



## NEW YORK JETS DAILY CLIPS

September 1, 2015

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**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Jets Richardson pleads not guilty to Missouri charges (Dennis Waszak)**

Associated Press  
August 31, 2015

<http://www.pro32.ap.org/article/jets-richardson-pleads-not-guilty-missouri-charges>

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP) — Suspended New York Jets defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson will be back in court in Missouri on Oct. 5 after pleading not guilty Monday to resisting arrest and traffic charges stemming from his arrest in July.

Richardson's attorney entered the plea in St. Charles County, near St. Louis. Richardson was not present. A spokeswoman for the St. Charles County prosecutor's office said it was not certain if a trial date will be set at the October hearing.

All five charges are misdemeanors. Richardson's attorney declined comment.

Richardson, a former University of Missouri star who lives in the St. Charles County town of O'Fallon in the offseason, was arrested following a chase July 14 that began on Interstate 64. Police say Richardson was driving his 2014 Bentley Silver Spur at speeds up to 143 mph, with a 12-year-old boy, a relative, and two other men inside the car. Police said Richardson appeared to be racing with another car.

Police said they found a loaded semi-automatic handgun under a floor mat on the driver's side, and a probable cause statement said they detected a "very strong odor of burned marijuana."

Prosecutors filed no gun charges because they said Richardson possesses it legally. They declined to file drug possession or child endangerment charges because they said there was not enough evidence.

A conviction for resisting arrest is punishable by up to one year in jail. He could also face a fine of up to \$1,000.

The arrest cast doubt on Richardson's future. Two weeks before his arrest, he was suspended by the NFL for four games for marijuana use.

Richardson was the 13th overall pick in 2013, and was named Defensive Rookie of the Year that season. He played in the Pro Bowl last season.

He apologized to the organization and his teammates after the news of his arrest came out, something he withheld from even his parents until reports surfaced early in training camp.

During his suspension, Richardson is able to work out at the team's facility, but not practice.

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**Jets’ Leonard Williams ‘definitely’ expects to play Week 1 (Dennis Waszak)**

Associated Press  
August 31, 2015

<http://www.pro32.ap.org/article/jets-leonard-williams-definitely-expects-play-week-1>

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Injured rookie Leonard Williams says he "definitely" plans to play in the New York Jets' regular-season opener in two weeks.

The defensive lineman strained a muscle in his right knee in the first half of the Jets' 28-18 preseason victory over the Giants on Saturday night. An MRI exam on Sunday revealed no cartilage damage to the knee, relieving Williams and anxious Jets fans who feared the worst for the No. 6 overall pick out of Southern California.

Williams says he was told by doctors that recovery should take about five to seven days, and he expects to be able to practice sometime next week.

He felt a sharp pain during the game, but was relieved when the MRI results came back negative.

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## **NEWSDAY**

**Sheldon Richardson pleads not guilty to resisting arrest and traffic charges in Missouri (Kimberely Martin)**

Newsday

August 31, 2015

<http://www.newsday.com/sports/football/jets/sheldon-richardson-pleads-not-guilty-to-resisting-arrest-and-traffic-charges-in-missouri-1.10793562>

Jets defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson pleaded not guilty through an attorney on Monday to resisting arrest and various traffic charges stemming from his July 14 arrest in Missouri.

Richardson, 24, was not required to attend Monday's arraignment, and instead was represented by Matthew D. Fry, an attorney who works for the same St. Louis-based law firm as Richardson's defense attorney of record, Scott Rosenblum.

Both Fry and The St. Charles (Missouri) County Courthouse confirmed to Newsday that Richardson's hearing has been continued to Oct. 5. Fry also said that Richardson is not ordered to appear in court at that time.

Richardson was charged with resisting arrest -- a Class A misdemeanor that can lead to up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine -- and several traffic violations after Missouri police said he tried to allude cops during an alleged street race. Police clocked Richardson, a Missouri native, going 143 mph with a 12-year-old relative and a concealed loaded gun in the car, according to a police report.

According to a statement, the officer "smelled a very strong odor of burned marijuana emanating from the vehicle and all passengers smelled of burned marijuana."

Richardson, the 2013 defensive rookie of the year and a 2014 Pro Bowler, already has been hit with a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy. According to a source, he failed multiple marijuana tests.

The Jets defensive star called the uncertainty surrounding his legal troubles "a cloud over my head" because there's a good chance NFL commissioner Roger Goodell will hand down another suspension as a result of his arrest.

"When I get the date that I can actually return, then I can actually start moving forward," Richardson told reporters on Aug. 26.

"I don't know what to expect," he added, referring to the additional discipline he could face from the league. "That's out of my hands. Whatever happens happens ... I can go from four games to however long he wants it to be. So it's pretty tough."

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#### **Leonard Williams rehabbing knee, says 'I'll definitely be ready by Week 1' (Greg Logan)**

Newsday

August 31, 2015

<http://www.newsday.com/sports/football/jets/leonard-williams-rehabbing-knee-says-i-ll-definitely-be-ready-by-week-1-1.10794571>

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. - When the Jets took the practice field Monday, rookie defensive end Leonard Williams headed over to join the injured players going through their rehab routines off to the side. It could have been a lot worse. He could have been lying on an operating table undergoing surgery to repair the right knee he injured during the Jets' preseason win over the Giants Saturday night.

The sixth overall pick in the NFL Draft admitted that was his fear when he first felt pain in his knee after another player rolled up the back of his leg during a first-half pass-rush situation.

"I never had any lower-body pain besides an ankle sprain, so when I first felt the pain behind my knee, I told our trainers about it. They X-rayed it during the game. But we got an MRI yesterday, and the results came back negative. They found out it was just a muscle strain. So now I'm doing a bunch of rehab."

The relief was palpable throughout Jets camp.

"I'll definitely be ready by Week 1," Williams said. "They said it should probably be five to seven days recovery."

Many considered the pass rusher from Southern Cal the steal of the draft when he fell to the Jets. His importance grew when training camp opened and it was revealed that defensive end Sheldon Richardson must serve a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy. Richardson likely faces additional league discipline stemming from an arrest during a traffic incident.

Williams is expected to replace Richardson as the starter alongside Muhammad Wilkerson and Damon Harrison for the season opener against Cleveland on Sept. 13. The rookie won't play in Thursday night's preseason finale against Philadelphia at MetLife Stadium, but he plans on being ready for the opener.

It sounds as if coach Todd Bowles is counting on having Williams ready to go against the Browns. "I was relieved, and I'm hopeful for Week 1," Bowles said of the injury. "He says he's starting to feel better by the day. When I see him running, I'll feel a lot better, but right now, he's walking pretty good and he's healing in good spirits."

Williams wasn't the only defensive lineman who gave Bowles cause for concern. Veteran tackle Wilkerson was limited early in training camp by a hamstring injury but came through well in his first test against the Giants.

"He felt good," Bowles said. "He had no setbacks."

The majority of Jets veteran starters won't play against the Eagles, but Bowles said the injury situation will force him to use some of his veterans. If Williams were healthy, he likely would have gotten more reps because he's a rookie still learning the NFL ropes.

But Williams said the relief of learning from the MRI that he has no torn knee ligaments far outweighed the inconvenience of missing the Eagles game.

"It's a little bit of a setback because I'm not able to practice," Williams said. "But it's not too much of a setback because they're not going full speed this week before the game. I'll be all right by the time the season opener starts."

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## **THE RECORD**

### **Jets rookie Leonard Williams expects to be ready for season opener (J.P. Pelzman)**

The Record

August 31, 2015

<http://www.northjersey.com/sports/jets-rookie-leonard-williams-expects-to-be-ready-for-season-opener-1.1401579>

FLORHAM PARK – A very relieved Leonard Williams said Monday he “definitely” expects to be ready to play on opening day against the Cleveland Browns.

Williams, a defensive end who was the Jets’ first-round pick in this year’s NFL Draft, tweaked his knee in the second quarter of the Jets’ 28-18 win over the Giants at MetLife Stadium on Saturday night.

An MRI exam Sunday showed Williams has a muscle strain behind his knee, but no ligament damage.

“It’s not too much of a setback,” said Williams, who said he was told it will take him 5-7 days to recover from the injury. He won’t practice this week but hopes to return to practice next week when the Jets start preparing to host the Browns on Sept. 13.

Williams said his knee was rolled up on during a play.

“I was really concerned because I’d never felt any pain in my knee before,” he said. “As soon as I felt it, I made sure to see our head trainer right away. I was pretty concerned about it. ... I’m glad everything is all right.”

Despite being a rookie, the sixth-overall pick is being counted on to be a key contributor for the Jets immediately, especially considering the uncertain status of fellow defensive end Sheldon Richardson.

Richardson already has been suspended for the first four regular-season games for violating the NFL’s substance-abuse policy, and could face an additional ban under the personal-conduct policy after being charged with resisting arrest after a high-speed chase in Missouri last month.

Richardson was arraigned Monday for that offense and traffic charges in St. Charles, Mo. He was not present but his attorney filed a not guilty plea on his behalf for all five charges. The next hearing in Richardson's case was scheduled for Oct. 5.

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### **Jets notes: Ryan Fitzpatrick to sit Thursday (J.P. Pelzman)**

The Record

September 1, 2015

<http://www.northjersey.com/sports/football/jets-notes-ryan-fitzpatrick-to-sit-thursday-1.1401625>

Fitzpatrick to sit

Veteran Ryan Fitzpatrick said both after the game Saturday night and after practice Monday that he believes he accomplished everything he needed to do during training camp and preseason games.

Jets coach Todd Bowles agrees.

Bowles said Monday that Fitzpatrick, who was thrust into the role of starting quarterback when Geno Smith suffered a fractured jaw Aug. 11, won't play in the preseason finale against visiting Philadelphia on Thursday.

"I think we got what we needed accomplished throughout the preseason so far," Fitzpatrick said Monday. Not only will sitting Fitzpatrick enable him to avoid injury, it also will keep the Eagles from getting a better scouting report on him. Philadelphia will visit the Jets again Sept. 27 for a regular-season game.

So with Fitzpatrick scheduled to wear a baseball cap instead of a helmet against the Eagles, Matt Flynn or Josh Johnson likely will start. Both veterans were signed by the Jets after Smith was injured.

Flynn's nagging hamstring finally has healed to the point where he can appear in a game. Bowles declined to say who will start Thursday.

"I would definitely expect to get snaps," Flynn said.

Flynn would not speculate on whether he will be the No. 2 quarterback when the Jets open the season against Cleveland on Sept. 13.

When asked if he considers Thursday's game to be an audition for the No. 2 job, Flynn replied, "No, I consider it a game. I'll play the best I can and let [the coaches] make the decisions."

### Briefs

WR Eric Decker was excused from practice, Bowles said. His wife, Jessie James Decker, is due to give birth to the couple's second child this week. ... LG James Carpenter, who came out of Saturday's game with a sore back, didn't practice. Bowles indicate he isn't worried about the problem. "He's fine," the coach said. ... Bowles said he may play "some" of the starters Thursday, but didn't indicate which ones might appear or how long they might play. ... Bowles said WR Jeremy Kerley (concussion) is "feeling better" and doesn't have a headache anymore. Kerley still must pass the NFL's concussion protocol to get back on the field. ... Bowles said it's possible that RB Stevan Ridley (knee) may start the season on the physically-unable-to-perform list. Ridley has yet to practice this summer.

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## **ESPN NEW YORK**

### **Sheldon Richardson pleads not guilty to road-race charges (Rich Cimini)**

ESPN New York

August 31, 2015

[http://espn.go.com/new-york/nfl/story/\\_/id/13550677/sheldon-richardson-new-york-jets-pleads-not-guilty-charges](http://espn.go.com/new-york/nfl/story/_/id/13550677/sheldon-richardson-new-york-jets-pleads-not-guilty-charges)

New York Jets defensive end Sheldon Richardson pleaded not guilty Monday to charges stemming from a high-speed road race near St. Louis in July.

The 24-year-old Richardson did not appear in St. Charles County Circuit Court Monday and was represented by attorney Matthew D. Fry.

He was charged with resisting arrest and several traffic charges in the July 12 incident. The misdemeanor resisting arrest charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

An Oct. 5 hearing was announced for prosecutors and Richardson's attorneys to update the court. Richardson isn't required to be in attendance.

According to police, Richardson traveled up to 143 mph in the road race and sped from police, who found a loaded gun in his car, which smelled of burnt marijuana. One of his three passengers was a 12-year-old boy.

St. Charles County prosecutors have said there wasn't sufficient evidence to file drug or child endangerment charges against Richardson.

A fully loaded semi-automatic weapon was found in Richardson's 2014 Bentley, but prosecutors have said he was in possession of the weapon legally.

Richardson will miss the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, unrelated to his July arrest. That suspension could be increased by the NFL if it rules the Jets defensive end violated the league's conduct policy.

"I'm disappointed and embarrassed for my parents' sake," Richardson told ESPN.com's Rich Cimini recently of his offseason troubles.

"When you're in the NFL and you mess up, the world knows about it. Pretty much, my family goes through a lot. People don't want to talk to them at work anymore, little things like that. When I get back on the field, it's going to be the same old Sheldon ... a baller."

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#### **Injured Jets rookie Leonard Williams vows to be ready for opener (Rich Cimini)**

ESPN New York

August 31, 2015

[http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/\\_id/53705/injured-jets-rookie-leonard-williams-vows-to-be-ready-for-opener](http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/_id/53705/injured-jets-rookie-leonard-williams-vows-to-be-ready-for-opener)

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. -- When the New York Jets line up to play the Cleveland Browns on Sept. 13, their prized rookie -- Leonard Williams -- will be in uniform. That comes from a source familiar with the defensive end's injured knee -- Williams.

"Yeah, I'll definitely be ready by Week 1," he said Monday.

The former USC star, hurt in last Saturday night's win over the New York Giants, said he expects to miss five to seven days. It would've been something like five to seven months if he had suffered ligament damage, so he was relieved Sunday morning when the MRI showed no major damage, only a strained muscle behind his right knee.

"I was really concerned because I never felt any pain in my knees before," Williams said. "As soon as I felt that, I made sure I went to speak to the trainer right away. I was pretty concerned about it, especially when they took me to the X-ray room. That's when I got pretty nervous. But I'm glad everything is all right."

The Jets expect big things from Williams, especially with Sheldon Richardson due to miss the first four games because of a substance-abuse suspension. The starting defensive line figures to be Muhammad Wilkerson, Damon Harrison and Williams.

Williams spent Monday's practice in the rehab area, working with the other injured players. Missing practice is "a little bit of a setback," he said. He shouldn't be too concerned, though, because he's not

falling behind. This is a 'tweener week, as they're between training camp and the regular season. In fact, several starters were given rest days on Monday.

Todd Bowles admitted he's relieved Williams didn't have a serious injury.

"I'm hopeful for Week 1," he said. "He said he's getting better by the day. When I see him running, I'll feel a lot better. Right now, he's walking pretty good."

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### **Jets rookie DE Leonard Williams (knee) sits out practice (Rich Cimini)**

ESPN New York

August 31, 2015

[http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/\\_id/53686/jets-rookie-de-leonard-williams-knee-sits-out-practice](http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/_id/53686/jets-rookie-de-leonard-williams-knee-sits-out-practice)

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. -- Rookie defensive end Leonard Williams, who strained a muscle behind his right knee on Saturday night, wasn't practicing Monday when the New York Jets returned to work after an off day.

The Jets' prized No. 1 pick, wearing a compression sleeve on his knee, joined other injured players in the rehab area. He went through light agility drills, which is a good sign. Players with significant injuries usually don't make it out to the rehab area, staying in the trainers' room.

This isn't thought to be a long-term injury -- there's no ligament damage -- but Williams will be in a race against the clock to get ready for the season opener in 13 days. The Jets are hopeful he will be ready.

After reviewing the game tape, Williams apparently suffered a non-contact injury. He was rushing the quarterback in the second quarter when his right foot appeared to grab the turf, causing his knee to buckle ever so slightly -- at least that's what was visible on tape. We haven't heard from Williams yet.

In other injury news, wide receiver Jeremy Kerley (concussion), linebacker Calvin Pace (groin) tight end Jace Amaro (shoulder), cornerback Dee Milliner (wrist), linebacker Erin Henderson (knee) and tackle Ben Ijalana (knee) were among those not expected to practice.

Rookie linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin (sprained knee), who didn't play against the New York Giants, was wearing a helmet in the rehab area -- an indication he could be close to returning to practice. Quarterback Geno Smith (broken jaw) -- still not wearing a helmet -- did some light throwing. He's a few weeks away from returning.

One note with regard to practice: Training camp is over, which means there are no public practices. The Jets are in regular-season mode, which means they're required by the league to open practice to reporters for only 30 minutes. As a result, there won't be any details from practice except for injury updates.

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### **Thumbs-up for Jets QB Ryan Fitzpatrick (Rich Cimini)**

ESPN New York

August 31, 2015

[http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/\\_id/53668/jets-qb-ryan-fitzpatrick-a-thumbs-up-so-far](http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/_id/53668/jets-qb-ryan-fitzpatrick-a-thumbs-up-so-far)

A quick observation of quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick and how he has played in preparation for the season opener on Sept. 13 against the Cleveland Browns:

For the first two weeks of training camp, Fitzpatrick was the quintessential veteran backup, receiving no practice reps with the starters but supporting Geno Smith. Everything changed in a nanosecond, when IK Enemkपालi slugged Smith in the face, breaking his jaw. Just like that, Fitzpatrick was the starter.

Fitzpatrick has handled the unexpected change extremely well. He has improved each week, creating positive momentum on offense as they head into the season opener. In 12 possessions, he hasn't committed a single turnover -- no small feat if you've studied the Jets' quarterbacks in recent years. He has completed 68 percent of his passes, with two touchdowns, no interceptions and a 106.4 passer rating.

He worked previously under offensive coordinator Chan Gailey, reducing the learning curve. Not many quarterbacks could've stepped into the job as seamlessly as Fitzpatrick, but his familiarity with Gailey's system has helped tremendously. He knows the offense cold, and the players respect that. They also like his even-keeled demeanor and his vast experience in the league; he's starting for his sixth team.

Fitzpatrick delivers the ball quickly and on time, if not with a lot of zip. Clearly, there's a dropoff in arm strength from Smith to Fitzpatrick, but the Jets are hoping Fitzpatrick's savvy can make up the difference. They may have uncovered something Saturday night against the New York Giants, moving the pocket and allowing him to throw on the run. It worked well.

But hold the parade; preseason performances can be deceiving. He has faced only 4-3 defenses in the preseason, three teams that didn't blitz much and kept it fairly vanilla. That won't be the case against the Browns, a 3-4 base defense with exotic pressure packages. They also won't be afraid to challenge receivers on the outside.

Fitzpatrick did as well as could be expected in the preseason, considering the upheaval at the position, but there's a reason why he has bounced around the NFL. He's not a franchise-caliber quarterback, but he can be the right guy for the Jets if he makes good decisions and manages the game. It's not like he's replacing a Manning brother.

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#### **With Ryan Fitzpatrick sitting, Matt Flynn should get nod in Jets' finale (Rich Cimini)**

ESPN New York

August 31, 2015

[http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/\\_/id/53686/jets-rookie-de-leonard-williams-knee-sits-out-practice](http://espn.go.com/blog/new-york-jets/post/_/id/53686/jets-rookie-de-leonard-williams-knee-sits-out-practice)

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. -- There will be no drum roll for this quarterback announcement, that's for sure.

Bryce Petty or Matt Flynn?

Todd Bowles said Monday he hasn't decided which quarterback will start for the New York Jets in the preseason finale Thursday night against the Philadelphia Eagles. We know it won't be Ryan Fitzpatrick, who will get the night off, as will most of the starters.

"As much as (Petty) needs playing time, I need to see those other two guys play, too," said Bowles, referring to Flynn and Josh Johnson.

The smart decision: Start Flynn.

If the plan is to make him the No. 2 quarterback for opening day -- that's why they signed him, right? -- the Jets have to get him some work against the Eagles. Flynn, who pulled a hamstring while training before camp, practiced Monday for the first time since signing with the Jets on Aug. 18. Come to think of it, it was his first practice since last season with the Green Bay Packers.

Flynn has been watching for two weeks, playing the role of sponge -- absorbing the playbook and the wisdom of Chan Gailey. The man is rusty; he played only 67 snaps last season as Aaron Rodgers' caddie. Flynn needs to play, and it might as well be the first half against the Eagles. It wouldn't be quality time -- he'd be surrounded by backups on both sides of the ball -- but it's the best time they've got left.

The development of Petty has to be set aside, because the regular-season is only 13 days away. Besides, Petty can play the second half, along with Josh Johnson. Petty has had plenty of work in the preseason -- 27-for-45, 260 yards, one touchdown, no interceptions.

It's hard to keep track of the Jets' quarterbacks, isn't it? Things got crazy on Aug. 11, when Geno Smith was punched in the face by then-teammate Ikemefuna Enemkpali. Fitzpatrick was elevated to No. 1, but there was a void at No. 2 -- no one with experience. Petty has upside, but he's not ready to be the No. 2, at least not in Week 1 against the Cleveland Browns.

"I would definitely expect to get snaps (on Thursday)," Flynn said. "I don't know how they're going to break it up."

Bowles confirmed that Flynn will play, barring a hamstring setback in practice. Johnson, signed last week as an emergency option, also could play. They added him, Bowles explained, because there was uncertainty with Flynn's hamstring.

"Obviously, they liked what they saw," Johnson said, referring to his workout last week. "Now it's an opportunity to go in the game and show what I can do."

The fourth preseason game is a Backup Bowl, populated by players on the bottom half of the roster. As Flynn said, "I've played in a lot of preseason games and a lot of fourth preseason games. It always seems the fourth game is the most fun, just because a lot of guys are fighting for their lives out there."

Flynn is one of those guys, and the Jets have to find out if he's a worthy insurance policy -- at least until Smith's jaw is healed.

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## **NEW YORK POST**

### **Jets' Sheldon Richardson going to trial in drag-race case (Zach Braziller)**

New York Post

August 31, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/08/31/jets-sheldon-richardson-going-to-trial-in-drag-race-case/>

Jets defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson pleaded not guilty Monday to resisting arrest and other charges connected to an incident in mid-July, defense attorney of record Scott Rosenblum confirmed, and appears headed to court to answer for the stunning high-speed cop chase.

A pre-trial hearing has been set for Oct. 5 — the day after Richardson finished serving a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy for testing positive for marijuana use.

He faces a misdemeanor charge with a penalty of up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Richardson was not at the arraignment at the St. Charles County Circuit Court in St. Louis, represented by attorney Matthew D. Fry.

The 24-year-old Richardson was arrested July 14 after resisting arrest during a high-speed, late-night road race. He has been accused of driving up to 143 mph as he attempted to elude police. He had a 12-year-old child in the car with him at the time.

After police stopped Richardson, they found a loaded handgun under the floor mat on the driver's side, and noted a "very strong odor of burned marijuana."

Richardson owned the gun legally and prosecutors said there wasn't enough evidence to charge Richardson with drug possession (no marijuana was found in the vehicle) or child endangerment.

The league has yet to announce any further discipline for this latest incident.

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### **Who is Geno Smith's real competition? Jets soon to find out (George Willis)**

New York Post

September 1, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/09/01/who-is-genos-smiths-real-competition-jets-soon-to-find-out/>

Geno Smith threw the football as if it were the game-winning touchdown in the Super Bowl. Each pass he fired was a 100 mph heater, all into a net. Pass after pass was thrown as hard as he could.

The rest of the quarterbacks seemed to be saving their best stuff for team drills or perhaps favored accuracy over velocity. But Smith — broken jaw and all — seemed intent on showcasing his strong arm even if his spirals were being caught by nylon.

Perhaps he was making a statement, trying to remind teammates and onlookers he still has the strongest arm on the roster. Or maybe he was just making the most of his few reps, knowing he wasn't wearing a helmet and is expected to miss the first four games of the regular season.

But the urgency with which he worked suggested he was among the quarterbacks whose career is on the line Thursday night when the Jets face the Eagles at MetLife Stadium in their final preseason game. It isn't for Smith, but it figures to be the final game for at least one of the Jets' two recently signed veteran quarterbacks who have three practices to get ready for Thursday's game.

Rookie Bryce Petty and newly acquired vets Matt Flynn and Josh Johnson will get the bulk of the action as the Jets try to figure out a hierarchy behind starter Ryan Fitzpatrick. Flynn and Johnson practiced with the Jets for the first time Monday.

"It's tough for a quarterback to come in without much time, not much familiarity between receivers and tight ends and running backs," Fitzpatrick said. "But those two guys are veterans. They've played football. They've been in a lot of different offenses. So hopefully, they'll be able to pick it up well."

Flynn, a seven-year veteran signed on Aug. 19, figures to be the front-runner for the backup job. But he hadn't practiced until Monday because of a sore hamstring. As insurance in case Flynn isn't ready, the Jets added Johnson, another seven-year vet, who was cut last weekend by the Bengals.

"I definitely expect to get snaps," Flynn, 30, said of the preseason finale. "I don't know how they're going to break it up. [You] take advantage of what you get."

It's not an ideal situation. If Smith had not suffered a broken jaw and played in the previous three preseason games, Fitzpatrick and Petty would be sharing the bulk of snaps Thursday, which would have been valuable experience for Petty, the rookie fourth-round pick from Baylor. But his development will be compromised as the Jets rush to get Flynn and Johnson their reps.

"Whatever the situation is doesn't matter," said Flynn, 30, who has now played for seven organizations. "I'm trying to play the best I can. I try to execute plays and let other people make decisions."

Johnson, 29, is the long shot, but is looking forward to the chance to look good Thursday.

“All I can control is what I do,” said Johnson, playing on his fifth different team. “An opportunity is all you can ask for as a player. It’s been a crazy week, getting released last Tuesday, working out Wednesday and getting signed. It’s an opportunity. That’s all I can look for.”

The Jets have endured their own craziness when it comes to their quarterback situation. Smith declined requests to be interviewed on Monday, waving off reporters while every other quarterback in the locker room talked about the ripple effect of his busted jaw.

Keeping four quarterbacks is hardly ideal for the Jets and hurts depth at other positions. But it’s a necessary evil to keep Smith for now and Petty for the future.

As long as Fitzpatrick is the starter, Smith and his strong arm will have to compete for the backup job when he is cleared to return. Whether that will be against Flynn or Johnson could depend on what happens Thursday.

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### **Jets think 3-headed monster can pulverize opponents (Zach Braziller)**

New York Post

August 31, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/08/31/jets-think-3-headed-monster-can-pulverize-opponents/>

There is a new All-Pro toy in wide receiver Brandon Marshall, and an imaginative offensive coordinator in Chan Gailey. And, yet, if Saturday’s preseason victory over the Giants is any indication, the Jets’ ground attack will be their bread and butter, a straight ahead, north-south style of running intended to wear opponents down.

“We plan to be physical. That’s the only way we’re going to be successful, if we’re physical and we set the tone and we kind of lead the way,” offensive guard Willie Colon said. “That’s our mindset.”

The contest against the Giants was an example of how the Jets would like to play — fast and physical. Chris Ivory averaged 6.3 yards (38 yards on six touches) against the Giants’ first-team defense, opening up the passing attack for quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick and Co. Ivory, having a very strong summer, was just as effective the previous week against the Falcons, pounding out 36 yards on five carries.

“When we’re able to run the ball like that, I think any team when you’re able to run the ball, it makes everybody’s job easier,” said Fitzpatrick, who used the ground attack in his favor, keeping the Giants off-balance with play-action. “Up front, I know that our guys enjoy that, kind of imposing their will on the other team.

“We’ve got some really good running backs here. They’ve shown a lot this preseason and throughout their careers. So it will be a big focus for us this year.”

The Jets have versatility in the backfield. Ivory presents a mix of power and surprising speed, Bilal Powell is the change-of-pace back who catches the ball well out of the backfield, and newcomer Zac Stacy could be used in short-yardage situations. Former Patriot Stevan Ridley (hamstring), on the physically-unable-to-perform (PUP) list, could factor in at some point.

The 27-year-old Ivory is the unquestioned starter, a bull of a back who averaging 4.1 yards a year ago and scored six touchdowns. He delivers punishment instead of taking it, the kind of attitude the Jets offensive line wants to play with all season long.

“That’s the way Chris runs, since he’s been a Jet,” Colon said. “He runs physical, he blocks physical. He’s one of those guys who flat out gets after it when he’s out there. We try to complement him when we’re all together.”

The Jets have the potential to feature a bruising offensive line, one that may be somewhat long in the tooth — the members have been in the league an average of 8.6 years — but has experience on its side. It hopes to receive a boost from the additions of 26-year-old free-agent signee James Carpenter — formerly of the Seahawks — at left guard, who joins mainstays and perennial Pro Bowl candidates Nick Mangold at center and D’Brickashaw Ferguson at left tackle.

“It’s a group that I’m very confident with,” Fitzpatrick said.

“We plan to run the ball, we plan to set the tempo,” Colon said. “If we out-physical teams — we want it to be kind of our thing, our swag. If we’re able to do that, we should be successful.”

Mangold cautioned about reading too much into a preseason game, saying “there is still plenty to clean up.” But it was the kind of performance that eased some concerns about the offense, and perhaps offered a sneak peek into what the group can do, beginning Sept. 13 against the Browns.

“It was forward progress,” Jets coach Todd Bowles said. “From the first day of camp to where we’ve come to now, you want to see progress, and they’ve showed progression. Those guys took the bull by the horns and they led us out there.”

“They made some good plays. They made a bunch of good blocks, and they really played like a team. That’s what you want to see.”

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## **NJ ADVANCE MEDIA**

**Jets injury update from Monday’s practice: Leonard Williams, James Carpenter, Jeremy Kerely (Darryl Slater)**

NJ Advance Media

August 31, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/jets\\_injury\\_update\\_from\\_mondays\\_practice\\_leonard\\_w.ht ml#incart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/jets_injury_update_from_mondays_practice_leonard_w.ht ml#incart_river)

FLORHAM PARK — The Jets are into regular season practice mode, at least in terms of how much action reporters are allowed to observe.

Just the first half hour of practice is open, so we can at least see who is working in the rehab area, and who isn’t.

Here’s the injury rundown from Monday, as we watched the rehab area:

(You’ll notice that quarterback Geno Smith, who is returning from a broken jaw, isn’t on this list. He didn’t start Monday’s practice in the rehab area. He did some light pre-practice throwing with the other quarterbacks. During a special teams period that reporters are allowed to observe, Smith did a basic drill in which the quarterbacks took snaps from the centers. This by no means indicates Smith was about to take part in team periods Monday. He’s still not ready for that.)

- DE Leonard Williams (knee): He got hurt Saturday night against the Giants, but it’s not a serious, long-term injury. Just a muscle strain. He wasn’t going to play in Thursday’s preseason finale against the Eagles anyway. Will he be ready for the Sept. 13 opener against the Browns? That’s still unclear. On Monday, he did some leg exercises in the rehab area while wearing a light brace/sleeve on his right knee.

- OLB Lorenzo Mauldin (knee): He has a knee sprain, and it's not clear whether he'll be ready for Week 1. But he had his helmet in the rehab area Monday, which is a possible indication that maybe he would get some work in practice. We'll have to check with coach Todd Bowles on this later.
- OLB Calvin Pace (groin): Bowles said on Saturday that Pace will be ready for Week 1. Even if he was healthy, he wouldn't play against the Eagles anyway. He rode a stationary bike in the rehab area Monday. No reason to push Pace this week.
- LG James Carpenter (unclear): He played the entire time with the starters against the Giants, so we don't know what's up with him. But he started Monday's practice in the rehab area, and then headed inside.
- DE Muhammad Wilkerson (hamstring): He came out of the Giants game fine, Bowles said. It was his first game of this preseason. Wilkerson got a little work in the rehab area (nothing major) before joining practice Monday. So he's OK. He got 26 snaps against the Giants.
- WR Devin Smith (ribs): He's still not close to fully returning from those broken ribs. But he wore a red (non-contact) jersey Monday, an indication that he might once again get some action in position drills. During a special teams period, Smith caught balls fired from a Jugs machine on the side field.
- WR Jeremy Kerley (concussion): Kerley did some light running Monday. He didn't play against the Giants because of this concussion.
- TE Jace Amaro (shoulder): He still appears no closer to returning to practice. His status for Week 1 seems very much in question.
- CB Dee Milliner (wrist): He's still out. Might he land on short-term injured reserve?
- RB Stevan Ridley (knee): He's still on the physically unable to perform list. It seems likely he'll start the season there. He did some lateral shuffling work, at a decent rate of speed, in the rehab area Monday. Don't read too much into that, though. Bowles wants to see him do more serious cutting.
- LT Ben Ijalana (knee): It's also not clear if the backup left tackle will be ready for the Browns game. He is recovering from a sprained MCL.
- CB Dashaun Phillips (ribs): He is an extreme long shot to make the Jets' final, 53-man roster, which must be determined by Saturday afternoon.
- ILB Erin Henderson (knee): The backup middle linebacker also has an MCL sprain. Will he be ready for the opener? That's not clear. He did some light running in the rehab area Monday — a sign of progress for him.
- DE Ronald Talley (groin): He played 23 snaps against the Giants, but was getting some rehab area work on Monday nonetheless.
- DE Kevin Vickerson (hamstring): He wasn't active for the Giants game.

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#### **Jets' Sheldon Richardson pleads not guilty to resisting arrest (Dom Cosentino)**

NJ Advanced Media

August 29, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/will\\_jets\\_keep\\_a\\_fullback.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/will_jets_keep_a_fullback.html#incart_river)

FLORHAM PARK — A hearing for Jets defensive end Sheldon Richardson on charges of resisting arrest and related traffic offenses has been continued till Oct. 5, according to a court official in St. Charles County (Mo.).

Richardson, who allegedly was clocked driving his Bentley 143 mph in a road race back on July 14, did not appear in court, but was represented by his attorney, Matthew Fry.

A court administrator said Richardson did not enter a plea Monday, but N. Scott Rosenblum, the president and principal founder of Fry's firm, confirmed to NJ Advance Media that Richardson has pleaded not guilty.

Monday's hearing was continued because Richardson's defense team just got discovery materials, Rosenblum added.

Oct. 5 also happens to be the first day Richardson can return to the Jets following his league-mandated four-game suspension. More on that in a bit.

Resisting arrest is a misdemeanor under Missouri law, but one that carries a punishment of up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Oct. 5 is not a trial date. It is simply the next date for a pre-trial hearing.

Richardson, 24, allegedly sped away from police during the incident, and cops found a loaded gun and a 12-year-old child in the vehicle, which also allegedly smelled like burnt marijuana.

The gun was registered, and prosecutors later determined there wasn't enough evidence to charge Richardson for the drug and child endangerment offenses.

Two weeks before the incident for which Richardson was charged, the NFL suspended him for the first four games of the regular season for violating its drug policy. Richardson may still face additional discipline from the league. He had also concealed his arrest from the Jets.

Oct. 5 is the date after the Jets play the Dolphins in London. It's also the first day of their bye week. During Richardson's suspension, he is permitted to work out at the team facility and to participate in meetings. He just can't practice and play.

"It's going to be rough," Richardson said of his suspension, which takes effect next week.

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#### **Does Todd Bowles have statistical goals for Jets this season? (Dom Cosentino)**

NJ Advance Media

August 31, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does\\_todd\\_bowles\\_have\\_statistical\\_goals\\_for\\_jets\\_t.html#ncart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does_todd_bowles_have_statistical_goals_for_jets_t.html#ncart_river)

Rex Ryan, when he was the actual head coach of the Jets and not a Bills head coach trying to recreate the Jets, often liked to predict the Jets would have a top five defense, which he often did.

But Todd Bowles, the current head coach of the Jets, isn't so concerned with statistical aspirations. He says they can be "misleading."

And he's right.

"Statistical goals are a false lead," Bowles said. "If you're offense isn't moving the ball and they're running for a bunch of yards and they're not throwing the ball, your pass defense is going to be good. If your defense is on the field all day and they're airing it out, offensively, your run game is going to be bad because you're trying to throw to catch up all the time."

In six seasons under Ryan, the Jets' defense ranked first, third, fifth, eighth, 11th, and sixth in total defense. But the Jets missed the playoffs in the last four of those seasons, including last year's 4-12 capsizing. Last year, the Jets were dead last in takeaways (13). The year before, they were 31st (15).

And according to Football Outsiders' Weighted Defense metric, an efficiency rating that factors in that games earlier in the season gradually become less important, the Jets' defense ranked 22nd last year and 16th in 2013, both of which seem about right.

The Jets' defense had a giant hole at cornerback last year, but management addressed that issue and filled out the entire roster with plenty of depth. The defense under Bowles—whose hallmark was an aggressive, attacking style with the Cardinals, where he had been the defensive coordinator—figures to be the Jets' biggest strength this year.

"Being first or 31st, you want to be good but you want to be good in certain categories," Bowles said. "For me, certain categories define how good and how efficient we can be. So, statistical goals? No. It comes with all of the other things that you try to do and if you get them, great."

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#### **Jets' Bryce Petty had a funny response after Giants game to his troubling opinions about pizza (Darryl Slater)**

NJ Advance Media

August 31, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/bryce\\_petty\\_pizza\\_jets\\_quarterback.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/bryce_petty_pizza_jets_quarterback.html#incart_river)

Jets rookie quarterback Bryce Petty did some things on the football field Saturday night against the Giants.

And that was all well and good.

In particular, Petty said, he needs to improve — among a bunch of other stuff — with recognizing defensive alignments before the snap.

Petty was sacked once Saturday, and he said it was his fault, because he didn't recognize the blitz the Giants were about to bring. If he had, he would have adjusted his offensive line protection accordingly before he called for the snap. This is all part of his rookie learning curve.

"I've got to see things now," Petty said. "That's the kind of stuff I've got to learn. I've got to take those hits and be like, 'All right, if I don't want to get hit like that, I've got to pick that [blitz] up.'"

"I saw that look in practice. I saw that look on the film. And then I saw it in the game, and I didn't do it. That's the next step — being able to see it in the film room and at practice, and then transition that to the field out here."

OK, that's all interesting enough, and Petty did a fine job of providing some insight there.

But what we really wanted to know after Jets-Giants was what Petty thought about his recent pizza fiasco on Twitter.

If you missed it, Petty praised a certain (particularly putrid) chain pizza joint — and promptly drew scolding (and suggestions) from his followers. Petty was stunned by the feverish reaction to his innocuous tweet. Though it didn't really bother him in the slightest. He was more amused by it all.

"Ah, man," he said with a smile. "Can you believe that? Oh my God. I'm just a small-town kid from Waco, and all I was saying was there was a commercial that was saying that you can text an emoji to Domino's [to order a pizza]. And it was like, 'Oh, gosh.'"

"You know what? Out of all the things that I could be grilled on, I think pizza is pretty funny. It just shows you how passionate people are about pizza. You know what? Those are my friends. Because if you're passionate about food, we're going to get along."

"It was a learning curve. Like I said, we're always learning. So I've got about 600 mentions in my Twitter that I can go find some decent pizza around here. So we're going to have little adventures, I guess, here."

Petty attended Baylor, which is located in Waco, Texas. What was his go-to pizza place down there?

"The go-to is Domino's," he said with a laugh. "I don't think it's bad pizza. I think it's great pizza."

Sigh.

Anyway, Petty is a nice, earnest young man who has a good sense of humor about this whole pizza thing.

And Petty surely won't maintain his opinion about chain pizza after trying a slice in the New York/New Jersey area. He said he hasn't gotten a chance to do that yet, but is looking forward to digging into your suggestions. (You can find him on Twitter under the handle @b\_petty14.)

"I guess I'm learning here," he said. "If you guys want to tweet out your favorites, I'll be sure to look at them."

As we told Petty after the game, if he's seeking a good pie near the Jets' facility in Florham Park, Pete's in Morristown is quite good, and so is Nonna's in Florham Park.

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#### **5 Todd Bowles Jets takeaways: RG3, Eric Decker, Devin Smith (Dom Cosentino)**

NJ Advance Media

August 31, 2015

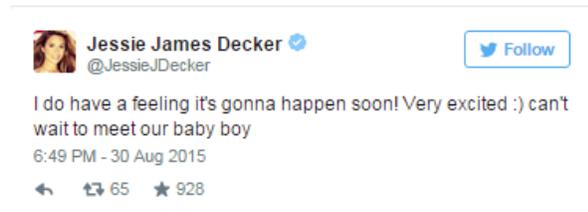
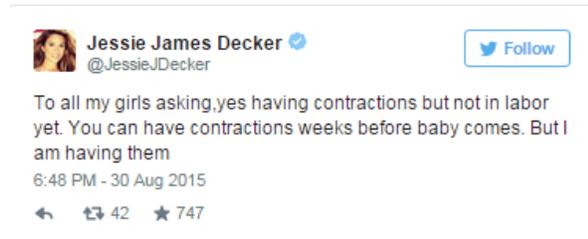
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FLORHAM PARK — Training camp is done. The Jets have made 12 of the 15 cuts they're required to make by Tuesday. There's one preseason game left.

It's also a short week heading into Thursday's fourth and final preseason game against the Eagles at MetLife Stadium. Head coach Todd Bowles, as he does every day, addressed reporters after practice. A quick rundown of what he had to say:

1. Will the starters play against the Eagles? Bowles said he was "leaning toward some" starters playing, though he provided no specifics except to say starting quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick would not play. My take: Bowles just doesn't want to give much info away about who may or may not play, and he wants some starters to be ready, just in case. Last week against the Giants, the starters got their best opportunity of the preseason. But the injury risk for most starters wouldn't be worth giving it a go on Thursday.
2. Which quarterbacks will play? "I'm working on that right now," Bowles said. On one hand, he wants rookie Bryce Petty to get as many reps as possible against opponents. On the other hand, the Jets just recently brought in Matt Flynn and Josh Johnson as veterans to be Fitzpatrick's backup—at least until Geno Smith's broken jaw is healed. The issue is how to divide up the time amongst the three of them.
3. What about Robert Griffin III? Bowles wouldn't touch a question about the now-benched Washington quarterback with a 10-foot pole. He couldn't, really, without opening himself up to a tampering charge, since Griffin is still under contract, even though he's been benched. "He's on the Redskins, and we've got our guys right now," Bowles said. "That's not my concern."
4. Devin Smith's progress. Smith (broken ribs) has been in uniform at practice, but the rookie wide receiver has only been "jogging around," according to Bowles, and hasn't been able to go full speed. "I haven't seen any progress," Bowles said. Smith has been out since July 31. The initial prognosis was that he would be out until the end of training camp.

5. Eric Decker's absence. Decker, the veteran wide receiver, was not at practice for what Bowles said was a personal reason. From the looks of it, Decker's wife is about to give birth to their second child:



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### Why Jets' Matt Flynn isn't worried, despite limited work, about entering Week 1 as No. 2 quarterback (Darryl Slater)

NJ Advance Media

August 31, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does\\_todd\\_bowles\\_have\\_statistical\\_goals\\_for\\_jets\\_t.html#i\\_ncart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does_todd_bowles_have_statistical_goals_for_jets_t.html#i_ncart_river)

FLORHAM PARK — There are no guarantees that Matt Flynn will be Jets quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick's backup in the Sept. 13 season opener against the Browns.

Flynn knows that. He knows the Jets, after Thursday's preseason finale against the Eagles, could opt to cut him and instead keep Josh Johnson on the 53-man roster.

But presuming Flynn is the Week 1 No. 2 quarterback, he isn't concerned about having that role after getting such limited work in this preseason, due to his hamstring injury.

"I don't think so," he said. "I'm not going to start talking about anything past this week, because nothing is guaranteed in this league. I think the years and experience I have in the NFL, just running football plays, is going to hopefully let me catch up."

The Jets signed Flynn on Aug. 19. As he rehabbed his hamstring, he missed the past two preseason games, against the Falcons and Giants. On Monday, Flynn fully participated in practice, with no limitations, for the first time with the Jets. Flynn said his hamstring is feeling "a lot better."

Jets coach Todd Bowles said he isn't sure who will start against the Eagles, but he wants to get a long look at Flynn and Johnson. It's not clear yet how the Flynn/Johnson playing time split will work. (Fitzpatrick won't play against the Eagles.)

Say the Jets keep Flynn over Johnson (though that's not a lock). That means Flynn would enter Week 1 with precious little practice or game experience. He wouldn't have had a lot of time to learn coordinator Chan Gailey's offense, either.

Of course, the same is true for Johnson, whom the Jets signed on Thursday. He will also make his game debut against the Eagles.

Flynn said there are some adjustments to learning Gailey's offense, compared to previous schemes he's played in since he entered the NFL in 2008.

"I think I have a good feel for the offense," Flynn said. "Learning it on paper, and learning it on the field is a different story. You need repetitions. It's going to be a little bit of a change."

The biggest new things for Flynn, in Gailey's system, involve reads and the way receivers run routes, he said.

Flynn is more experienced than Johnson. He has 53 games played (with seven starts), compared to Johnson's 29 games and five starts. But Flynn hasn't appeared in a game since he threw one pass in the Packers' 2014 regular season finale.

"It'll be good to get out there [on Thursday]," he said. "I haven't taken many actual football reps since the end of last season. That's going to be nice."

He punted on a question about competing with Johnson for a roster spot.

"I've just got to knock a lot of rust off," he said. "I've got to kind of focus on what I do, and not let there be many cobwebs."

As for whether he is battling to keep his career going, he said, "I don't look at it that way."

He did say he enjoys the backup-filled fourth preseason game, because it is highly competitive, among the roster fringe players on the field.

"A lot of guys fighting for their lives out there," he said.

(Of course, Flynn has made way more money than most of those guys. Flynn got \$14.5 million in guaranteed pay from Seattle and Oakland in 2012 and 2013, for five total games played and one start. The Jets are his fourth organization since the Raiders cut him in October of 2013.)

But Flynn doesn't consider Thursday's Eagles-Jets game an audition for him, as he tries to show the coaches he is worth keeping over Johnson?

"No, I consider it a game," he said. "I'll play the best I can and let them make the decisions."

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#### **How does Jeremy Kerley react when people say Jets should trade him? (Darryl Slater)**

NJ Advance Media

September 1, 2015

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does\\_todd\\_bowles\\_have\\_statistical\\_goals\\_for\\_jets\\_t.html#i\\_ncart\\_river](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/08/does_todd_bowles_have_statistical_goals_for_jets_t.html#i_ncart_river)

FLORHAM PARK — Wide receiver Jeremy Kerley isn't worried about the Jets possibly trading him, though that move seems unlikely at this point, for several reasons.

"Nah, I don't think about none of that stuff," Kerley said Monday. "Whatever happens is what happens. I'm not worried about it one way or another. My job is to play football. That's something I'm going to do here or wherever I'm at."

Kerley entered this summer as the Jets' No. 3 receiver, a fixture in the slot in recent years. But the Jets have given second-year pro Quincy Enunwa more time as the No. 3 receiver this preseason.

There are a couple reasons for this.

The coaches needed to take a longer look at Enunwa, who spent almost all of last season on the practice squad. Todd Bowles and Co. obviously liked what they saw from Enunwa, who really had no film to evaluate from last season.

Also, Enunwa is a bigger player than Kerley — 6-foot-2 and 225 pounds, compared to Kerley's 5-foot-9 and 188 pounds. Enunwa can be a more effective blocker out of the slot, functioning as sort of a hybrid receiver/tight end.

Remember, one of the Jets' top two tight ends, Jace Amaro, is out with a shoulder sprain and might not be ready for the Sept. 13 season opener against the Browns.

"He's kind of a tweener," Bowles said of Enunwa. "It gives the opposition a problem as to what they're going to play in the game, whether it's base or whether it's sub."

A team's base defense typically has bigger players. A substitute/nickel package generally uses smaller, faster players who can better defend a likely passing play.

If the opposition uses the sub package, Bowles said, Enunwa "can go ahead and block some of the smaller guys," if the Jets decide to run the ball or throw to another receiver.

"If it's base, hopefully he can outrun some of the bigger guys," Bowles said. "He's a kind of interesting guy that can do both, so we're trying to maximize all of the use we can get out of his talents."

Because of the unique skills Enunwa can offer, it makes sense that the coaches wanted to get a thorough evaluation of him this summer. By all accounts, he has fared well.

None of this means Kerley is finished with the Jets.

First, he is a proven player — much more so than Enunwa. Kerley — who has 166 catches, 2,073 receiving yards, and seven touchdown catches in four seasons — could still see significant action as a slot receiver and punt returner this season, once he returns from his concussion.

"Whatever is asked of me, that's what I'm going to do," Kerley said. "Wherever that takes me, is where it takes me. I'd actually say [this was] one of my better camps. I feel like I've definitely gotten myself better. I'm not shy of competition. I've never been shy of competition. I'm not just a competitor in football. I'm a competitor at life."

The concussion, which he sustained in preseason game No. 2, against the Falcons, sidelined him for last week's game against the Giants. The concussion's timing wasn't great for Kerley, since he's been battling for playing time with Enunwa.

"It's unfortunate that it happened when it did happen," Kerley said, adding that he would "definitely" be ready for Week 1. "I'm almost there [with recovering from the concussion]. I'm trying to get on the field as fast as I can, man. I'm feeling a lot better."

Not only is Kerley a good and proven enough player to still have a role for the Jets in 2015 — regardless of how the coaches decide to use Enunwa — there is also a financial aspect to Kerley sticking around Florham Park.

Last season, he signed a four-year contract extension that included \$5.4 million in guaranteed pay. He is under contract through 2018. His guaranteed pay included a \$3 million signing bonus and his \$2 million salary in 2015.

It would be foolish for the Jets to cut Kerley right now. If they did, he would count \$4.4 million in dead money against their 2015 salary cap — his 2015 salary, plus the \$2.4 million of remaining pro-rated signing bonus. Kerley's cap hit if he's on the Jets' roster in 2015 is \$2.6 million.

If the Jets traded Kerley, his dead money cap hit would drop to \$2.4 million, since his new team would take on that \$2 million in salary for 2015 (which would also be his cap hit with that new team). But a trade of Kerley would save the Jets just \$200,000 in cap room for 2015 (\$2.4 million, compared to \$2.6 million).

Getting rid of Kerley now wouldn't make a lot of sense, since he has a fairly low trade value, and also not a monster cap number in 2015 (that \$2.6 million). He's a solid enough player, but it's not like he's a star outside receiver who would command a lot in a trade.

The Jets' new coaching staff and front office ought to take this season, evaluate Enunwa and Kerley, and then weigh their options. Remember, Enunwa hasn't done anything in an NFL game yet.

Plus, Kerley's dead money next season, for a cut or trade, will drop to \$1.8 million, compared to a cap hit of \$3.1 million if he's on the team. So that's when the Jets could really start saving cap space by moving Kerley.

Of course, there's always the possibility Kerley puts together an impressive season in 2015, and it'll seem foolish that anybody was even talking about this stuff.

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## **NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**

### **Jets DE Sheldon Richardson pleads not guilty to resisting arrest charges from July's high-speed road race (Seth Walder)**

New York Daily News

August 31, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/jets-richardson-pleads-not-guilty-resisting-arrest-article-1.2343326>

Sheldon Richardson pleaded not guilty Monday to the resisting arrest charges and traffic violations facing him stemming from a July 14 incident in Missouri, according to multiple reports.

Richardson was not in court himself but was represented by his attorney, Matthew Fry. There will be a pre-trial hearing Oct. 5, according to St. Charles County Courthouse.

The Jets defensive lineman's charges stem from a July 14 incident in which police said he was driving in a high-speed road race and was clocked at 143 mph. A 12-year-old boy and two other adult men were in the car with Richardson, and it smelled like marijuana, according to authorities. A gun was in the car but was registered.

Richardson was charged with resisting arrest as a Class A misdemeanor, which could yield up to one year of jail time, though the Jets player has said he does not fear prison. He was also charged with multiple traffic violations. The prosecuting attorney elected not to charge for child endangerment or drug possession.

Before July 14, Richardson had already been suspended for four games for a failed marijuana test. He is awaiting discipline from the league for his latest incident.

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### **Jets WR Devin Smith can make fans forget about bust Stephen Hill (Manish Mehta)**

New York Daily News

August 31, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/mehta-jets-rookie-devin-smith-no-stephen-hill-article-1.2343750>

Devin Smith would like to make this abundantly clear: The new No. 84 is not the old No. 84, so please refrain from the lazy comparisons to historic Jets bust Stephen Hill.

“To be honest, I don’t even know who he is,” Smith told the Daily News. “I’m not worried about none of that. I’m just going to come in here and be Devin Smith. You’ll see me beat people deep. You’ll see me catch short passes. I play for the Jets.”

Hill no longer does after a two-year run that was a hot mess. The comparisons with the team’s latest second-round wide receiver were unavoidable. Although Smith has been sidelined since suffering broken ribs and a punctured lung after an awkward fall on an acrobatic catch on the second day of training camp, his skills translate in a way that Hill’s never did.

Smith won’t likely be ready for the Sept. 13 opener against the Browns, but there are plenty of reasons to believe that he won’t wind up on the junk pile like his predecessor.

The 6-3, 215-pound Hill looked the part, but the Jets were blinded by measurables without considering obvious shortcomings that made him a longshot to grow as a player. Although Smith isn’t nearly as physically intimidating at 5-11, 199 pounds, he has the requisite skill set to develop at the next level.

His athleticism will allow for big gains in important areas. The thinking is simple: Receivers with limited athleticism only make small, incremental route-running strides in the NFL if they’re lucky. Smith is athletic enough to significantly diversify his route-running portfolio. His solid hands and gift for tracking deep balls also give him an advantage over some young receivers. Most players who enter the league with bad hands don’t significantly improve in that area.

Smith should yield immediate returns when fully healthy by flying past defenders, but he’s adamant that he’s more than a one-trick pony with 4.38 speed.

“I’m an NFL receiver,” Smith said. “I don’t think they’ll really just say, ‘Oh, you’re just going to run deep routes.’ I’m going to do every single route in the route tree.... The thing is, I know how to run every single route. You give me any route, I can run it to perfection.”

Smith’s role for Urban Meyer at Ohio State wasn’t overly complicated: run deep and catch touchdowns. He finished his college career with 30 touchdowns and 20.7 yards per catch. He averaged 37.9 yards per score.

Those numbers have been a blessing and a curse for a guy who embraces the success that landed him in the second round, but wants to erase the stigma of just being a speedster.

“I was so good at going deep, that that’s what they wanted me to do,” Smith said. “And it worked every single time. I made plays. They want me to do that here, but I’m also an NFL receiver. So I’m just going to trust my training and do what I’ve done that got me to this point: running crisp plays, making plays and just be a baller. That’s what I plan on doing.”

Smith is still very much in catch-up mode in the wake of his injury. Although he’s been in meetings to absorb the overall offensive philosophy, it will take time to get back into the receiver rotation. He’s started working in positional drills last week, but won’t play in the preseason finale against the Eagles on Thursday. “We’re trying to keep him engaged with what we’re doing offensively, so that he knows that information,” wide receivers coach Karl Dorrell said. “Then he’s got to time up his game to the speed that we’re playing.”

The Jets have been careful not to needlessly accelerate his four-to-six week timetable for recovery even though they could use a home run hitter to stretch and stress defenses. It's more important to make sure he's fully healed so that he can eventually become a difference-maker.

Smith understands the end game, but he's eager to show that he can do more than run deep in a straight line. He's studied the all-time greats and his personal favorite now (Jeremy Mac-lin) to add to his repertoire.

He's supremely confident, but won't attach statistical goals to his rookie season. "When you worry about numbers too much, that's when you mess up," Smith said. "They gave me a route, I ran it. If the ball comes my way, catch it and do what I do. I feel like if you worry about your stats too much, 1) you're a selfish player and 2) I don't think you're going to have the year you think you're going to have... but you got to be able to do everything."

The new No. 84 won't be the next Stephen Hill. Not even close.

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#### **Leonard Williams says he'll be ready to go for Jets in season opener (Seth Walder)**

New York Daily News

August 31, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/jets-insider-williams-ready-season-opener-article-1.2343818>

Leonard Williams' knee injury is apparently so minor that the rookie has no doubt he'll be on the field when the Jets play the Browns on Sept. 13.

"I'll definitely be ready for Week 1," Williams said Monday. "(They) said it should be 5-7 days recovery."

An MRI on Sunday revealed that he had a muscle strain but no ligament damage, meaning it would not be a long-term injury. But until Williams spoke Monday, it wasn't quite clear that the injury was this mild.

Williams got hurt during the Jets' 28-18 preseason win against the Giants on Saturday. He admitted that he was initially scared it was severe.

"I was really concerned because I've never felt any pain in my knees before," he said. "Especially when they had to take me to the X-ray room, that's when I was like pretty nervous."

The X-rays were negative, but Williams said relief didn't come until Sunday when he got the MRI results.

With Sheldon Richardson suspended for at least the first four games of the season, Williams is expected to begin the season as a starter.

#### FINAL TUNEUP

Todd Bowles said he may use some starters in Thursday's preseason game against the Eagles, though he won't play Ryan Fitzpatrick.

He said he hasn't decided if Bryce Petty, Matt Flynn or Josh Johnson will start the game.

Flynn, who has been dealing with a hamstring injury, said he practiced fully on Monday and is ready to play Thursday....

Bowles said Geno Smith took some snaps on Monday but did not do anything full speed... The coach said it is possible that Dee Milliner will begin the season on the short-term IR list and that

Stevan Ridley could start the year on the PUP list.

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## **METRO NEW YORK**

### **Jets' Sheldon Richardson pleads not guilty (Kristian Dyer)**

Metro New York

August 31, 2015

<http://www.metro.us/new-york/jets-sheldon-richardson-pleads-not-guilty/zsJohE---MBXEeWpw1F7GY/>

Sheldon Richardson pleaded not-guilty on Monday to charges stemming from his July arrest, this as the New York Jets defensive lineman will now face a court date in early October.

Richardson, arrested several weeks before the start of training camp on counts ranging from speeding to drug possession did not attend Monday's hearing but had attorney Matthew Fry represent him including the entering of a plea. Richardson was at practice on Monday as the team gets ready for its final preseason game this Thursday night against the Philadelphia Eagles.

He was already facing a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

In the 'Probable Cause Statement' signed by the prosecutor's office for St. Charles County in Missouri, Richardson's vehicle was clocked at speeds "122, 135 and 143 miles per hour." The statement details the high-speed car chase in addition to the presence of a fully-loaded semi-automatic hand gun in his vehicle as well as a "very strong odor of burned marijuana emanating from the vehicle."

In his first public comments at the start of training camp where he addressed the league suspension but was before news of his arrest went public, Richardson declared that "I ain't no dope fiend." He has since admitted that he is in counseling.

His trial is set for Oct. 5 and Richardson could be facing a fine as well as jail time. The start of the legal proceedings coincides with the Jets bye week; his suspension from the team will conclude on Oct. 4th following the Jets game against the Miami Dolphins in London and then the team doesn't play again until Oct. 18th.

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### **Jets' rookie Leonard Williams says he'll be ready by Week 1 (Kristian Dyer)**

Metro New York

August 31, 2015

<http://www.metro.us/new-york/todd-bowles-brings-balance-to-jets/zsJoau---TWrYA6vQvYGbc/>

The giant sigh emanating from Jets nation on Monday was the news that defensive end Leonard Williams is not going to miss the start of the regular season after suffering a knee injury this past weekend.

Williams, who limped off the field in the second quarter and did not return to the New York Jets 28-18 win over the New York Giants on Saturday night, had an MRI on Sunday that revealed a muscle strain in his knee. He had concern, he says, because he has never suffered an injury like this before "other besides an ankle sprain or something like that."

The good news is that he should be ready when the Jets host the Cleveland Browns in their season opener.

"I'll definitely be ready by Week 1," Williams said on Monday. "They say it'll be about five to seven days recovery."

This is especially good news since the Jets will be without Sheldon Richardson for the first four games of the regular season with a league-mandated suspension for violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy. The team was also down defensive end Muhammad Wilkerson much of training camp with a hamstring injury.

Wilkerson did play against the Giants and shared a sack with linebacker Trevor Reilly.

As for Williams, the team's first round pick and the sixth player taken overall in the NFL Draft has looked impressive in training camp and preseason.

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### **Muhammed Wilkerson says he'll play Thursday against Eagles (Kristian Dyer)**

Metro New York

August 31, 2015

<http://www.metro.us/new-york/todd-bowles-brings-balance-to-jets/zsJoau--TWrYA6vQvYGbc/>

Muhammad Wilkerson will likely play for the New York Jets on Thursday night, the team's starting defensive end likely to get some snaps in what will be just his second game of preseason.

Having missed much of training camp and the first two preseason games with a hamstring injury, Wilkerson played parts of the first half in what would be the Jets 28-18 win over the New York Giants this past weekend. But even as the fourth game of preseason is often reserved for depth players and those trying to make the roster, Wilkerson likely will get rolled out against the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I'll be playing, yea, I think I'll be playing," Wilkerson told Metro on Monday.

It comes with a certain amount of risk should head coach Todd Bowles decide to give the nod to his All-Pro defensive end. The fourth game of preseason usually lacks starters let alone stars with coaches not wishing to see their most influential players be injured.

And in Wilkerson, there is certainly a star player; the Jets defensive end has been ranked in each of the past two years among the NFL Network's Top 100 players. But he needs reps and game situations to be ready for Week 1 against the Cleveland Browns.

When asked if he is 100 percent back yet from the hamstring, he admits he isn't there yet - but he isn't far away.

"I'm not all the way back yet," Wilkerson said. "But I'm getting better. Feeling better."

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## **SUNDAY'S SPORTS TRANSACTIONS**

### BASEBALL

#### American League

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent OF Aaron Hicks to Rochester (IL) for a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Optioned LHP Mike Montgomery to Tacoma (PCL). Recalled RHP Mayckol Guaipe to Tacoma.

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent C Carlos Corporan to Round Rock (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

#### National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Traded RHP Addison Reed to the N.Y. Mets for RHPs Miller Diaz and Matt Koch. Assigned Diaz to Visalia (Cal) and Koch to Mobile (SL). Optioned RHP Jhoulys Chacin and LHP Andrew Chafin to Reno (PCL). Called up RHPs Allen Webster and A.J. Schugel from Reno (PCL) and RHP Silvino Bracho from Mobile (SL).

NEW YORK METS — Recalled INF Wilfredo Tovar from Las Vegas (PCL). Optioned RHP Logan Verrett to Las Vegas (PCL).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Selected the contract of RHP Alec Asher from Lehigh Valley (IL). Claimed LHP Ken Roberts off waivers from Colorado and optioned him to Lehigh Valley (IL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Designated LHP Caleb Thielbar for assignment. Claimed LHP Chris Rearick off waivers from Texas and optioned him to San Antonio (TL).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Sent OF Angel Pagan to San Jose (Cal) for a rehab assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Sent 2B Dan Uggla to Hagerstown (SAL) for a rehab assignment.

American Association

GARY SOUTHSORE RAILCATS — Released LHP Michael Schroeder.

ST. PAUL SAINTS — Released OF Mitch Elliott.

WICHITA WINGNUTS — Released RHP Max Beatty and LHP Iden Nazario.

Atlantic League

LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed RHP Ricardo Gomez and INF Elmer Reyes.

Can-Am League

QUEBEC CAPITALES — Released RHP Jadd Schmeltzer.

ROCKLAND BOULDERS — Released LHP Austin Kirk and OF Stefen Henderson.

TROIS-RIVIERES AIGLES — Released LHPs Andrew Taylor and LHP Andrew Jessup.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived LB Boris Anyama, WR Marquez Clark, RB Michael Ford, WR John Harris, DT Warren Herring, NT Derrick Hopkins, OT Matt Huffer, CB Michael Lee, G Eric Lefeld, LB Terrell Manning, DE Sam Meredith, and C Valerian Ume-Ezeoke. Placed T Lamar Holmes on the PUP list. Released TE Mickey Shuler.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Terminated the contract of OT Tony Hills. Waived DE Steve Miller, LB Kevin Reddick, TE Dallas Walker, FB Lee Ward, P Matt Wile and WRs Paul Browning and Avius Capers.

CHICAGO BEARS — Terminated the contracts of CB Tim Jennings and RB Daniel Thomas. Placed S Ryan Mundy on injured reserve and WR Kevin White on the reserve/PUP list. Waived DB Malcolm Bronson, TEs Kevin Greene and Chris Pantale, T Cameron Jefferson, WR Jeremy Kelley, CB Al Louis-Jean, LS Rick Lovato, WR Levi Norwood and DE Olsen Pierre. Waived/injured WR John Chiles.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Waived LS Andrew East, TE Adam Schiltz, G Marcus Reed, OT Anthony Dima, CBs Kenneth Penny and Aaron Hester, OL Charles Tuuau, DE Vaughn Martin and WRs Kenny Cook, Jeret Smith and L'Damian Washington.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Released C J.D. Walton, TEs Gerell Robinson, DT Calvin Barnett, G Bryant Browning, WRs LaRon Byrd, Tyler McDonald and Kevin Cone, DE Ray Drew, DE Kendall Montgomery, CB Sammy Seamster and S Phillip Thomas.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Released RB Joe Banyard, TE Brandon Bostick, CBs Jalil carter and Justin Coleman, WRs DaVaris Daniels and Jordan Leslie, T Sephen Goodin, LB Josh Kaddu, DE Caesar Rayford, DT Chrishon Rose, CB DeMarcus Van Dyke.

NEW YORK JETS — Waived CB/KR Javier Arenas, OL James Brewer, C Dalton Freeman, LB Bryan Johnson, TE Matt LaCosse, CBs Curtis Brown and Keith Lewis and WRs DeVier Posey, T.J. Graham, Saalim Hakim, Austin Hill and Jonathon Rumph.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Released CB Marc Anthony; S Brandan Bishop; OL Mike Coccia, Kevin Graf and Jared Wheeler; DEs Alfy Hill and Jeremy Towns; WRs Mike Johnson, G.J. Kinne and Josh Reese; LB Dasman McCullum; and Justin Tukes.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Released CB Manny Asprilla, DL Cameron Botticelli, WR Titus Davis, RB Jahwan Edwards, LB Curtis Grant, T Forrestal Hickman, TE David Paulson, QB Chase Rettig, DL Luther Robinson and TE Logan Stokes. Waived/injured LB Brock Hekking.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Waived FB Joey Iosefa, RB Dominique Brown, DT Quayshawne Buckley, OL Antoine Everett, C Brandon Hartson, S Kimario McFadden, P Karl Schmitz, CB Al-Hajj Shabazz and DEs George Uko and Jamal Young.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Waived C Fernando Velasco, CB Will Brown, WRs Tebucky Jones and Deon Long, G Justin McCray, DE Derrick Lott, PK Mike Meyer and LBs Nate Askew, Dezmond Johnson and Chaz Sutton.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed T Trent Williams to a multiyear contract extension.

### SOCCER

Major League Soccer

MONTREAL IMPACT — Fired coach Frank Klopas. Named assistant coach Mauro Bello interim head coach.

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