKER**, who averaged 48.8 yards per punt with a 46.6-yard net average.
- Washington kicker **DUSTIN HOPKINS**, who executed a successful onside kick, converted his only field-goal attempt and added four PATs.
- New Orleans punter **THOMAS MORSTEAD**, who punted 10 times and averaged 48.7 yards per punt with a 42.9-yard net average.
- Carolina punter **BRAD NORTMAN**, who placed three of his four punts inside the 20-yard line.
- Minnesota kicker **BLAIR WALSH**, who converted all five field-goal attempts and made one PAT.