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TITANS QB MARCUS MARIOTA & BILLS CB RONALD DARBY
NAMED NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

Quarterback MARCUS MARIOTA of the Tennessee Titans and cornerback RONALD DARBY of the Buffalo Bills are the NFL Offensive and Defensive Rookies of the Month for September, the NFL announced today.

OFFENSE: QB MARCUS MARIOTA, TENNESSEE TITANS

- Mariota, the second overall selection in the 2015 NFL Draft out of Oregon, led all rookies in passing yards (833), touchdown passes (eight) and passer rating (109.2).
- His eight touchdown passes are tied for the most of any player in his first three games in NFL history (MARK RYPIEN) and tied for fourth-most in the league this season.
- Mariota passed for at least 200 yards and two touchdowns in all three games this month, and his 109.2 passer rating is the second-highest of any rookie quarterback through Week 3 (GREG COOK).
- Mariota became the first rookie in NFL history to post a 158.3 passer rating on Kickoff Weekend, the highest attainable mark, as he passed for 209 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions in the Titans’ 42-14 win at Tampa Bay.
- In Week 2, he passed for 257 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for a 96.3 rating at Cleveland followed by a 367-yard performance with two TDs against Indianapolis in Week 3.
- Mariota is the third Titan to be named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month, joining running backs EDDIE GEORGE (September 1996) and CHRIS JOHNSON (September 2008).
- He is the first Titans quarterback to be named Offensive Rookie of the Month.

DEFENSE: CB RONALD DARBY, BUFFALO BILLS

- Darby, a second-round selection (No. 50) out of Florida State, tied for the NFL lead with two interceptions and led all players with eight passes defensed. He also posted 15 tackles.
- Buffalo posted a 2-0 record in the games in which Darby intercepted a pass, including a 27-14 win against Indianapolis on Kickoff Weekend and a 41-14 win at Miami in Week 3.
- His first interception came in the first quarter of his NFL debut against the Colts and preceded the Bills’ first score of the year – a 51-yard TD pass from quarterback TYROD TAYLOR to wide receiver PERCY HARVIN.
- Darby’s second pick against the Dolphins helped set up a 51-yard field goal by DAN CARPENTER in the second quarter.
- Darby, who started all three games this month, is the first Bills defensive back with at least two interceptions in a season since JAIRUS BYRD (nine) and CARY HARRIS (two) accomplished the feat in 2009.
- The Bills’ defense forced eight turnovers this month, and Buffalo is tied for second in the NFL with a +5 turnover differential.
- Darby joins LEODIS MC KELVIN (November 2008) as the only Bills cornerbacks to be named NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month.
- This marks the third consecutive season in which a Buffalo player has won an NFL Rookie of the Month Award. Wide receiver SAMMY WATKINS was named the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month in October of 2014, and linebacker KIKO ALONSO (defense) received the honor in September of 2013.
Other nominees for the September NFL Offensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:
- Oakland wide receiver AMARI COOPER (first round, Alabama), who had 20 catches for 290 yards and one touchdown.
- Arizona running back DAVID JOHNSON (third round, Northern Iowa), who has scored three total touchdowns – one rushing, one receiving and a 108-yard kickoff-return.
- San Diego running back MELVIN GORDON (first round, Wisconsin), who led all rookies with 190 rushing yards on 44 attempts.
- Washington running back MATT JONES (third round, Florida), who rushed for 189 yards and two touchdowns.
- Seattle wide receiver TYLER LOCKETT (third round, Kansas State), who has returned both a kickoff (105 yards) and a punt (57 yards) for a touchdown.
- Buffalo running back KARLOS WILLIAMS (fifth round, Florida State), who rushed for 186 yards and three touchdowns.
- Tampa Bay quarterback JAMEIS WINSTON (first round, Florida State), who passed for 678 yards with four touchdowns and added a rushing touchdown.

Other nominees for the September NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month Award as submitted by NFL clubs:
- Tampa Bay linebacker KWON ALEXANDER (fourth round, Louisiana State), who started all three games and had 23 tackles, an interception and four passes defensed.
- Atlanta linebacker VIC BEASLEY (first round, Clemson), who started all three games and had 10 tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble.
- Philadelphia linebacker JORDAN HICKS (third round, Texas), who had 17 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and an interception.
- New Orleans linebacker HAU’OLI KIKAH (second round, Washington), who started all three games and had 18 tackles, two sacks and two forced fumbles.
- Kansas City cornerback MARCUS PETERS (first round, Washington), who started all three games and had 15 tackles and two interceptions, including an interception-return touchdown.
- Cleveland nose tackle DANNY SHELTON (first round, Washington), who started all three games and had 11 tackles.