

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
p. (212) 450-2000

NFLCommunications.com



Greg.Aiello@nfl.com
Senior Vice President of Communications

Brian.McCarthy@nfl.com
Vice President of Communications

Michael.Signora@nfl.com
Vice President of Football Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/2/15

<http://twitter.com/nfl345>

SEAHAWKS QB RUSSELL WILSON, PANTHERS LB LUKE KUECHLY & LIONS P SAM MARTIN NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 12

Quarterback **RUSSELL WILSON** of the Seattle Seahawks, linebacker **LUKE KUECHLY** of the Carolina Panthers and punter **SAM MARTIN** of the Detroit Lions are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played the 12th week of the 2015 season (November 26, 29-30), the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB RUSSELL WILSON, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

- Wilson tied the franchise single-game record with five touchdown passes in the Seahawks' 39-30 win over Pittsburgh. He completed 21 of 30 passes (70 percent) for 345 yards and did not throw an interception for a 147.9 passer rating.
- He threw three touchdown passes to wide receiver **DOUG BALDWIN**, including an 80-yarder with 2:01 remaining to seal the victory. Wilson's other two touchdown passes went to wide receiver **JERMAINE KEARSE**.
- The performance marked the 20th time Wilson has thrown multiple touchdown passes without an interception in a game, the most by any player in his first four seasons in NFL history.
- Wilson, who turned 27 years old on Sunday, is only the second player since 1950 to throw at least five touchdown passes on his birthday (Pro Football Hall of Famer **WARREN MOON**, 1990).
- In his fourth season from Wisconsin, this is Wilson's fifth career Player of the Week Award.
- Wilson joins **PEYTON MANNING** as the only quarterbacks in the past 25 years to be named Player of the Week in each of his first four NFL seasons.
- Wilson's five Player of the Week Awards are the most by a quarterback in franchise history.

DEFENSE: LB LUKE KUECHLY, CAROLINA PANTHERS

- Kuechly had two interceptions, including a touchdown, and seven tackles in the Panthers' 33-14 win at Dallas.
- He scored his first career touchdown late in the second quarter when he intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards for a score. On the next play from scrimmage, he added his second interception of the game.
- Kuechly is the first player since 1987 (Cleveland's **CLAY MATTHEWS**, September 20) to intercept the same player on consecutive plays from scrimmage and return the first for a touchdown.
- Since entering the NFL in 2012, Kuechly leads all linebackers with 10 interceptions. During that span, he leads all NFL players with 548 tackles.
- This season, Kuechly is the only player in the NFL with at least 75 tackles (75), three interceptions (three), a sack (one), a forced fumble (two) and a fumble recovery (one).
- In his fourth year from Boston College, this is Kuechly's fourth career Player of the Week Award.
- Kuechly's four Defensive Player of the Week Awards are the most in franchise history, surpassing **JULIUS PEPPERS** (three).

SPECIAL TEAMS: P SAM MARTIN, DETROIT LIONS

- Martin averaged 46.0 yards per punt with a 45.3-yard net average in the Lions' 45-14 win over Philadelphia. He also registered a career-high eight touchbacks on eight kickoffs (100 percent).
- All four of his punts traveled at least 45 yards and the Lions allowed only two returns for three total yards (1.5 average).
- Martin's eight kickoff touchbacks are the most by any player this season.
- He is one of six players to have at least eight kickoff touchbacks and a 100-percent rate in a game since at least 1994, the first year the statistic was tracked.
- In his third season from Appalachian State, this is Martin's second career Player of the Week Award (Week 3, 2013).
- Martin joins kicker **JASON HANSON** (12) and return specialist **TERRY FAIR** (two) as the only Lions to win multiple Special Teams Player of the Week Awards.

2015 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	WR Julio Jones, Atlanta	DT Aaron Donald, St. Louis	PR-WR Tavon Austin, St. Louis
Wk 2	WR Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona	LB Sean Lee, Dallas	KR-RB David Johnson, Arizona
Wk 3	QB Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay	S Tyrann Mathieu, Arizona	PR-RB Darren Sproles, Philadelphia
Wk 4	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	CB Josh Norman, Carolina	K Robbie Gould, Chicago
Wk 5	QB Eli Manning, New York Giants	DE Fletcher Cox, Philadelphia	PR Bobby Rainey, Tampa Bay
Wk 6	WR Calvin Johnson, Detroit	DT Kawann Short, Carolina	LB Michael Mauti, New Orleans
Wk 7	QB Kirk Cousins, Washington	DE Michael Bennett, Seattle	KR Dwayne Harris, New York Giants
Wk 8	QB Drew Brees, New Orleans	LB Kwon Alexander, Tampa Bay	PR Marcus Sherels, Minnesota
Wk 9	QB Cam Newton, Carolina	DT Linval Joseph, Minnesota	K Josh Brown, New York Giants
Wk 10	QB Kirk Cousins, Washington	CB Terence Newman, Minnesota	KR Ameer Abdullah, Detroit
Wk 11	QB Cam Newton, Carolina	LB Lavonte David, Tampa Bay	K Mason Crosby, Green Bay
Wk 12	QB Russell Wilson, Seattle	LB Luke Kuechly, Carolina	P Sam Martin, Detroit

Other nominees for NFC Offensive Player of Week 12 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Seattle wide receiver **DOUG BALDWIN**, who had six catches for 145 yards and three touchdowns.
- Washington quarterback **KIRK COUSINS**, who completed 20 of 29 passes (69 percent) for 302 yards with one touchdown versus no interceptions for a 114.4 passer rating and rushed for a touchdown in the Redskins' 20-14 win over the New York Giants.
- Chicago quarterback **JAY CUTLER**, who passed for 200 yards and a touchdown in the Bears' 17-13 win at Green Bay.
- Detroit wide receiver **CALVIN JOHNSON**, who had eight catches for 93 yards and three touchdowns.
- Minnesota running back **ADRIAN PETERSON**, who rushed for 158 yards and two touchdowns in the Vikings' 20-10 win at Atlanta.
- Detroit quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD**, who completed 27 of 38 passes (71.1 percent) for 337 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions for a 137.8 passer rating.

Other nominees for NFC Defensive Player of Week 12 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Detroit defensive end **EZEKIEL ANSAH**, who had 3.5 sacks, four tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.
- Minnesota linebacker **ANTHONY BARR**, who had eight tackles, one sack and two forced fumbles.
- Arizona safety **TONY JEFFERSON**, who had a sack, a forced fumble and five tackles in the Cardinals' 19-13 win at San Francisco.
- Washington linebacker **RYAN KERRIGAN**, who had two sacks, three tackles and a pass defended.
- Arizona safety **TYRANN MATHIEU**, who had 13 tackles, an interception and two passes defended.
- Chicago cornerback **TRACY PORTER**, who had an interception, four passes defended and one tackle.
- Seattle cornerback **RICHARD SHERMAN**, who had an interception, two passes defended and five tackles.

Other nominees for NFC Special Teams Player of Week 12 as submitted by NFC clubs:

- Arizona linebacker **ALANI FUA**, who recovered a San Francisco fumble on a muffed punt.
- Carolina kicker **GRAHAM GANO**, who scored 15 points, converting four of five field goal attempts and all three PATs.