



NEW YORK JETS DAILY CLIPS

November 3, 2015

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jets QB is TBA with Fitzpatrick, Smith dealing with injuries (Dennis Waszak)

Associated Press
November 2, 2015

<http://www.pro32.ap.org/article/jets-qb-tba-fitzpatrick-smith-dealing-injuries>

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Jets will have someone lined up at quarterback by the time they play the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

Todd Bowles just isn't sure who right now.

Ryan Fitzpatrick has at least one torn ligament in his left thumb and Geno Smith is dealing with a badly bruised left shoulder, leaving the Jets' quarterback situation in disarray. That means rookie Bryce Petty or perhaps someone not even on the team's roster as of Monday night could start the Jets' next game.

"The guys are pretty sore," Bowles said of Fitzpatrick and Smith. "I'll have a better feel come Wednesday."

That's when the Jets (4-3) next hit the practice field. With the NFL's trade deadline on Tuesday rapidly approaching, there's a possibility New York could add some help at quarterback via a deal or free agent signing.

"Yeah," Bowles said during a conference call, "we're looking at everything right now."

Both quarterbacks, hurt in Sunday's loss at Oakland, have a chance to play Sunday at home against Jacksonville, depending on how they heal during the week.

"I really think they're both in the same boat right now," Bowles said.

In the meantime, Bowles acknowledged that Petty will get snaps with the starters at practice, and he confirmed that re-signing Matt Flynn is a possibility after he spent time with the Jets in training camp.

An MRI exam Monday on Fitzpatrick's thumb revealed a torn ligament that will need surgery. Bowles said Fitzpatrick could potentially put it off until the offseason depending on his pain tolerance.

While it's not his throwing hand, Fitzpatrick could still face some challenges with handling the football if he plays.

"You can't just live in the shotgun," Bowles said. "You have to be able to take snaps under center, as well as be able to hand the ball off both ways."

Fitzpatrick was hurt on the first drive of the Jets' 34-20 loss when he scrambled for 12 yards and was tackled by Charles Woodson. He had his thumb taped and remained on the sideline as Smith took over — until he, too, was injured.

Smith suffered what Bowles called "a big bruise" likely after taking a hard shot to the shoulder from David Amerson at the end of a 29-yard run down the sideline early in the fourth quarter. He remained in the

game before coming out briefly — with Fitzpatrick coming back in — later in the quarter when he was hit in the abdomen by Ray-Ray Anderson.

"I thought in both cases, they both should've slid," Bowles said. "We've got to be smarter than that for the good of the team, but you can't fault the competitiveness. We've just got to be a lot smarter."

Bowles said the Jets probably could bring in another quarterback as late as Wednesday morning to get that player up to speed on the offense before practice.

Fitzpatrick took over as the starting quarterback in early August when Smith had his jaw broken by a punch from then-teammate Ikemefuna Enemkpali in the locker room. Acquired in a trade with Houston in the offseason, Fitzpatrick developed a rapport with wide receivers Brandon Marshall and Eric Decker while providing a calming veteran presence for the offense.

Fitzpatrick has thrown for 1,518 yards with 11 touchdowns and seven interceptions this season. In his first action of the season in relief of Fitzpatrick on Sunday, Smith was 27 of 42 for 265 yards with two touchdowns and a pick. He also led the Jets with 34 yards rushing on two carries.

"I don't think it was that damaging (to the offense)," Bowles said of Fitzpatrick being sidelined, "because Geno has played in games and he's a starting-caliber quarterback, and I thought he did some good things."

Bowles is drawing off his experience in Arizona last season, when he was the defensive coordinator and the Cardinals lost starting quarterback Carson Palmer and backup Drew Stanton before having to turn to third-stringer Ryan Lindley.

"I've kind of been through it," Bowles said. "We just have to rally as a team and not put so much weight on that position. We've got to play better everywhere else."

NOTES: WR Brandon Marshall has toe and ankle injuries that he played through Sunday. Bowles said both are "real sore" and he isn't sure if Marshall will play against the Jaguars. "It's too early to tell right now," he said. "We'll have to see how the week progresses for him." ... C Nick Mangold missed just the fourth game of his 10-year career with a neck injury, and Bowles is uncertain whether he'll play Sunday. Bowles thought Wesley Johnson did a "decent" job filling in.

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David Harris says film of Jets' defense was 'disgusting' (Dennis Waszak)

Associated Press

November 2, 2015

<http://www.pro32.ap.org/article/david-harris-says-film-jets-defense-was-disgusting>

NEW YORK (AP) — David Harris gave two thumbs down — and a scathing review — to the film of the New York Jets' suddenly struggling defense.

The veteran linebacker is normally low-key and reserved, but was uncharacteristically critical while discussing the Jets' 34-20 loss to the Oakland Raiders in which New York gave up 451 yards in total offense. Derek Carr threw four touchdown passes as the Raiders took a 28-6 lead early in the third quarter.

"We watched the film and it was disgusting to look at," Harris said during a conference call Monday. "Everybody in that room had the same feeling. I can promise you it won't happen again."

Coach Todd Bowles echoed Harris' sentiment, also saying it was a "disgusting" effort. The Jets, who entered the game ranked No. 2 in total defense, had no takeaways for the second straight game and missed 19 tackles, according to the statistical analysis website Pro Football Focus.

Perhaps the most egregious example Sunday was in the third quarter when Taiwan Jones took a short pass from Carr, broke at least four tackle attempts and zipped into the end zone for a 59-yard touchdown.

"It alarms everybody," Harris said. "We know that we're not that defense. You can believe that we'll get it corrected this week in practice, and I think everybody will come out with a new focus this week."

While the offense was dealing with a quarterback switch because of Ryan Fitzpatrick's thumb injury, the defense did little to keep the Jets in it in the first half. The Raiders rolled to 252 yards in the first two quarters and went 3 for 4 on third downs. New York also managed no sacks for the game.

"We just did a poor job of tackling," Harris said. "The effort was poor all the way across the board. We had way too many guys not hustling on every play and it hurt us."

Harris said the Jets came out "flat" from the first play of the game and it just snowballed on the defense from there. Bowles was equally critical after the game, and again Monday after watching the film.

"We didn't play well and I'll say that a million times," Bowles said. "We know we didn't play well."

Cornerback Antonio Cromartie acknowledged Sunday he had a lousy performance, allowing a 36-yard touchdown to Michael Crabtree and a 49-yarder to Andre Holmes, although he thought Holmes pushed off on the play.

Linebacker Demario Davis was badly fooled on Jones' touchdown. He appeared to have him squared up in the open field before Jones faked out Davis and was on his way.

Cornerback-turned-safety Marcus Williams also had some troubles with missed tackles while filling in for the injured Calvin Pryor.

One of the only bright spots was — who else? — cornerback Darrelle Revis, who did a solid job while mostly defending rookie Amari Cooper and holding him to five catches for 46 yards.

Harris insisted he was confident the tackling and effort issues will not continue.

"I know what type of guys we have on this defense in the locker room," he said. "We take pride in being a good defense here in New York. I know these guys well. I've been around them, and I know it won't happen again."

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NEWSDAY

Injuries hit Jets hard (Greg Logan)

Newsday

November 2, 2015

<http://www.newsday.com/sports/football/jets/injuries-hit-jets-hard-1.11049765>

As if injuries to Jets quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith weren't enough, Todd Bowles' rookie season as head coach has been complicated by a sudden spate of injuries at other key positions.

The availability of center Nick Mangold, wide receiver Brandon Marshall, safety Calvin Pryor and nickel cornerback Buster Skrine is uncertain against Jacksonville on Sunday.

Mangold (neck) and Pryor (ankle) still are on the mend from injuries that kept them out of Sunday's loss in Oakland. Marshall came out of that game nursing painful right toe and left ankle injuries, and Skrine (shoulder) left the game and did not return with his injury.

Playing without Mangold, who essentially is the quarterback of the offensive line, and without Fitzpatrick was a blow, but Bowles was satisfied with the performance of backups Smith and Wesley Johnson.

"I didn't think it was that damaging because Geno has played in games," Bowles said. "He's a starting-caliber quarterback. I thought he did some good things. I thought Wesley fought. We didn't drop off too much there. It's damaging if you let it be damaging, but I thought those guys fought pretty hard."

Tackling a problem

Tackling was a big problem for a Jets defense that ranked among the NFL's best before yielding 333 yards passing to Raiders quarterback Derek Carr and 113 yards rushing to running back Latavius Murray. "The effort was poor all the way across the board," linebacker David Harris said. "We had way too many guys not hustling on every play, and it hurt us.

"Yeah, it alarms everybody. We know we're not that defense . . . We watched the film, and it was disgusting to look at. Everybody in that room had the same feeling. I can promise you it won't happen again."

Bowles said the Jets still can work on tackling in practice. "We can clean that up," he said. "And we will."

For the second straight game, the rushing attack went nowhere as running backs Chris Ivory and Zac Stacy combined to gain only 28 of the Jets' 74 rushing yards. "Obviously, we have to get better," tackle Breno Giacomini said. "All 11 guys have to be on the same page for something to work. It starts with us upfront. We have to communicate better and just put a hat on a hat."

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If Geno Smith is well enough to start, he needs to show maturity -- like Ryan Fitzpatrick (Bob Glauber)

Newsday

November 2, 2015

<http://www.newsday.com/sports/columnists/bob-glauber/if-genosmith-is-well-enough-to-start-he-needs-to-show-maturity-like-ryan-fitzpatrick-1.11049683>

It takes a lot for Todd Bowles to panic, and nothing to this point in his eventful run as the Jets' coach has prompted that reaction. Not IK Enemkpal's right cross to Geno Smith's jaw, nor Sheldon Richardson's suspension for substance abuse, nor his team's current predicament of a two-game losing streak and injuries to quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith.

Nope. Bowles was unruffled after a moribund 34-20 loss to the Raiders in detailing Fitzpatrick's thumb injury and Smith's shoulder problem, and he was composed when he offered an update to reporters on Monday about the uncertainty of either quarterback's availability for Sunday's game against the Jaguars.

He doesn't get rattled, a good personality trait in a business in which unforeseen developments occur regularly. But Bowles did say something that should send shivers down the spine of every Jets fan.

He made a passing reference to having been through a somewhat similar situation in Arizona last year, when the Cardinals went through a succession of quarterback injuries that claimed starter Carson Palmer and backup Drew Stanton. What Bowles neglected to mention was that the injuries ruined Arizona's season.

Arizona was 8-1 when Palmer suffered a season-ending knee injury. The Cardinals lost four of their next seven games, never scoring more than 18 points, but made the playoffs. Journeyman Ryan Lindley was the starter against the Panthers in a first-round game, and he threw for 82 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions in a 27-16 loss.

Although Bowles, who was the Cardinals' defensive coordinator at the time, learned a valuable lesson about perseverance, he also saw firsthand how quarterback injuries can destroy a season.

At least Bowles isn't faced with any season-ending injury scenarios with the Jets. Not yet, anyway. Fitzpatrick has a torn ligament in his left (non-throwing) thumb that eventually will require surgery, but Bowles left open the possibility that Fitzpatrick can play if he can tolerate the pain. Smith suffered a shoulder bruise that did not involve structural damage.

Bowles said his confidence level isn't very high that either quarterback will be able to play this week. That leaves open the possibility that rookie Bryce Petty will start, but Bowles also said the Jets will investigate free-agent and trade possibilities to shore up the position.

Either way, the Jets are in a very dangerous spot as they approach the midway point of the season. Two straight losses put them at 4-3 and in the jumbled mix of wild-card contenders.

The best guess is that Smith, who finished the game after hurting his shoulder when he foolishly didn't go out of bounds after a 29-yard run around right end, will be well enough to play.

He's a more gifted athlete than Fitzpatrick, but the Jets seem to prefer the veteran's leadership over Smith's boom-or-bust style.

Then again, leadership gets you only so far when you're worried about gripping the ball on the snap, so it's wise to at least be prepared for some extended work from Smith.

If that's the case, it will be interesting to see how he responds. The schedule is favorable, as the Jets face four straight opponents with losing records. But if Smith is to make good on his second chance, he'll have to lose the attitude of entitlement he showed his first two seasons, when he was coddled by general manager John Idzik and coach Rex Ryan, neither of whom was willing to bench him for poor play.

Smith had veterans behind him both years -- David Garrard and Mark Sanchez in 2013 and Michael Vick last season. But I didn't sense that Smith was willing to heed the advice the more experienced quarterbacks had to offer. This time it feels different. This time it feels as if there's a connection between Smith and Fitzpatrick.

If Smith takes over for a while, he'd do himself plenty of good by emulating the respect factor Fitzpatrick offers. Smith still is young, with plenty of room to grow, and he has a solid mentor in his older teammate. Now that he might get another chance to be the guy, Smith ought to apply the lessons he's learned from Fitzpatrick.

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With Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith hurting, Jets scrambling with quarterback plans (Greg Logan)

Newsday

November 3, 2015

<http://www.newsday.com/sports/football/jets/with-ryan-fitzpatrick-and-geno-smith-hurting-jets-scrambling-with-quarterback-plans-1.11048730>

What a week Jets coach Todd Bowles has staring him in the face. Quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith are battling serious injuries that put their playing status in limbo, with offensive coordinator Chan Gailey drafting contingency game plans in case the Jets have to start third-string rookie Bryce Petty against Jacksonville on Sunday or go with a veteran signed off the street.

Coming off a 34-20 loss at Oakland, the Jets' second consecutive defeat, Bowles said Monday in a conference call that Fitzpatrick has at least one torn ligament in his left thumb that eventually will require surgery. Smith has a "big bruise" on his left shoulder but no structural damage.

Both quarterbacks are considered day-to-day. Bowles declined to put the chances of one playing ahead of the other, saying: "I really think they're both in the same boat right now. It all depends on how they heal and progress during the week. Right now, it's the day after, so those guys are pretty sore. I'll have a better feel on Wednesday.

"We're going to give Bryce some reps, and we're going to look out and see what else is out there just in case we need to get somebody in here to back up."

The NFL trade deadline is Tuesday, and Bowles said the Jets are exploring all avenues to obtain emergency quarterback help. A more likely option would be to sign a free agent, and Bowles acknowledged that one name under consideration is Matt Flynn, who spent a couple of weeks with the Jets in training camp and started the final preseason game.

Weighing the benefits of Flynn's NFL experience against Petty's familiarity with Gailey's offense, Bowles said: "If it's Flynn, I don't think he'll panic if he would be the guy. But at the same time, you've still got to scale the offense back the same way as if you had Bryce in there, or even more so. At least Bryce has been here all the time."

Fitzpatrick and Smith were injured on scrambles and took a hit at the end of the run instead of sliding.

"I thought in both cases, they both should've slid," Bowles said. "You can't fault the competitiveness. We've just got to be a lot smarter."

If Fitzpatrick were to have surgery right away, Bowles said he is uncertain how long the recovery period would be. His ability to play with his injury depends on his pain tolerance.

"You can't just live in the shotgun [formation]," Bowles said. "You've got to be able to take snaps under center as well as handing the ball off both ways. So that will be a challenge if you're in pain."

The risk to Smith, who completed 27 of 42 passes for 265 yards and two touchdowns with one interception, is that another hit to the same area could cause more serious damage.

Bowles gained experience in a similar situation as an assistant with the Cardinals when they lost two quarterbacks last season.

"I've kind of been through it," he said. "We have to rally as a team and not put so much weight on that position. We've got to play better everywhere else."

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THE RECORD

Jets aren't sure who will play quarterback this Sunday (J.P. Pelzman)

The Record

November 2, 2015

<http://www.northjersey.com/sports/jets-aren-t-sure-who-will-play-quarterback-this-sunday-1.1447012>

Jets coach Todd Bowles isn't sure who will play quarterback for his team Sunday. It's not because he can't decide. It's because his two most experienced signal callers are hurt.

Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith were injured in the loss at Oakland on Sunday, and the coach said on a conference call Monday that both are day to day. Fitzpatrick has torn ligaments in his left thumb and Smith has a bruised left shoulder, although Bowles said there is no structural damage. Both are right-handed.

Interestingly, Bowles said Fitzpatrick and Smith are “in the same boat” in terms of whether they can play Sunday against visiting Jacksonville (2-5). He indicated it depends on how quickly each one heals.

Fitzpatrick said after the game Sunday that his injury makes it very difficult to grip the ball in order to receive snaps and give handoffs. Bowles indicated that Fitzpatrick could play through the injury if he can tolerate the pain, but he will need surgery at some point.

The two injuries leave the Jets (4-3) with only one healthy quarterback: third-stringer Bryce Petty.

The untested rookie from Baylor hasn't appeared in a regular-season game.

Thus, Bowles said the Jets were looking to sign a quarterback, and mentioned veteran Matt Flynn as one of the names the Jets' brass has discussed. He played for the Jets during the preseason before being released, and thus has knowledge of offensive coordinator Chan Gailey's system.

“We're looking at everything right now,” Bowles said in terms of acquiring another quarterback (the NFL trade deadline is 4 p.m. today). In the meantime, he indicated that Petty would get significant snaps during practice this week in case he has to play Sunday.

“He knows a good portion of our offense,” Bowles said of Petty. “He can function.”

However, Bowles indicated the playbook will have to be scaled back if Petty plays.

Smith lost his starting job to Fitzpatrick on Aug. 11 when he suffered a broken jaw from a punch by then-teammate IK Enemkpali. Smith, seeing his first action of the season, relieved Fitzpatrick after the veteran suffered the thumb injury at the end of a scramble on the Jets' first series. Fitzpatrick was hurt when Oakland safety Charles Woodson hit him at the end of the run.

Smith also was banged up during the game. He hurt his left shoulder when he was drilled by Oakland cornerback David Amerson at the end of a 29-yard run in the third period, and he injured his abdomen when linebacker Ray-Ray Armstrong drove him into the ground after he released a fourth-quarter pass.

Smith and Fitzpatrick were not made available to the media Monday.

“They both should have slid. We've got to be smarter than that,” an angry Bowles said.

After Sunday's game, Smith indicated he believed that he would be ready physically to play against the Jaguars. But Bowles said Monday Smith has a “big bruise” on his non-throwing shoulder.

“Obviously, we've got to do all the evaluations and make sure we monitor everything,” Smith said Sunday after the game, “but I'm pretty confident that I've prepared myself and I will be ready to play.”

As for his performance Sunday, he said, “Today was my first game of the year, my first action. I think I did some decent things, but I have a lot of things to improve on.

“Every chance I get to step on the field,” Smith added, “is a way for me to prove my worth to whoever's watching, to whoever wants to evaluate it.”

BRIEFS: Bowles indicated he is uncertain about whether WR Brandon Marshall (ankle, toe) or C Nick Mangold (neck) will be able to play against the Jaguars. Marshall was hurt on two plays against the Raiders. Mangold missed a game for only the fourth time in his 10-year career. He suffered the injury in the final minute of the loss to New England on Oct. 25.

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Jets report card: Week 8 (J.P. Pelzman)

The Record

November 3, 2015

<http://www.northjersey.com/sports/football/jets-report-card-week-8-1.1447127>

Run offense: F

Oakland shut down featured back Chris Ivory, who gained more yards receiving (24) than rushing (17). That is not the blueprint the Jets want for their offense. The Jets' two longest rushes of the day occurred on QB scrambles: one for 29 yards by Geno Smith and one for 12 by Ryan Fitzpatrick. Each of those runs resulted in an injury for the quarterback. Again, that's not a blueprint for success.

Pass offense: B-

For someone who hadn't thrown a pass in a game since Dec. 28, 2014, Smith was surprisingly effective, completing 27 of 42 passes for 265 yards and two TDs. But he threw one interception, and it was into double coverage. He also took two fourth-quarter sacks that kept the clock running when he should have thrown the ball away. WR Brandon Marshall was targeted 18 times and had nine catches. Jeremy Kerley (four catches, 63 yards) and former Patriot Kenbrell Thompkins (six, 41) provided solid receiving options beyond Marshall and No. 2 WR Eric Decker.

Run defense: F

Oakland RB Latavius Murray often gashed the Jets, both on sweeps and cutbacks. He finished with 113 yards and a 5.7 average. Take away two kneel-downs by QB David Carr and the Raiders would have averaged 5.2 yards per carry — unacceptable numbers against the Jets' vaunted defensive line. The absence of injured SS Calvin Pryor (ankle) was noticeable, because he is very good in run support.

Pass defense:

Second-year pro Carr wasn't sacked and thus had time to pick apart a banged-up Jets secondary, throwing for 333 yards and four TDs. Andre Holmes had two TD catches, beating slot CB Buster Skrine on a 5-yard fade and CB Antonio Cromartie on a 49-yard deep ball, although he may have gotten away with pushing off Cromartie. Skrine played only 16 snaps because of shoulder and hand injuries. Carr's TD passes of 36 yards to WR Michael Crabtree and 59 yards to RB Taiwan Jones were the result of a slew of missed tackles by the Jets.

Special teams: B-

P Ryan Quigley, back after missing a game because of an infected right leg, averaged 44 yards net on four punts. K Nick Folk was 2-for-2 on FG attempts, connecting from 40 and 38 yards. But as usual, the Jets got nothing from their return game, although it didn't help that Oakland K Sebastian Janikowski recorded touchbacks on five of his seven kickoffs. Jones' 41-yard kickoff return for the Raiders jump-started a third-quarter TD drive.

Coaching: B-

There's not much that coach Todd Bowles and defensive coordinator Kacy Rodgers can do during a game when their defenders are whiffing on tackle after tackle, but perhaps they need to do things differently in practice to emphasize tackling even more. Offensive coordinator Chan Gailey had to revise his game plan when Fitzpatrick got hurt on the Jets' sixth play from scrimmage. He dialed up more deep balls for Smith, who has a stronger arm than Fitzpatrick.

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NEW YORK TIMES

Jets Explore Quarterback Options After Injuries to Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith (Tom Pedulla)

New York Times

November 2, 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/03/sports/football/jets-explore-quarterback-options-after-injuries-to-ryan-fitzpatrick-and-geno-smith.html?ref=football&r=0>

With Ryan Fitzpatrick having sustained ligament damage to his nonthrowing hand and his backup Geno Smith having bruised his nonthrowing shoulder, Jets Coach Todd Bowles suggested that the team's quarterback for Sunday's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars might not yet be on the roster.

In a conference call Monday with reporters, Bowles described the status of Fitzpatrick and Smith as day to day and did not rule out either player for Sunday. Bowles indicated that the rookie Bryce Petty, viewed as a raw talent, was in the mix but added, "We're looking at some others."

Bowles said that Matt Flynn, a veteran quarterback who joined the Jets during training camp but was released before the opener, was under consideration. Another option could be a trade for a quarterback in advance of the deadline Tuesday at 4 p.m. Eastern, although General Manager Mike Maccagnan might have to overpay in such a deal, given the team's need.

"We're looking at everything right now," Bowles said.

A magnetic resonance imaging examination Monday revealed that Fitzpatrick had at least one torn ligament and would ultimately need surgery to repair the damage. Bowles said Fitzpatrick's availability would depend on the pain he felt when he received the ball under center or handed off. Smith has a significant bruise but no structural damage.

Although Fitzpatrick is with his sixth team in 11 years, he emerged as the steadying influence the Jets needed after the erratic Smith sustained a broken jaw when he was punched by linebacker Ikemefuna Enemkпали in a locker-room altercation on Aug. 11.

Fitzpatrick, accustomed to the system of the offensive coordinator Chan Gailey from their years together with the Buffalo Bills, started the season's first seven games, which left the Jets at 4-3. Teammates praised him for his poise and leadership, and he completed 133 of 215 passes for 1,518 yards. Fitzpatrick also avoided the kind of critical mistakes Smith and other recent predecessors had made, throwing for 11 touchdowns with seven interceptions.

Fitzpatrick, 32, was injured during the opening series of Sunday's 34-20 loss at Oakland when he dived headfirst at the end of a 12-yard scramble. It appeared that he hurt his thumb when cornerback Charles Woodson tried to tear the ball loose.

The injury was exasperating for Bowles and his staff because they had emphasized since their arrival the need for running quarterbacks to slide to limit the potential for injury. Smith, 25, completed 27 of 42 passes for 265 yards in relief of Fitzpatrick, with two touchdowns and an interception, but he failed to protect himself and absorbed a tremendous hit from cornerback David Amerson when he stayed inbounds at the end of a 29-yard dash in the fourth quarter.

"They both should have slid," Bowles said, adding, "I can't fault the competitiveness, but we've got to be a lot smarter."

No matter how the Jets fill their starting quarterback position, the solution will certainly be less than ideal as they try to rebound from consecutive defeats.

"We just have to rally as a team and not put so much on that position and play better everywhere else," Bowles said.

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ESPN NEW YORK

Exploring Jets' quarterback options in free agency, trade market (Rich Cimini)

ESPN New York

November 2, 2015

http://espn.go.com/blog/newyork-jets/post/_/id/55668/exploring-jets-quarterback-options-in-free-agency-trade-market

The New York Jets have quarterback issues. Again.

With Ryan Fitzpatrick (non-throwing thumb) out indefinitely, general manager Mike Maccagnan is exploring the quarterback market -- free agents and possible trades. The NFL trading deadline is Tuesday.

Obviously, their sense of urgency will be dictated by Fitzpatrick's prognosis, the severity of Geno Smith's left-shoulder injury and their confidence in rookie Bryce Petty. Some possible names on their radar:

Zach Mettenberger, Tennessee Titans: The Titans (1-6) aren't going anywhere this season and they're committed long term to Marcus Mariota, which could make the strong-armed Mettenberger expendable. His availability could depend on Mariota's health; he has missed the last two games with a knee injury.

Matt Flynn, free agent: He spent three weeks with the Jets in the preseason, so he has a basic familiarity with Chan Gailey's system. He was an emergency acquisition in the aftermath of Geno Smith's jaw injury, and he left in style, hoisting this fabulous Bloody.

Ryan Mallett, free agent: Maccagnan is familiar with Mallett because of their previous ties to the Houston Texans, which means he may know enough about Mallett to stay away. He has a big arm, but there's plenty of baggage. Don't see this happening.

Robert Griffin III, Washington Redskins: Obviously, he has no future in D.C. The Redskins probably would trade him for a pack of gum, but there are other factors to consider. His salary next year, guaranteed for injury only at this point, is \$16.2 million. The team could be on the hook for the 2016 salary if he suffers a major injury. He'd add a lot of drama, though, wouldn't he?

Mike Glennon, Tampa Bay Buccaneers: It's similar to the Mettenberger situation. The Bucs are building around Jameis Winston, so maybe they'd take a draft pick for a player who probably never will see the field unless Winston is injured.

Michael Vick, Pittsburgh Steelers: Been there, done that.

Tim Tebow, free agent: Kidding.

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Jets ponder QB situation after Ryan Fitzpatrick, Geno Smith injuries (Rich Cimini)

ESPN New York

November 2, 2015

http://espn.go.com/nfl/story/_/id/14039011/newyork-jets-ponder-qb-situation-ryan-fitzpatrick-genosmith-injuries

New York Jets quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith are day-to-day with thumb and shoulder injuries, respectively, meaning the team may be forced to start rookie Bryce Petty against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

The Jets, suddenly reeling with a two-game losing streak, may have to entrust their season again to Geno Smith. They're back to the future, and it has to be better than Smith's past or else the Jets are cooked.

An MRI on Monday confirmed a torn ligament in Fitzpatrick's non-throwing thumb. He will require surgery at some point, said coach Todd Bowles, who nevertheless didn't rule him out as the starter this week.

Bowles said Fitzpatrick's availability will be based, in large part, on pain tolerance.

Smith, too, underwent tests on his non-throwing shoulder, and they revealed a "big bruise," said Bowles, adding there was no structural damage.

Asked his confidence level in Smith or Fitzpatrick being able to play Sunday, Bowles said: "Right now, not very high. It's Monday, the day after. The guys are pretty sore. I'll have a better feel on Wednesday."

Petty, a fourth-round pick from Baylor, will get practice reps Wednesday. He has yet to appear in a game.

The Jets are strongly considering adding a veteran quarterback as Tuesday's trade deadline approaches. Free agent Matt Flynn, who spent three weeks on the roster in training camp, also is a possibility, Bowles said.

Fitzpatrick and Smith were both injured Sunday in the Jets' 34-20 loss to the Oakland Raiders. Bowles was unhappy because he felt both quarterbacks could have avoided contact by sliding or, in Smith's case, running out of bounds instead of inviting a hit.

The Jets (4-3) have reached a crossroads in their season. They've dropped two straight and their quarterback situation is a multiple-choice question. It's so wide open that Bowles didn't rule out the possibility of the yet-to-be-acquired quarterback starting this week, although that seems remote.

Fitzpatrick, who emerged as a team leader soon after ascending to the starting job in August when Smith's jaw was broken in a locker-room altercation, appears unlikely to play this week.

On Sunday, Fitzpatrick said he couldn't grip the ball with his left hand. Bowles sounded skeptical of Fitzpatrick's ability to take snaps from center and use his left hand on handoffs.

"I don't think it gets any worse [by playing], but I don't know how much better it's going to get, either," Bowles said. "It's just a matter of how much pain he's going to be in."

Smith's chances are helped because it's his non-throwing shoulder, but "you're still a little bit way" because he could make it worse with another hit, Bowles said.

Smith, who replaced Fitzpatrick on the first series of the games, said afterward he was "pretty confident" he'd be able to play against the Jaguars. Bowles said there's "a chance," but only if Smith progresses during the week.

Offensive coordinator Chan Gailey will be forced to devise different game plans this week, based on the different quarterback options. He'd have to scale back the offense if someone other than Smith or Fitzpatrick starts.

There's also some question as to whether wide receiver Brandon Marshall (ankle, toe) and center Nick Mangold (neck), two of their best players, will be able to play this week.

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Todd Bowles: QB injuries could've been avoided by sliding (Rich Cimini)

ESPN New York

November 2, 2015

http://espn.go.com/blog/newyork-jets/post/_id/55683/todd-bowles-says-qb-injuries-couldve-been-avoided-by-sliding

Maybe Todd Bowles should call in Joe Girardi for a sliding tutorial, as Rex Ryan once did in 2009. Quite obviously, the New York Jets' quarterbacks need help in this area.

The Jets have two injured quarterbacks, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith, and Bowles isn't happy because he believes they could've avoided contact.

"In both cases, they both should've slid," the Jets coach said Monday. "I'll say that again. It's competition, and these guys, in the heat of the battle, it's hard to slide. But you've got to be smarter than that for the good of the team. You can't fault the competitiveness. We just have to be a lot smarter."

Fitzpatrick tore a ligament in his non-throwing thumb on a 12-yard scramble. He was tackled by Oakland Raiders safety Charles Woodson, and his thumb got caught on Woodson's body as they went down.

"Kind of a fluke thing," Fitzpatrick said after the game.

Fitzpatrick is an underrated scrambler -- he made some key plays over the first six games -- but also has been told by the coaches to be careful and whenever possible, slide.

Smith made a downright reckless decision Sunday at the end of a 29-yard run. Instead of running out of bounds, he took on cornerback David Amerson, who blew up Smith with a bone-rattling hit. Smith suffered a badly bruised left shoulder; it's a miracle it wasn't dislocated.

"A bonehead play," Smith admitted.

Fans will recall Mark Sanchez's sliding problems as a rookie in 2009. Addressing the issue, Ryan invited the New York Yankees' manager to the Jets' facility to teach sliding. Sure enough, Girardi showed up for Sliding 101.

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David Harris questions effort in 'disgusting' performance by Jets' D (Rich Cimini)

ESPN New York

November 2, 2015

http://espn.go.com/blog/newyork-jets/post/_/id/55679/david-harris-questions-effort-in-disgusting-performance-by-jets-d

Linebacker David Harris is a man of few words, which made his day-after assessment of the New York Jets' defensive debacle in Oakland an attention grabber.

Speaking to reporters on a conference call, Harris said it was "disgusting" to watch the tape of the 34-20 loss. The Jets were guilty of 19 missed tackles, according to Pro Football Focus -- an almost comical amount of blunders. Harris didn't hold back, questioning the effort of the defense.

"The effort was poor all across the board," he said. "We had way too many guys not hustling on every play. It hurt us."

Whoa, that's a rather stinging indictment. Asked to pinpoint a reason, Harris said, "I have no idea. We came out flat on the first play and it continued throughout."

Concerned? You bet.

"It alarms everybody," Harris said. "We know we're not that defense. I believe we'll get it corrected this week in practice and I think we'll come out with a new focus this week. Watching the film, it was disgusting to look at. Everybody in that room had the same feeling. I can promise you, it won't happen again."

"Nobody expected it to happen," he added. "Surprised. Shocked. Worried. Any way you view it, it wasn't our best effort, let's put it that way."

Good for Harris. He's one of the most respected players on the team, but he usually keeps his opinions to himself. It's good to hear him speak out; it's what leaders do. He said he can't recall the defense missing that many tackles in a game. He's confident they will rebound based on the talent and pride in the room.

"Just trust me," he vowed, "it ain't gonna happen again."

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NEW YORK POST

Brandon Marshall downplays injury to pile praise on Geno (Brian Costello)

New York Post

November 2, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/11/02/brandon-marshall-downplays-injury-to-pile-praise-on-gen/>

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jets wide receiver Brandon Marshall walked gingerly out of the postgame locker room, dealing with a left ankle injury and a toe injury on his right foot.

Marshall left Sunday's 34-20 loss twice, but did finish the game.

"I'll be alright," said Marshall, who had nine catches for 108 yards.

Marshall would not say what the results were of his X-rays, but did say he may need additional tests. He sounded optimistic about playing next week.

"We'll see how the week goes," he said. "It's a long week, so a lot of time to heal."

Marshall injured the ankle on a 28-yard catch. He pulled up on the sideline injured and was out of the game for one play. He left the game again later and missed more time. But he kept jogging on the sidelines and was put back in the game.

The Jets left Oakland extremely banged up. In addition to Marshall, quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick (thumb), Geno Smith (shoulder/abdomen), cornerbacks Antonio Cromartie (hip), Buster Skrine (shoulder) and Dexter McDougle (ankle) all left the game with injuries. Smith, Cromartie and McDougle all returned to the game.

If Fitzpatrick is out for any length of time, Marshall said the team believes in Smith.

"Geno's more than capable," Marshall said. "You guys saw the throws that he was able to make out there. He's very talented. Geno just has to continue to learn from Ryan. Ryan's one of the best at processing things and getting people in the right places and leading the way. He's an asset for all of us, especially the quarterbacks in that room."

Jets center Nick Mangold (neck) missed just the fourth game of his career. The Jets started Wesley Johnson in his place instead of Dakota Dozier in a somewhat surprising move. Johnson has been on the practice squad all season while Dozier has been on the active roster. The Jets signed Johnson to the active roster this past week.

"Wesley's been more experienced at center," Bowles said. "He's played center his whole career. Dozier's more of a guard and he's left-handed. It's a little tough snapping back to the quarterback that way. It was a close call, but we just went with Wes."

The Jets started Marcus Williams at safety with Calvin Pryor (ankle) out. Williams usually plays cornerback, but the Jets expected the Raiders to throw a lot and wanted his coverage skills in the game.

What would the Jets have done if Fitzpatrick and Smith could not play?

“Put a running back there and run zone-read,” Bowles said.

Rookie Bryce Petty was inactive for the game.

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Jets rewind: Season pivots on QB playing for his next job (Brian Costello)

New York Post

November 2, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/11/02/jets-rewind-season-pivots-on-qb-playing-for-his-next-job/>

The Jets lost an ugly game to the Raiders on Sunday, 34-20, to fall to 4-3 on the season. Here are a few thoughts and observations on the loss:

1. It feels like the Jets have hit the pivot point of their season. They have lost two games in a row and are dealing with numerous injuries, none bigger than quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick’s injured left thumb.

It is time to see what kind of team they are. Will they bounce back and regain the form they showed early in the season, or will they fold? This is going to be another test for coach Todd Bowles. He needs to get his team back on track. Fortunately for the Jets, they get the dismal Jaguars at MetLife Stadium this week. Five of their next six games are at MetLife (one being a “road” game against the Giants).

The Jets put themselves in position to make a playoff run with their play in September and October. But seasons are made in November and December. The Jets got off to a bad start on Nov. 1. Now, can they turn it around?

2. The quarterback situation is going to get a lot of attention this week. My sense after the game was that Fitzpatrick would be out for a while. My guess is he will miss the next two games. Remember, the Jets face the Jaguars on Sunday, then the Bills on Thursday. You have to think three days between games won’t be enough for him to get healthy. I would think the Texans game on Nov. 22 is probably the target for his return. We will know more Monday after his MRI exam results are revealed.

I think Geno Smith will be healthy enough to play. He seemed OK after the game despite injuries to his left shoulder and abdomen. His body language suggested he was OK and he said he is planning as if he will play this week. The Jets will likely add a backup because they don’t trust rookie Bryce Petty yet, but I think Smith will be the starting quarterback.

The reaction Sunday from Jets fans to Smith was interesting. Clearly a few months without Smith has not made the Geno fatigue go away. Fans were ready to pounce on him. I thought he played all right. He led them to two touchdowns and made a beautiful throw to Brandon Marshall. Smith made some incredibly bad decisions (what else is new?) when he threw into double coverage for the interception, not getting out of bounds on his long run when he got hit and hurt his shoulder and taking two sacks at the end of the game.

Despite those bad decisions, I did not think this loss was on Smith. It was on the defense. But fans were vicious toward Smith on Twitter. It reminds me of how they felt about Mark Sanchez at the end and reinforced the idea to me that Smith is auditioning for another team. He can’t be a Jet next year.

3. Remember when the Jets defense was a takeaway machine? The defense forced 10 turnovers in the Jets’ first two games. That feels like a long time ago. The Jets have forced just five since and none in the last two weeks. Against Tom Brady and Bill Belichick last week, you could give them a pass. But Derek Carr and Jack Del Rio? If the Jets’ defense is really as elite as it thinks it is, it should be able to create some turnovers. But Sunday they were not even close to coming up with any.

Part of the tackling problem might be guys trying to force fumbles instead of tackling. The rule in football is always the first guy in makes the tackle, the second guy goes for the ball. But too many Jets are going right to the ball and not wrapping up. The tackling was comical against the Raiders. For the Jets to get back on track, they need to start forcing turnovers again, starting this week against Blake Bortles and the Jags.

4. The Jets miss Calvin Pryor. The second-year safety suffered a high ankle sprain in the second half against the Patriots, and the defense has not been the same since he left. New England scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns with Pryor out and the Raiders put up 34 points against a Pryor-less defense.

Pryor has really shown improvement in his second season and is a sure tackler, something the Jets are missing right now. He is very good at coming to the line quickly and making a tackle in run support. The Jets had no true backup ready to play in his place on Sunday. With season-ending injuries to Antonio Allen and Jaiquawn Jarrett, their depth at the position has been hurt. Instead of putting Dion Bailey out there, Bowles went with cornerback Marcus Williams at safety. The move did not work. Williams had a rough game.

High ankle sprains can keep guys out for several weeks. Last week, Pryor was wearing a walking boot. It seems unlikely he would be able to come back for this week, but we will know more Wednesday when the Jets practice. It is clear the Jets need him back ASAP.

Revealing number: The Jets missed 19 tackles, according to Pro Football Focus. Nineteen! The tackling was so poor, it was unbelievable. This is not a new problem for the Jets. Do you remember the first preseason game against the Lions? They had tackling problems all the way back then. It is hard to practice tackling without getting guys hurt, but Bowles needs to address this problem this week.

Surprising snap count: There was a lot of fanfare around running back Stevan Ridley coming off the PUP list. He was active Sunday, but you would not know it. He never got in the game. After the game, Bowles said something about not being able to stay on the field long enough to get him in. It did not make much sense. Why not use Ridley? The only explanation is they don't trust him yet but wanted a third running back active while Bilal Powell is injured.

Game ball: There were not many candidates this week. Wide receiver Brandon Marshall put together a nice game, though. I was surprised when I looked at the stat sheet and he had nine catches for 108 yards. The performance was impressive considering he was playing through ankle and toe injuries. Marshall showed a lot of toughness. He also showed some leadership during a timeout when the Jets were on defense. Marshall walked into the defensive huddle and encouraged guys. The team needs leadership now from Marshall and other veterans.

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Bryce Petty among number of Jets' starting QB possibilities (Brian Costello)

New York Post

November 2, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/11/02/bryce-petty-among-number-of-jets-starting-qb-possibilities/>

The Jets' quarterback situation remained murky Monday with both Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith described as "day to day" by coach Todd Bowles.

At this point, it is anyone's guess who will start Sunday against the Jaguars.

Fitzpatrick has a torn ligament in his left thumb that will require surgery at some point, but he can play through it depending on how much pain he is in. Smith has a bruised left shoulder, but no structural damage. His pain tolerance also will determine whether he can play.

If neither Fitzpatrick or Smith can play, the Jets will either turn to rookie Bryce Petty or bring another quarterback in either through free agency or via trade. The NFL trading deadline is Tuesday at 4 p.m.

“We’re looking at everything right now,” Bowles said.

Fitzpatrick left Sunday’s 34-20 loss to the Raiders during the first series of the game. He injured the thumb on a scramble when Oakland safety Charles Woodson reached in to try to strip the ball and bent Fitzpatrick’s thumb back. Bowles said Fitzpatrick can delay surgery until after the season if he can live with the pain. The Jets will have him take snaps on Wednesday and Thursday to see how much pain he is in.

“You can’t just live in the shotgun,” Bowles said. “You have to be able to take snaps under center, as well as handing the ball off both ways. With his right hand, I’m sure he can hand it off pretty good, but then you have a problem with the left hand. That will be a challenge if he’s in pain.”

Smith played most of the game Sunday, but suffered shoulder and abdomen injuries and left the game for two plays in the fourth quarter. The abdomen injury is not serious, but he suffered a bad bruise on the shoulder.

“If he progresses during the week, there’s a chance he could [play Sunday],” Bowles said.

Bowles said he was not more confident in one over the other being ready. He said his confidence that one will be ready is “not very high” right now, but said it’s early in the week.

“I really think they’re both in the same boat right now,” Bowles said. “It really depends on how they heal and progress during the week.”

Petty was the team’s fourth-round pick this spring. He had some good moments during the preseason, but is considered a year away from being able to play as he learns an NFL-style offense. He has not played at all in the regular season, but was the backup to Fitzpatrick for the first two games while Smith was out with a broken jaw.

Bowles said Petty will take snaps with the first team this week to prepare him.

“I have confidence in Bryce,” Bowles said. “Obviously, he doesn’t know what Ryan knows. He doesn’t know what Geno knows. But he knows a good portion of our offense. He can function and go in there and play a game.”

The Jets have been talking about outside options at the position, as well. With the trade deadline Tuesday, teams may be willing to move their backups. The Buccaneers’ Mike Glennon and the Titans’ Zach Mettenberger make sense as those teams turned to rookie starters this year. The Redskins may be willing to move Robert Griffin III, but he is a risk because his \$16.2 million salary in 2016 becomes guaranteed if he is injured.

In terms of free agents, Bowles admitted the team has talked about bringing back Matt Flynn, who spent a few weeks with the Jets in training camp after Smith broke his jaw.

Bowles said the Jets will have things in the game plan this week designed for Petty or for a quarterback coming in from outside the organization.

Bowles again expressed his disappointment in his quarterbacks failing to slide and avoid big hits.

"I thought in both cases they both should have slid. I'll say that again," Bowles said. "The competition in those guys, in the heat of battle it's hard to tell, but we've got to be smarter than that for the good of the team. You can't fault their competitiveness. We've just got to be a lot smarter."

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David Harris makes promises after Jets' 'disgusting' game tape (Brian Costello)

New York Post

November 2, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/11/02/david-harris-makes-promises-after-jets-disgusting-game-tape/>

Veteran linebacker David Harris usually is pretty quiet. On Monday, though, he did not hold back.

Annoyed at how the Jets' defense performed in Sunday's 34-20 loss to the Raiders, Harris vowed the unit will not play like that again.

"We watched the film and it was disgusting to look at," Harris said. "Everybody in that room had the same feeling. I can promise you it won't happen again."

The Jets missed 19 tackles, according to Pro Football Focus, and gave up five "chunk" plays of 25 yards or more to the Raiders. Antonio Cromartie was burned on two touchdowns. The defensive line was pushed around. Everything went wrong for the much-hyped defense.

"It alarms everybody," Harris said. "We know that we're not that defense. You can believe that we'll get it corrected this week in practice and I think everybody will come out with a new focus this week."

Coach Todd Bowles said the Jets will address the missed tackles on the field during the week.

"We can clean that up and we will," he said.

Harris said he is confident the defense will get it fixed.

"I know what type of guys we have on this defense in the locker room," Harris said. "We take pride in being a good defense here in New York. I know these guys well, I've been around them and I know it won't happen again."

Bowles did not have a lot of information on the injuries his players sustained. He said wide receiver Brandon Marshall is "just real sore." Marshall left Sunday's game at times with a left ankle injury and big right toe issue. After the game, Marshall said he would be fine. Bowles was unsure.

"It's too early to tell right now. He's pretty sore, too," Bowles said. "I've got to see how the week progresses for him."

Center Nick Mangold was out with a neck injury. Bowles was not certain if Mangold could play this week against the Jaguars.

"I'll be optimistic on Wednesday and Thursday if I see him out there," Bowles said. "Right now, I'm not sure."

Bowles was happy with how second-year center Wesley Johnson played in Mangold's place.

"I thought Wesley fought," Bowles said. "I thought Wesley did a decent job for the most part. We didn't drop off too much there."

WR Chris Owusu (concussion) cleared waivers and was added to the Jets' IR list.

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The Jets believe in Geno Smith — and so should you (George Willis)

New York Post

November 2, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/11/02/the-jets-believe-in-gen-smith-and-so-should-you/>

If Geno Smith is the Jets starting quarterback when they play the Jaguars on Sunday at MetLife Stadium, he will have the full support of his teammates. He also deserves the full support of the fans.

It's still uncertain exactly who will be under center for what has become an ultra-important game midway through season. Both Smith and Ryan Fitzpatrick, the Jets' top two quarterbacks, were injured in Sunday's 34-20 loss to the Raiders in Oakland and underwent MRI exams to determine the extent of the damage.

Coach Todd Bowles indicated both will be evaluated during the week. Additionally, rookie Bryce Petty will be given more reps in practice and the club is exploring signing a veteran quarterback.

"We're looking at everything right now," Bowles said.

Fitzpatrick suffered a torn ligament in his left (non-throwing) thumb while scrambling during the opening drive of the game and will need surgery at some point, depending on his pain threshold. Smith bruised a shoulder and abdomen while absorbing vicious hits in the fourth quarter.

Smith, the Jets starter the previous two seasons, finished the game and seems to have the best chance to be available against Jacksonville, offering his first opportunity to start since having his jaw broken during a locker-room altercation in training camp.

"Obviously, you have to do all the evaluations and monitor everything," Smith said Sunday. "But I'm pretty sure I'll be able to play."

If it's Smith, the Jets, following their "Next Man Up" mantra, will offer their full support.

"Geno is a good quarterback," defensive back Buster Skrine said. "He's been a starter and he did a great job in camp."

What might be just as important is having the support of Jets fans, uneasy at the thought of Smith returning to a starting role. His first two years as a starter didn't evolve into a mutual love affair. Fans became frustrated by his inconsistency and high-turnover ratio. The booing was frequent and not without reason. He threw 34 interceptions against 25 touchdowns and went 11-18 as a starter, including 3-10 in 2014.

There were callers to radio shows who embraced the change when Smith's jaw was broken and Fitzpatrick, initially signed as an experienced backup, was handed the starting the job. A 4-1 start under Fitzpatrick quickly made Smith an afterthought until the bearded veteran went down on Sunday.

Now the 4-3 Jets could be Geno's team this week, testing the patience of fans who remember his difficult 2014 season and offseason. Interestingly, MetLife Stadium could be the worst place for Smith to make his first start this season. His first incomplete pass, his first interception, the first bad decision could prompt a strong negative reaction based on past history. That's not fair to Smith or to the Jets.

Smith actually has earned the respect of his teammates with the way he has handled the fallout from his broken jaw — the embarrassment, the negative publicity and losing his starting job. He has worked hard, said all the right things and prepared himself for a second chance, which came against the Raiders.

He made his share of mistakes — an early interception, taking sacks when he should have thrown the ball away and getting crushed on a sideline scramble when he should have gotten out of bounds. But he

completed 27 of 42 for 265 yards for two touchdowns and posted a higher quarterback rating (87.9) than his career average (77.5).

“I told him I was really proud of him,” wide receiver Brandon Marshall said. “It’s been a long offseason for him, listening to all the noise. It was a tough camp for obvious reasons. For him to come in and fight through it, I’m proud of the kid.”

The Jets are built to where it’s not all about the quarterback. That’s why Fitzpatrick has been a success. The Jets lost in Oakland mainly because the defense was awful and never gave its offense a chance to catch up. Boo them if they pull another no-show on Sunday. Be patient with Smith.

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NJ ADVANCE MEDIA

Jets report card, as they have a brutal day all around at Oakland Raiders (Darryl Slater)

NJ Advance Media

November 2, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/jets_report_card_as_they_have_a_brutal_day_all_aro.html#incart_river

OAKLAND, Calif. — The last time the Jets played on the West Coast, before Sunday's game at the Raiders, they got their doors blown off in San Diego last year.

That 31-0 defeat at the Chargers, preceded by quarterback Geno Smith missing a meeting because of a time-zone mixup, had a bigger margin than Sunday's 34-20 loss at Oakland. But pretty much nothing went right for the Jets against the Raiders, either.

The Jets are 4-3, even though they've lost two straight games, so their season is far from over. So Sunday wasn't entirely the same as the Jets losing at the Chargers last season, to fall to 1-4, on their way to a 4-12 fiasco of a season.

Nonetheless, this was another fruitless trip to California for the Jets.

Let's grade it, shall we?

Offense: Jets quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick is a smart guy. He went to Harvard, as you might've heard. But for some reason, in his 11th NFL season, he still hasn't figured out the need for sliding at the end of scrambles. Fitzpatrick's tendency to dive head-first at the end of his runs came back to bite him Sunday, when he tore a ligament in his left (non-throwing) thumb on the game's sixth play. Geno Smith replaced him, and might have to take his spot for the foreseeable future. Smith wasn't terrible. He completed 27 of 42 passes for 265 yards, two touchdowns, and an interception. But he also did something dumb, when he took/invited contact at the end of a run, instead of stepping out of bounds. He injured his left (non-throwing) shoulder with that hit. It's unclear how serious his shoulder injury is, but Smith was able to stay in the game. For the second straight week, the Jets got essentially nothing from running back Chris Ivory (15 carries for 17 yards), though they had to lean heavily on their passing game, in order to catch up. In the first half, when the Raiders scored 21 points, the Jets managed just two field goals on five drives. They also had two three and outs, and one Smith pick on the first play of a possession. They gained 118 yards in the first half. They got touchdown drives of 71 and 80 yards in the second half, but it was too little, too late.

Grade: B-

Defense: Terrible all around. The Jets couldn't tackle in the open field. According to Pro Football Focus, the Jets missed 19 tackles — 19! — in the game, with cornerback Marcus Williams (six), weak-side linebacker Demario Davis (four), and cornerback Antonio Cromartie (three) leading the way. The Jets' missed tackle totals in their first six games: three, seven, six, nine, five, and five. Cromartie struggled in deep coverage, getting beat for a 49-yard touchdown catch by wide receiver Andre Holmes. The Raiders had touchdown drives of 76, 78, 78, and 93 yards within their first five possessions. They all ended in touchdown passes by quarterback Derek Carr, who was magnificent, even though his top wide receiver, Amari Cooper, had a quiet day (five catches for 46 yards). The Jets, who also got minimal pass rush Sunday, need to fix their tackling issues soon. They can't afford another performance like this at home next Sunday against the Jaguars. Yes, Carr threw for 333 yards Sunday, and the Raiders gained 451 total — 98 more than anybody had gained against the Jets all year. But a lot of those yards (Carr's passing number and the Raiders' total) stemmed from yards after the catch, which resulted from poor Jets tackling. The Raiders jumped out to a 21-6 halftime lead by gaining 252 yards. For the second straight week, the Jets did not have a takeaway. They had 15 in the first five games.

Grade: F

Special teams: Nick Folk made both of his field goals, from 38 and 40 yards. The Jets once again had no significant returns on punts or kickoffs. They allowed a 41-yard kickoff return by Taiwan Jones. That resulted in the Raiders getting the ball at their own 36-yard line, which started a drive that ended in a 52-yard field goal and a 31-13 Raiders lead in the third quarter.

Grade: B

Coaching: Look, just because the Jets had a bad tackling day on defense doesn't suddenly mean Todd Bowles is a bad defensive coach. (He's not.) And you can't really blame Bowles for his quarterbacks stubbornly refusing to slide/step out of bounds at the end of scrambles. Yes, coaches can hammer these points. (And they do.) But some of this stuff falls squarely on the players. It'll be interesting to see how much Bowles can get his players to fine tune their tackling issues this week, because you know he's going to emphasize these fundamentals. This an important juncture for Bowles and his staff. They can't have a 4-1 start turn into a 4-4 record at the season's midpoint. They need to take care of business in a winnable home game against the 2-5 Jaguars.

Grade: B-

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The Jets' poor tackling vs. Oakland Raiders, summed up in one photo (Dom Cosentino)

NJ Advanced Media

November 2, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/the_jets_poor_tackling_vs_oakland_raiders_summed_u.html#incart_river



OAKLAND, Calif. — The photo above, taken Sunday by Ben Margot of the Associated Press, is a perfect summary of the Jets' 34-20 loss at the Raiders at O.co Coliseum. It is not what it appears to be.

From left to right, that's Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie, Raiders receiver Michael Crabtree, and Jets inside linebacker Demario Davis. The photo was taken after Crabtree caught a pass over the middle on first-and-10 from the Jets' 36 with a little less than 10 minutes to go in the first half. But that was not how the play ended.

Davis and Cromartie both got to Crabtree at about the 13-yard line. Crabtree still scored a touchdown on the play.

Per Pro Football Focus, the Jets missed 19 tackles. Davis was responsible for four, Cromartie for three.* And Marcus Williams, a cornerback moved to safety to replace the injured Calvin Pryor, was credited (demerited?) with six.

Also, per PFF: The Jets came into Sunday averaging just 5.8 missed tackles per game. The Raiders got 210 of their 333 receiving yards after the catch.

* This post was updated to remove a reference to Jets safety Marcus Gilchrist's missed tackles. Pro Football Focus initially reported he had missed three tackles, but later changed that total to two.

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Wounded Jets move pieces on defense during loss at Oakland Raiders | Snap counts (Darry Slater)

NJ Advance Media

November 2, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/jets_snap_counts_raiders.html#incart_river_mobileshort

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Jets visited the Raiders on Sunday and absolutely laid an egg, in a 34-20 loss.

Not only did the Jets' defense struggle, missing 19 tackles, it also had to deal with moving pieces, due to injuries.

Here's a look at how that all shook out (with regard to playing time), as well as some other noteworthy snap count items:

- With strong safety Calvin Pryor (high ankle sprain) sidelined, the Jets opted to not play his backup all that much. Dion Bailey got just eight of 63 defensive snaps. (He is the Jets' only healthy safety besides Marcus Gilchrist.) Instead, Jets coach Todd Bowles gave cornerback Marcus Williams extensive snaps in

Pryor's place, because Bowles liked Williams' coverage skills more than Bailey's. Williams played 61 snaps and missed six tackles, according to Pro Football Focus.

- Slot cornerback Buster Skrine aggravated his sprained shoulder on Sunday and played just 16 snaps. Williams is his backup, so you can see how Bowles was in a pinch. The Jets can also play cornerback Dexter McDougle in the slot, but McDougle sustained an ankle injury in Oakland. He returned, and appeared to play briefly in Skrine's regular spot. McDougle played six defensive snaps in Oakland.
- Between Pryor, Skrine, and McDougle, the Jets faced significant attrition in the secondary. They had to give cornerback Darrin Walls two snaps. He has also practiced at safety. The ripple effects of the injuries to Pryor and Skrine — if they continue to linger for a while longer (or, in Skrine's case, get worse) — could have a significant impact on this stretched-thin defense. Remember, the Jets already lost two game-tested backup safeties — Antonio Allen in training camp and Jaiquawn Jarrett late last month — for the season due to injuries.
- On offense, the Jets gave Wesley Johnson all 73 snaps at center and didn't play Dakota Dozier at all. Johnson is a more experienced center than Dozier, so Bowles went with Johnson as Nick Mangold's replacement. Mangold was out with a neck muscle injury.
- Bowles opted to not play running back Stevan Ridley in his first game off the physically unable to perform list (knee). Chris Ivory got 46 snaps, Zac Stacy 27. Bowles said he tried to find time to play Ridley, but the Jets' defense couldn't get the Raiders off the field in the first half. And the Jets had to throw the ball in the second half, in order to catch up, since they were down 21-6 at halftime.
- With Chris Owusu (out for the year with a concussion) and Devin Smith (ankle) hurt, and Quincy Enunwa suspended (domestic violence), the Jets were down to just four wide receivers. The Jets' only complementary receivers, Jeremy Kerley and Kenbrell Thompkins, played 56 and 53 snaps, respectively. Brandon Marshall got 66 snaps, Eric Decker 63.

The complete snap count breakdown (percentages in parentheses):

Offense

LT D'Brickshaw Ferguson 73 (100)

RG Willie Colon 73 (100)

RT Breno Giacomini 73 (100)

LG James Carpenter 73 (100)

C Wesley Johnson 73 (100)

WR Brandon Marshall 66 (90)

QB Geno Smith 65 (89)

WR Eric Decker 63 (86)

WR Jeremy Kerley 56 (77)

WR Kenbrell Thompkins 53 (73)

RB Chris Ivory 46 (63)

TE Jeff Cumberland 29 (40)

RB Zac Stacy 27 (37)

TE Kellen Davis 17 (23)

QB Ryan Fitzpatrick 8 (11)

FB Tommy Bohanon 7 (10)

OT Brent Qvale 1 (1)

Defense

FS Marcus Gilchrist 63 (100)

WLB Demario Davis 63 (100)

CB Darrelle Revis 63 (100)

MLB David Harris 63 (100)

CB Marcus Williams 61 (97)

CB Antonio Cromartie 60 (95)

DE Muhammad Wilkerson 59 (94)

DE Sheldon Richardson 57 (90)

NT Damon Harrison 44 (70)

DE Leonard Williams 43 (68)

SLB Calvin Pace 29 (46)

OLB Quinton Coples 19 (30)

CB Buster Skrine 16 (25)

DE Stehen Bowen 14 (22)

OLB Lorenzo Mauldin 9 (14)

OLB Trevor Reilly 8 (13)

SS Dion Bailey 8 (13)

CB Dexter McDougle 6 (10)

DE Leger Douzable 5 (8)

CB Darrin Walls 2 (3)

NT T.J. Barnes 2 (3)

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Jets' David Harris angry, says game film vs. Oakland Raiders 'disgusting to look at' (Dom Cosentino)

NJ Advance Media

November 2, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/jets_david_harris_angry_says_game_film_vs_oakland.html#incart_river_mobileshort

SAN FRANCISCO — Though unquestionably one of the Jets' veteran leaders, inside linebacker David Harris is not what one would consider a go-to quote for reporters.

Harris leads by example and prefers to let his play and his practice habits do the talking. But after the Jets got thoroughly dismantled by the Raiders during Sunday's 34-20 loss, Harris took it upon himself to speak up publicly.

And even though his tone was characteristically reserved, Harris' words were anything but.

"It alarms everybody," Harris said. "We know that we're not that defense. You can believe that we'll get it corrected this week in practice, and I think everybody will come out with a new focus this week. We watched the film and it was disgusting to look at. Everybody in that room had the same feeling. I can promise you it won't happen again."

The Jets came into Sunday's game ranked second in DVOA by Football Outsiders. Yet they gave up 451 total yards, including 333 passing. Per PFF, the Raiders got 210 yards after the catch. For the second consecutive game, the Jets had zero takeaways. And they missed 19 tackles, according to Pro Football Focus.

Harris, who finished with nine tackles, was responsible for one of those misses, per PFF.

Two weeks ago, the Jets were 4-1 and rolling toward a possible playoff berth. Now, they're 4-3, their only two experienced quarterbacks are both hurt, and they're suddenly in a must-win situation back at home Sunday against the Jaguars.

Last week's loss at the Patriots was close, taut, tough. But this one? The Jets got their doors blown off.

"Nobody expected that to happen," Harris said. "Surprised. Shocked. Worried. Any way you view it, it wasn't our best effort, let's put it that way."

After the game head coach Todd Bowles had questioned his team's energy. Monday, Bowles agreed with Harris' assessment, saying he, too, was disgusted by the team's performance.

The Jets were without strong safety Calvin Pryor; his replacement, cornerback Marcus Williams, was responsible for six of the missed tackles, per PFF. Harris would hear none of it.

"Every team is dealing with injuries, not just us," Harris said. "Nobody is going to feel sorry for us because we have guys who are down."

Harris chalked up the Jets' problems to a lack of hustle—a major red flag for any professional team, let alone one with ambitions of returning to the playoffs for the first time in five seasons.

"The effort was poor all across the board," Harris said. "We had way too many guys not hustling on every play, and [that] hurt us."

Ouch. So how could Harris be sure it wouldn't happen again?

"Because I know what type of guys we have on this defense, in this locker room," Harris said. "We take pride in being a good defense here in New York. I know these guys well, I've been around them, and I know it won't happen again."

The Jets better hope he's right.

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Ryan Fitzpatrick, Geno Smith injuries: Jets might start Bryce Petty vs. Jacksonville Jaguars (Darryl Slater)

NJ Advance Media

November 2, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/ryan_fitzpatrick_geno_smith_injuries_jets_might_st.html#in_cart_river_mobileshort

A day after the damage, Jets coach Todd Bowles on Monday didn't rule out that either (or both) of his primary quarterbacks — starter Ryan Fitzpatrick and backup Geno Smith — would be healthy enough to play next Sunday against the Jaguars.

But Bowles also said the 4-3 Jets, losers of two straight games, are preparing to suit up without either quarterback.

That could mean starting rookie Bryce Petty, a long-term project who has never appeared in an NFL regular season game.

The Jets are also looking into signing or trading for a quarterback, Bowles said. The NFL's trading deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. If the Jets brought in a new quarterback, they would do it by Wednesday morning, at the latest.

Bowles said his confidence level, as of Monday afternoon, is "not very high" that at least one of his top two quarterbacks will be ready for Sunday's home game. Both "are pretty sore," he said. Bowles expects to have a better feel for Fitzpatrick's and Smith's situations Wednesday, when the Jets resume practice.

"I really think they're both in the same boat right now," Bowles said of whether one is closer to being game-ready. "It all depends on how they heal and progress during the week."

Both Fitzpatrick and Smith were injured in Sunday's 34-20 loss at the Raiders, after making foolish decisions while scrambling. Fitzpatrick dove head-first, instead of sliding. Smith failed to avoid contact by not stepping out of bounds.

Fitzpatrick sustained ligament "damage" to his left (non-throwing) thumb, Bowles said. Fitzpatrick has at least one torn ligament. He'll eventually need surgery, though he could put it off until after the season, Bowles said. This isn't an injury that's likely to fully heal on its own, during the season. Bowles isn't sure how much time Fitzpatrick would miss if he underwent surgery during the season.

Smith bruised his left (non-throwing) shoulder, but sustained no structural damage — good news for him. Smith's injury seems less severe than Fitzpatrick's, though Bowles said "it's a big bruise." Smith also suffered an abdomen injury in Oakland, but Bowles said Monday that Smith is just sore there. His shoulder is the primary concern, though it doesn't appear to be a long-term injury.

Despite Smith's injury being to his non-throwing shoulder, "you're still a little bit wary," Bowles said, because "if he takes another hit like [he did in Oakland], you can get the same result, or possibly worse."

Bowles described both Fitzpatrick and Smith as "day to day" this week. For Fitzpatrick, "it's a matter of pain level," Bowles said. That pain level will also dictate whether Fitzpatrick can put off surgery until after the season, Bowles said.

The Jets could go a number of different ways at quarterback Sunday. Fitzpatrick or Smith could start. Or Petty could get the nod, with a scaled-down game plan. Or a new quarterback might start, though Bowles indicated that would be a dicey proposition, since even Petty would know the offense better than a new guy.

Barring an injury to Fitzpatrick, it looked like the Jets were ready to ride out 2015 with him as the starter. But now, after one brutal game in Oakland, neither Fitzpatrick nor the former starter, Smith, is a sure thing to play Sunday.

Bowles maintained his usual calm demeanor Monday, but he knows this could be a huge blow, at a critical juncture of the season, to his team's playoff hopes.

Fitzpatrick could potentially play through his thumb injury. But how effective would he be? Could he grip the ball? Could he take snaps from under center?

Bowles wants to see Fitzpatrick take snaps this week in practice, to gauge whether he could play against Jacksonville.

"There's a chance he could play Sunday," Bowles said. "It's all according to his pain tolerance. We'll try to get him some snaps on Wednesday and Thursday to see. Under center will be the big thing. I don't think the [shot]gun will be a problem."

Though Fitzpatrick can hand off with his right hand, doing it with his left hand, on plays when the running back takes the handoff from Fitzpatrick's right side, could be a problem. Plus, the Jets can't line up every snap in the shotgun formation.

"You can't just live in the shotgun," Bowles said. "You've got to be able to take snaps under center, as well as hand the ball off both ways. That'll be a challenge."

At this point, challenges are everywhere for the Jets at the quarterback position, as they wait to see if Fitzpatrick or Smith progresses enough this week to play.

In the meantime, they're exploring familiar outside quarterback options. Bowles said they've discussed bringing back Matt Flynn, a free agent who was with them late in training camp. The Jets cut Flynn before the regular season began.

"Right now, we're going to give Bryce some [practice] reps, and we're going to see what else is out there, just in case," Bowles said. "With the two banged up right now, we've got to get Bryce some reps."

If the Jets sign a low-profile veteran free agent like Flynn, it would likely be as a backup to either Smith (if Bowles and Co. don't feel comfortable enough with Petty as the understudy) or Petty (if Smith and Fitzpatrick are out Sunday).

The possibility of a quarterback in Flynn's position starting Sunday against the Jaguars seems a last resort, based on Bowles' comments Monday. Bowles said Petty "knows a good portion of our offense," albeit less than Fitzpatrick or Smith. Petty "can function going in to play a game," Bowles said.

With a newcomer like Flynn, the Jets would still have to scale down their offensive game plan, as they'd do with Petty.

"Or even more so, because at least Bryce has been here all the time," Bowles said. "If you bring in one of those type of [veteran] guys, from a confidence level of [him] keeping calm is one thing. But a confidence level of expanding the playbook would be totally different."

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How much does Jets' Todd Bowles blame Ryan Fitzpatrick, Geno Smith for their injuries? (Darryl Slater)

NJ Advance Media

November 3, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/how_much_does_jets_todd_bowles_blame_ryan_fitpatr.ht ml#incart_river_mobileshort

If Jets quarterbacks Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith both can't play next Sunday against the Jaguars, they have nobody to blame but themselves.

Both players were unnecessarily reckless while scrambling during Sunday's loss at the Raiders, which resulted in them getting hurt.

The Jets might have to start rookie Bryce Petty against the Jaguars, because Fitzpatrick has a torn ligament in his left (non-throwing) thumb, and Smith has a bruised left (non-throwing) shoulder. "A big bruise," said Jets coach Todd Bowles.

So how much does Bowles blame Fitzpatrick and Smith for their injuries? He didn't definitively blame them Monday, but he said they made incorrect decisions — including yet another head-first dive by Fitzpatrick — that now have them ailing.

"I thought in both cases, they both should've slid," Bowles said. "We've got to be smarter than that, for the good of the team. But you can't fault the competitiveness. We've just got to play a lot smarter."

What's most baffling is that Bowles had publicly mentioned several times this season that he wanted Fitzpatrick, an 11th-year veteran, to stop diving head-first at the end of his scrambles. Offensive coordinator Chan Gailey, who used to be Fitzpatrick's head coach in Buffalo, mentioned the same. Gailey said he's never been able to get Fitzpatrick to slide. Sure enough, it came back to bite the Jets.

Bowles had said he had no problem with Fitzpatrick running. But the coach didn't like the foolish/reckless way Fitzpatrick finished his runs.

Fitzpatrick, a Harvard graduate, is smart enough to realize that sliding feet-first is always the safest option for a quarterback in these situations, even if that's hard to do when you're trying to gain an extra yard in the heat of the moment. And that's a mindset Bowles said he understands.

In Oakland, Fitzpatrick was injured on the game's sixth play, third-and-5 at the Jets' 31-yard line. He scrambled for 12 yards — a fine effort. But then he dove head-first and hurt his thumb. He didn't even need to dive to get a first down.

Smith replaced Fitzpatrick. In the fourth quarter, Smith scrambled toward the sideline on second-and-10 from the Raiders' 44. Smith gained 29 yards on the play. Again, this was an admirable run by Smith, just like Fitzpatrick did a nice job gaining 12 yards on his scramble.

But instead of stepping out of bounds at the end of his run, Smith didn't try to avoid — and practically invited — a vicious (but clean) hit by cornerback David Amerson. It appeared this was the play on which Smith bruised his shoulder, since Amerson collided shoulder-to-shoulder with Smith.

"I'm assuming that was the play," Bowles said. "I thought he got hit pretty good right there on the sideline with the shoulder. He got hit a couple other times, too. But that might have sparked it."

Smith said after the game that he felt like he was injured on this play. He also admitted he made a mistake by not stepping out of bounds.

Especially in this situation, Smith should've known better, since the Jets were already without their starting quarterback, due to an injury.

Smith remained in the game after taking that shot. He even threw a touchdown pass to end that drive. But the damage was already done.

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Geno Smith wasn't awful in Jets' loss to Oakland Raiders | Quarterback report card (Dom Cosentino)

NJ Advance Media

November 3, 2015

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2015/11/geno_smith_wasnt_awful_in_jets_loss_to_oakland_rai.html#incart_river_mobileshort

SAN FRANCISCO — It's difficult to imagine how much could have been expected of Geno Smith once he was thrust into action just six plays into the Jets' 34-20 loss at the Raiders on Sunday at O.co Coliseum.

Smith finally made his 2015 debut because of a thumb injury to Ryan Fitzpatrick. Smith had not played a live NFL game—preseason or regular season—in 11 months. He had had any reps with the first team since

the second week of August. And his center, Wesley Johnson, who played because mainstay Nick Mangold had a neck injury, was making his NFL debut at a position he hadn't played in four years.

"I won't say it was perfect and he knows that," wide receiver Eric Decker said. "It's a tough situation when you aren't getting the majority of the reps in practice. They haven't had that chemistry since the beginning of the preseason or training camp."

So the deck was stacked largely against Smith. It also didn't help that the Jets' defense, right from the jump, was hardly up to the task of stopping what really is a young, loaded Raiders offense. That meant the Jets had to abandon the run early—running back Chris Ivory had just eight of his 15 carries after the Jets' first possession, which is not how the Jets' offense likes to operate.

There was good and bad in Smith's performance, which factored out to 27 of 42 passing for 265 yards, two touchdowns, one interception, and a Total QBR of 66.2; Smith also rushed twice for 34 yards and was sacked three times.

Let's take a closer look.

What Smith did well. He didn't make any devastating turnovers, which is always a plus when talking about Smith. Even his lone interception—a brutal throw into double coverage that was picked off by ageless safety Charles Woodson—wasn't damaging, as the Raiders followed it by missing a 53-yard field goal. But Smith led the Jets to 20 points against a Raiders team with an outstanding pass rush—and Smith did this even though the Jets made no effort to run the ball for much of the game. If he relied too much on throwing to wideout Brandon Marshall (18 targets), so be it; Fitzpatrick has looked in Marshall's direction a lot, too. But Decker and wideouts Kenbrell Thompkins and Jeremy Kerley combined for 16 catches, and Smith even threw a touchdown pass to tight end Kellen Davis, for which there should have been an immediate on-field ceremony, considering how little the Jets use their tight ends as pass catchers. Per Pro Football Focus, Smith was pressured in 18 of his 47 dropbacks but had a 104.0 passer rating on those plays. That's a step in the right direction for a guy who had turned it over 41 times in his first two seasons.

What Smith did not do well. There was the bad pick mentioned above, though there proved to be no consequences from it. But when the Jets needed Smith to rally them with a fourth-quarter drive after he got them within two touchdowns, the offense stalled and sputtered. There were at least two times when Smith was flushed from the pocket and held the ball too long and took a sack when it would have been much better to throw it away. He showed a lack of touch a handful of times, especially downfield. Smith was successful when checking underneath—19 of 23 on throws of fewer than nine yards, per Pro Football Focus—but noticeably less so when he really had to chuck it. Fans might not have liked Smith's performance, and they'd be (mostly) right about that. But the Jets lost this game because of their defense, first and foremost. And if Fitzpatrick's injury is serious enough to keep him out this week (and perhaps beyond), Smith would still be the Jets' next-best option, no matter who they might trade for or pluck off the street. That's assuming Smith's own bruised (non-throwing) shoulder won't keep him from playing Sunday against the Jaguars.

Grade: C

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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Jets aren't interested in Ryan Mallett: report (Bernie Augustine)

New York Daily News

November 2, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/jets-aren-intersted-ryan-mallett-report-article-1.2420611>

The Jets are in the market for a quarterback, but they're not about pick Ryan Mallett out of the bargain bin.

Gang Green has little interest in adding the ex-Texans quarterback, who was released last week after missing the team's flight to Miami, ESPN reported late Sunday.

Ryan Fitzpatrick left Sunday's game against Oakland with a hand injury and Geno Smith took over for Gang Green in a 34-20 loss to the Raiders. Fitzpatrick will have an MRI Monday to assess the damage to the ligaments in his non-throwing hand; Smith completed 27-of-42 passes for 265 yards with a touchdown and an interception filling in for Fitzpatrick.

Rookie Bryce Petty is the third quarterback on the Jets' roster.

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Jets LB David Harris on defense's performance vs. Raiders: 'It ain't going to happen again' (Kevin Armstrong)

New York Daily News

November 2, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/david-harris-jets-defense-won-happen-article-1.2420904>

The Jets put the 'D' in disgusting during Sunday's loss.

Linebacker David Harris didn't mince words in his message to the defense as he called out teammates for their poor performance against the Raiders. He insisted there would not be a recurrence of the 34-20 debacle.

"Just trust me," Harris said. "It ain't gonna happen again."

Harris, a leader now playing in his ninth season, cited lackluster effort in the defeat.

Derek Carr threw for 333 yards and four touchdowns, scorching the Jets' depleted secondary. Oakland tailback Latavius Murray added 113 yards on the ground.

Wideout Michael Crabtree broke tackles from linebacker Demario Davis, cornerback Antonio Cromartie and defensive back Marcus Williams on his 36-yard touchdown.

Harris called watching the game film "disgusting" and noted the need to improve tackling techniques across the unit.

Long considered a quiet leader from his inside linebacker position, he voiced his displeasure in a frank manner.

"We just did a poor job of tackling," Harris said. "The effort was poor all the way across the board. We had way too many guys not hustling on every play and it hurt us."

Pro Football Focus tallied 19 missed tackles by the Jets. Harris let it be known that the blame should be widespread.

"They outplayed us in every aspect," Harris said.

"Nobody expected it to happen," he added. "Surprised. Shocked. Worried. Any way you view it, it wasn't our best effort, let's put it that way."

The Jets (4-3) have dropped two straight games as they look to turn their attention to the Jaguars. The defense previously drew plaudits for its ability to limit opposing offenses before the back-to-back losses.

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Time for Jets to take a run at Robert Griffin III (Gary Myers)

New York Daily News

November 3, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/myers-time-jets-run-robert-griffin-iii-article-1.2421364>

It took less than half the season for Todd Bowles to find out things happen to the Jets just because they are the Jets. Sadly, it's in their DNA and there is no cure.

What team loses two quarterbacks in one game? Ryan Fitzpatrick tore ligaments in his left thumb and backup Geno Smith suffered a left shoulder injury severe enough in the two-touchdown loss to the Raiders that Bowles expressed little confidence Monday that either will be able to play Sunday against the Jaguars.

The early plan is to get rookie Bryce Petty prepared. Bowles will have a better idea Wednesday about his QB depth chart as he's reached his first crisis. The Jets are now 4-3 after losing back-to-back road games to the Patriots and Raiders and while it's a long season, it suddenly feels as if it's slipping away.

Bowles said the Jets might bring back journeyman Matt Flynn, who picked up some meal money in a short training camp tryout after Smith got his jaw busted in a locker room fight, sign another unemployed quarterback or pick up a QB in a deal before Tuesday's 4 p.m. trade deadline.

The best short-term answer might be old friend Mark Sanchez, a backup in Philly, but that is not happening for so many reasons. Start with the Butt Fumble. Besides, at some point Chip Kelly is going to realize Sam Bradford stinks and switch to Sanchez.

The solution might be a little further south in the NFC East: Robert Griffin III.

Can RG3, the most popular man in the nation's capital in 2012, recapture even some of the magic that briefly made him the Michael Jordan of the NFL? He's never been the same since former Washington coach Mike Shanahan irresponsibly left him in the playoff game against Seattle his rookie year after Griffin had reinjured his left knee in the first quarter. He limped through the rest of the game until tearing his ACL in the fourth quarter.

Griffin needs to get out of Washington, where Shanahan gave up on him before he was fired and now Jay Gruden has buried him behind Kirk Cousins — one of the two or three worst starters in the league — and Colt McCoy. Clearly, the only reason Griffin is still in Washington is he's been a favorite of owner Daniel Snyder.

Here's why it makes sense for the Jets to take a shot they can get Griffin's career straightened out:

-The compensation to Washington would be minimal. Maybe a conditional fifth-round pick. Remember, Washington gave up three first-round picks and a second-round pick four years ago to the Rams to move up four spots to select RG3 second overall. He was dynamic his rookie year with Shanahan designing his offense to take advantage of Griffin's amazing speed and creativity. Unfortunately, running the read option leaves a quarterback vulnerable to getting hit and Griffin got hurt.

-Maybe offensive coordinator Chan Gailey's QB-friendly offense will allow Griffin to thrive. If it works, then the Jets can potentially hit a home run and have a long-term solution with a QB who has lots of charisma. If Griffin is a bust and can't operate in a conventional offense, especially trying to pick it up in midseason, then the investment is minimal and the Jets can cut him.

-His \$16.155 million contract for 2016 is guaranteed only for injury if he is unable to play. Certainly, that factors into why Washington won't play him. Why take a chance of injury and having to pay him a fortune next year with Gruden already so down on him? He's only been active for one of Washington's seven games and has not taken a snap. If Griffin is eager for a new opportunity and wants out, he can renegotiate his contract as part of any trade. No team will trade for him if it potentially has to pay \$16.155 million next year because of an injury. But the cost is reasonable this season. Griffin is making \$3.3 million and if the Jets trade for him Tuesday, they will be responsible for \$1.7 million.

-He's had concussion issues (his latest was this summer in a preseason game against the Lions), he's been considered a diva at times — but he has not complained this season about his situation. He runs the scout team in practice and stays after for extra work. The plan was he was going to be the starter this season until he suffered the concussion, which gave Gruden the opening to start Cousins.

Griffin is only 25 years old. The environment and culture Snyder has created is not conducive to success. If Washington cuts Griffin after the season, I would think several teams will attempt to sign him. If the Jets trade for him now, they will have half the season to determine if they want to make this a long-term relationship. The professional atmosphere Bowles has created might unlock his talent.

Early in the 2005 season, the Jets lost Chad Pennington and Jay Fiedler to season-ending shoulder injuries in the same game and finished 4-12. It's the Jets, so this stuff just has a way of happening.

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WALL STREET JOURNAL

With Fitzpatrick and Smith Uncertain, Jets Looking at Petty for Sunday (Stu Woo)

Wall Street Journal

November 2, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/with-fitzpatrick-and-smith-uncertain-jets-looking-at-petty-for-sunday-1446508259?tesla=y>

The Jets' top two passers, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith, have a known aversion to ending their rushing attempts by sliding feet-first to the turf, as NFL quarterbacks typically do to avoid getting hit.

That reluctance to protect themselves on running plays was bound to hurt the Jets, and now it has. Head coach Todd Bowles said Monday that both quarterbacks injured themselves in Sunday's 34-20 loss in Oakland, and that both could miss next week's home game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. Fitzpatrick tore a ligament in his non-throwing thumb during a first-quarter scramble, and Smith bruised his non-throwing shoulder in a fourth-quarter collision.

Bowles said he'd have a better idea of their status when the team practices on Wednesday.

For now, Bowles said the Jets might be forced to start rookie fourth-round pick Bryce Petty or a quarterback they can acquire quickly via trade or free agency. "We have Bryce and we're looking at some others," Bowles said.

Whoever the Jets quarterback turns out to be, he may be missing a valuable weapon in receiver Brandon Marshall, who suffered ankle and toe injuries in Oakland. Bowles said he wasn't sure whether Marshall could play next Sunday.

Fitzpatrick, an 11-year NFL veteran, has said he has never felt comfortable sliding. "We'll send him to baseball school in the off-season," Bowles quipped two weeks ago, after Fitzpatrick finished an 18-yard run against the Washington Redskins with a headfirst dive into the end zone.

Fitzpatrick, who tore the thumb ligament on a thrilling 12-yard scramble Sunday, will likely require surgery at some point, but it could wait until after the season. There is a chance he could play Sunday. "It's a matter of pain level," Bowles said, adding that he wasn't especially confident that either quarterback will be able to play next week.

Bowles said that because the injury is to the non-throwing hand, Fitzpatrick could still throw and catch shotgun snaps without a problem. But he might not be able to handle snaps under center or hand off with his left hand, which would limit the offense. "You can't just live in the shotgun," Bowles said.

Smith, who completed 27 of 42 pass attempts for 265 yards, two touchdowns and one interception in relief of Fitzpatrick, was hurt in the fourth quarter when Raiders cornerback David Amerson leveled him after a 29-yard run. Smith conceded after the game that he should have stepped out of bounds and avoided the contact. Bowles said Monday that Smith has a left shoulder bruise, but no structural damage.

Meanwhile, the Jets are looking at free-agent quarterback Matt Flynn, who was briefly with the Jets during training camp and completed 10 of 14 pass attempts for 136 yards, two touchdowns and an interception in a preseason game.

But the Jets might be more comfortable with Petty, since he has been studying the team's playbook for months now. In four preseason games, Petty completed 27 of 45 pass attempts for 260 yards and one touchdown. Bowles said Monday that he was confident that the rookie was ready.

"I'll don't think he'll panic in the situation," he said. "At the same time, you've got to scale back the offense."

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MONDAY'S SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reinstated RHP Dylan Bundy from the 60-day DL.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with Charlie Nagy, pitching coach, on a two-year contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Named Alan Cockrell hitting coach and Marcus Thames assistant hitting coach. Reinstated RHP Sergio Santos from the 60-day DL, and announced Santos refused an outright assignment and elected to become a free agent. Reinstated RHP Diego Moreno from the 60-day DL and sent him outright to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Reinstated RHP Homer Bailey, C Devin Mesoraco, SS Zack Cozart and RHP Jon Moscot from the 60-day DL. Sent RHP Sam LeCure outright to Louisville (IL). Declined the 2016 mutual option on RHP Burke Badenhop and the club option on INF/OF Skip Schumaker.

MIAMI MARLINS — Named Don Mattingly manager and signed him to a four-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Derek Johnson pitching coach and Pat Murphy bench coach. Announced bullpen coach Lee Tunnell will return next season.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Exercised their 2016 club option on LHP Jaime Garcia. Declined their 2016 club option on RHP Jonathan Broxton. Assigned INF Pete Kozma and Cs Ed Easley and Travis Tartamella outright to Memphis (PCL).

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Declined their 2016 club option on OF Nate McLouth and 2016 mutual option on RHP Casey Janssen.

BASKETBALL

CHARLOTTE HORNETS — Signed G Jeremy Lamb to a contract extension. Exercised the fourth-year option on F Cody Zeller.

TORONTO RAPTORS — Agreed to terms with G-F Terrence Ross on a multiyear contract.

FOOTBALL

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Re-signed DL Dylan Wynn to the practice squad. Released DL Ray Drew from the practice squad.

DENVER BRONCOS — Acquired TE Vernon Davis from San Francisco for 2016 sixth- and seventh-round draft picks and a 2017 sixth-round draft pick.

NEW YORK JETS — Announced WR Chris Owusu cleared waivers and was placed on injured reserve.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed RB Le'Veon Bell on injured reserve.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed RB Jarryd Hayne to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL — Suspended Ottawa F Mark Stone two games for an illegal check to the head of Detroit F Landon Ferraro during an Oct. 31 game.

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Reassigned D Joe Piskula to San Diego (AHL).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled F Marko Dano from Rockford (AHL). Assigned F Bryan Bickell to Rockford.

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled F Ben Street from San Antonio (AHL).

SOCCER

NEW YORK CITY FOOTBALL CLUB — Fired Jason Kreis coach and Miles Joseph and CJ Brown assistant coaches.

COLLEGE

SAINT ELIZABETH — Named James Ellison men's soccer coach.

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