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9/15/21

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RAMS QB MATTHEW STAFFORD, CARDINALS LB CHANDLER JONES & BUCCANEERS P BRADLEY PINION NAMED NFC PLAYERS OF WEEK 1

Quarterback **MATTHEW STAFFORD** of the Los Angeles Rams, linebacker **CHANDLER JONES** of the Arizona Cardinals and punter **BRADLEY PINION** of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are the NFC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week for games played on Kickoff Weekend 2021 (September 9, 12-13).

OFFENSE: QB MATTHEW STAFFORD, LOS ANGELES RAMS

- Making his Rams debut, Stafford completed 20 of 26 pass attempts (76.9 pct.) for 321 yards and three touchdowns with no INTs for a 156.1 rating in Los Angeles' *Sunday Night Football* victory over Chicago.
- This is Stafford's second-career Offensive Player of the Week Award (2009, Week 11).
- He becomes the first former Georgia Bulldog quarterback to win the award multiple times.

DEFENSE: LB CHANDLER JONES, ARIZONA CARDINALS

- Jones registered six tackles, five sacks, four tackles for loss and two forced fumbles in a historic Kickoff Weekend performance, becoming the third player since 1982 to record at least five sacks in Week 1.
- This is the fifth-career Player of the Week Award for Jones and fourth with the Cardinals:
 - 2014: Week 2
 - 2018: Week 5
 - 2019: Weeks 7, 16
 - 2021: Week 1
- Jones ties Adrian Wilson (four) for the most-ever Defensive Player of the Year Awards by a Cardinal.
- Jones joins Dwight Freeney (six) as the only former Syracuse players to earn Defensive Player of the Week five times.

SPECIAL TEAMS: P BRADLEY PINION, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

- In the league's annual primetime Kickoff game on Thursday against Dallas, Pinion's four punts averaged 49.3 yards, with a net average of 45.8. Three of his four punts landed inside the 10-yard line.
- This is the second-career Player of the Week Award for Pinion (Week 9, 2018) and first with the Buccaneers.
- Pinion becomes the first Tampa Bay punter to earn the honor since Bryan Anger (Week 17, 2016).
- He joins Chris Gardocki (two) as the only former Clemson Tiger punters to earn the award multiple times.

2021 NFC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Wk 1	QB Matthew Stafford, L.A. Rams	LB Chandler Jones, Arizona	P Bradley Pinion, Tampa Bay