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**TITANS QB MARCUS MARIOTA & BILLS CB RONALD DARBY
NAMED NFL ROOKIES OF 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 defended. 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.

2015 NFL ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

| | <u>Offense (College)</u> | <u>Defense (College)</u> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| September | QB Marcus Mariota, Tennessee (Oregon) | CB Ronald Darby, Buffalo (Florida State) |

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 KIKAHA** (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.