



Kareem Jackson Defensive Player Of Week



January 18, 2011: Rookie cornerback Kareem Jackson received the ISFL Defensive Player of the Week award for his play in the AFC Championship game this past weekend, when the Broncos defeated the Buffalo Bills 34-21. Jackson only got the start due to an injury starting cornerback Tracy Porter suffered the week before in the playoff game against the New York Jets.

Kareem Jackson, a second round pick of the Broncos in the 2011 draft, had probably the key defensive play in the game.

With the Bills trying to come back from a 24-7 deficit in the third quarter, Jackson intercepted Tom Brady and returned the pick 42 yards to the Bills 19 yard line, from where the Broncos punched over their final touchdown in three running plays to take a 31-7 lead.

As a rookie dime back getting his first start and in the Championship game to boot, Jackson was picked on constantly by Brady, but Jackson held up pretty well. He made eleven tackles and also had a deflection.

Head Coach Hank Sienzant said that Jackson's award was a long time coming. "He's a good player for us, and we expect him to challenge for a starting role next year. His contributions go well beyond his stats, and we're quite pleased with his development thus far. After 19 games this season [including the three post-season games] Kareem certainly is no longer a rookie, he's a veteran player with a heck of a lot of potential and we fully expect Kareem to win this award a few more times before he's done playing for us." As the Broncos dime back, Kareem Jackson saw plenty of action this season, playing on about 20% of the Broncos defensive plays. He finished the regular season with 58 tackles and one interception.

Jackson said only that "The coaching staff is great, and so are my teammates. The coaches put us in position to win, and my teammates always have my back. Although I won this award, it is because of my teammates and coaches, and much of the credit is due to them."

Jackson is the third different Bronco player to win the award since Hank Sienzant took over the Broncos in 2009, and the second Bronco player this year. Josh Freeman won the Offensive Player of the Week award last year in week 16 for his 20 of 33, 369-yard effort against the Chargers, and Tracy Porter followed up with a three-interception game against the Seahawks in week 17 last year to become the first Bronco to win the Defensive Player of the Week award. Josh Freeman repeated as Offensive Player of the Week in week 12 this season for his four touchdown passes against the Bills in a game that clinched a playoff appearance for the Broncos.