The Jets, coming off a 4-12 year in 2014, have long since begun looking ahead to next season. But now that another Super Bowl is in the books -- and the 50th edition of the game is coming up on Feb. 7, 2016 -- let's examine just what it would take for the Jets to make it there.

Yes, we are talking about the Jets, who haven't been in the playoffs for four straight years, reaching the Super Bowl. They almost made it in 2009 and 2010, when they lost in the AFC Championship Game both years. But this is a totally different Jets team now.

Odds are already out for next year's Super Bowl winners. The Jets check in at 125/1. Only Washington, Tampa Bay, the Titans, Jaguars and Raiders have longer odds.

But we didn't say anything about the Jets having to win the Super Bowl in 2016. We're just talking about them getting there. (As if the latter somehow seems to be a less absurd notion than the former.)

Reaching the Super Bowl will be no easy accomplishment for a rebuilding Jets team. Let's be realistic here: It would be an absolute stunner if the Jets played in Super Bowl 50. Most people would be surprised if they just made the playoffs next season.

Still, for the purposes of this exercise that we're doing for all our local NFL teams, let's take a look at five things the Jets must do to make Super Bowl 50. Scroll through the photo gallery at the top of this post, to read about each of those five things.

The Jets in the Super Bowl next year? It sounds farfetched, right? But is it really that much of a pipe dream for this franchise? As always, feel free to sound off in the comments section down below, and let us know what you think about this topic.
Seahawks’ Super Bowl loss to Patriots cost Jets’ Percy Harvin a bunch of money (Darryl Slater)
NJ Advance Media
February 2, 015


It remains uncertain if the Jets are going to pay wide receiver Percy Harvin the $10.5 million base salary he is due to receive for the 2015 season.

None of the remaining money on Harvin's contract, which runs through the 2018 season, is guaranteed. So the Jets can cut Harvin this offseason, with no future repercussions for their salary cap.

While Harvin isn't sure what kind of money he will be making in 2015, he could have made a few extra bucks on Sunday night, if the Seahawks hadn't lost to the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

Seattle traded Harvin to the Jets midway through the 2014 season. But as Joel Corry mentioned in a recent story on the National Football Post, Harvin played enough games for the Seahawks in 2014 to be eligible for their Super Bowl-related pay bonuses.

Harvin was eligible for half shares of these bonuses. Players on teams who make the Super Bowl earn $93,000, regardless of whether or not their team wins the game. Because Seattle made the Super Bowl, Harvin pocketed $46,500.

If Seattle won the Super Bowl, current Seahawks players would have landed a total sum of $141,000. And Harvin would have gotten half of that: $70,500.

But the Patriots won, so Harvin didn't get $70,500. He still walked away from this postseason with $46,500, because his former team made the Super Bowl, and he didn't even have to suit up for a practice.

Essentially, Seattle's loss cost Harvin $24,000, because he walked away with $46,500, rather than $70,500. But considering this was free, easy money, it's silly to say the loss actually cost Harvin anything.

No word on whether Harvin reacted to missing out on the money like this:

ESPN NEW YORK

Pete Carroll spiked again, and there's nothing fake about it (Rich Cimini)
ESPN New York
February 2, 2015


A few thoughts on Super Bowl XLIX, from a New York Jets' perspective:

In no way am I comparing a devastating loss in the Super Bowl to a regular-season defeat, but there were a few quirky similarities between the New England Patriots-Seattle Seahawks contest and the Fake Spike Game in 1994. Obviously, the link is former Jets coach Pete Carroll. Consider:

Both games had the same final score, 28-24.

In both games, Carroll's team took a 24-14 lead into the fourth quarter.
In '94, Dan Marino threw his famous touchdown pass to Mark Ingram with 22 seconds left to lift the Miami Dolphins to a stunning win. On Sunday night, the game-defining play -- Malcolm Butler's interception of Russell Wilson -- occurred with 20 seconds left.

In '94, Marino beat the Jets with four touchdown passes and two interceptions. On Sunday night, Tom Brady beat the Seahawks with the same stats -- four touchdown passes and two interceptions.

The Fake Spike defined Carroll's one and only season as the Jets' coach. He went on to win championships at the college and pro level, but as it stands now, his career is framed by two gut-wrenching, goal-line plays, 20 years apart.

Carroll is absorbing a massive amount of criticism for the decision to pass on second down from the 1-yard line, and deservedly so. It was a poor choice for all the reasons that have been mentioned on the air, in print and in the blogosphere. But let me add this: If you're going to throw in that situation, why not try play-action? A play fake to Marshawn Lynch might have frozen the defense for a split second, giving the receivers a chance to gain separation. Instead, they put Wilson in shotgun with a three-receiver package. It made no sense.

Two of Carroll's greatest attributes are his aggressiveness and his ability to think outside the box. In this case, he got too cute and it bit him hard.

The Seahawks' goal-line fiasco got me thinking about how the Jets handled similar situations. In 2014, they had only three plays from the 1-yard line, and they scored all three times -- with running plays. Geno Smith scored on a bootleg against the Green Bay Packers, and Chris Ivory scored on inside runs against the Patriots and Tennessee Titans. Even the pass-happy Marty Mornhinweg opted for runs in those situations.

Bad news for the Jets: The Patriots aren't going anywhere anytime soon. They have only a handful of free agents, none of whom are franchise-type players -- running backs Shane Vereen and Stevan Ridley, offensive lineman Dan Connolly and safety Devin McCourty. As long as Brady and Bill Belichick are around, the Patriots will remain the Patriots. Get ready for an uphill battle, Todd Bowles.

Two years after being traded by the Jets, Darrelle Revis is a Super Bowl champion. Let’s put aside the blame game for a moment, and recognize Revis is a tremendous player who landed in the ideal situation. We’re talking about a potential Hall of Famer here. He has six Pro Bowls, four All-Pro selections and one Super Bowl ring. If he can play at least six more years, he’ll have a Canton-worthy résumé, based on other cornerbacks in the Hall of Fame.

The question is, what happens now? Revis will be a free agent if the Patriots decline to exercise a $20 million option (unlikely), and his first team -- the Jets -- are expected to pounce. Get ready for another Revis-filled offseason.

**METRO NEW YORK**

Jets willing to pursue both Antonio Cromartie and Darrelle Revis (Kristian Dyer)
Metro New York
February 2, 2015

Recently fired New York Jets general manager John Idzik no longer has the job in large part due to his failure to land a top-notch cornerback. Now his replacement might be set to address that issue in a major way.

Sources familiar with Jets general manager Mike Maccagnan’s thinking, as well as that of head coach Todd Bowles’, tell Metro that the team is “open and willing” to pursue cornerbacks Antonio Cromartie and Darrelle Revis this offseason should both hit the open market. Revis, who captured a Super Bowl title with the Patriots Sunday, and Cromartie are former Jets who partnered together for several seasons under former head coach Rex Ryan to form one of the best secondary units in the league.

With Cromartie, who left the Jets this past offseason to sign a one-year deal with the Arizona Cardinals, and Revis perhaps both testing free agency, the source said that “the Jets are open to bringing back one, if not both players. It isn’t a guarantee, but either ‘Cro’ or Revis would fit a need and fit the system Todd is using.” The source is familiar with the Jets’ line of thinking and how their offseason plans could be shaping up.

This past season under Bowles, then the defensive coordinator for the Cardinals, Cromartie’s 44 total tackles were his highest since 2008. Cromartie turns 31-years-old this April but according to the source, “would be a good fit and he’d love to play for Todd again.”

The bigger wild card is Revis, who has consistently followed the money during his NFL career. While the source said that the Jets would have “interest in Darrelle were he to hit free agency,” it isn’t a foregone conclusion that he will end up back with the team that drafted him.

First off, he may not want to leave the Patriots. although the source said that “there seems to be an inclination that Revis might want to see his options outside of New England.” He signed a two-year deal with the Patriots this past offseason but the 2016 season calls for a $20 million option to return to New England.

The other factor has nothing to do with Revis but everything to do with the team that traded him in 2013 and then failed to land him in free agency last spring.

“Woody is the wild card here,” the source said, referring to Jets owner Woody Johnson. “Would he accept Darrelle back? Remember the way that Darrelle forced a trade two years ago. That might not be an appealing idea to an owner who is desperate to make his organization credible.”

**MONDAY’S SPORTS TRANSACTIONS**

Associated Press  
February 2, 2015  

**BASEBALL**

**National League**

CINCINNATI REDS — Signed LHP Paul Maholm to a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS — Signed 1B Lucas Duda to a one-year contract. Named Ryan Ellis short-season hitting coordinator, Benny DiStefano outfield coordinator, Lamar Johnson hitting coordinator.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with 1B Brandon Belt on a one-year contract and with RHP Cory Gearrin, LHP Braulio Lara, RHP Curtis Partch, LHP Nikolas Turley, INF Carlos Triunfel and OF Justin Maxwell on minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Casey Janssen on a one-year contract. Designated RHP Eric Fornataro for assignment.

American Association
SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Released INF Stephen Branca.

Atlantic League
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed OF and hitting coach Lew Ford.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
DETROIT PISTONS — Signed G John Lucas III to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed OT Matthew O'Donnell.

Arena Football League
ORLANDO PREDATORS — Signed DB Derricus Purdy. Traded C Zack Williams to Las Vegas Outlaws for the No. 1 overall pick in the waiver claim order.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DALLAS STARS — Recalled D Jyrki Jokipakka from Texas (AHL).

ECHL
SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS — Traded F Anthony Collins from Quad City for future considerations.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Announced MF Tim Cahill has left the team by mutual agreement.
NEW YORK CITY FC — Signed F Adam Nemec.

COLLEGE
CHATTANOOGA — Named Danny McBride women's assistant soccer coach.

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