

Jets will try to knock off Patriots Sunday

SPORTSDIRECT

The New York Jets have quietly won four of their first five games to **NFL** make a statement in the AFC East. New York can make a considerably louder noise on Sunday afternoon with a victory over the reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots in Foxborough, Massachusetts (1 p.m., CBS-TV).

Sheldon Richardson certainly wasn't shy about talking, as the Jets mammoth defensive tackle did his best Joe Namath impression by guaranteeing victory over the undefeated Patriots.

"This is going to be another win for us," Richardson told Metro New York. "We'll let you all write the columns about validating wins and stuff like that."

Richardson's remarks will likely provide bulletin-board material for New England, which has an average margin of victory of 16 points this season. Quarterback Tom Brady, who tossed three touchdowns in the Patriots' 34-27 victory over Indianapolis last week, leads the team's second-ranked passing offense against the

Jets' top-ranked defense.

ABOUT THE JETS (4-1): After helping the Patriots win that Super Bowl, cornerback Darrelle Revis elected to pack his bags and sign a five-year, \$70 million contract with his former team. "I don't think I'll be welcomed back with open arms, I'll tell you that," Revis told the New York Daily News. Chris Ivory likely won't be received well either, especially if he continues his torrid two-game stretch (49 carries, 312 yards and two touchdowns) against the 22nd-ranked Patriots' rush defense.

ABOUT THE PATRIOTS (5-0): In addition to wideout Julian Edelman (team-leading 40 receptions, four TDs) and tight end Rob Gronkowski (five scores), Brady may see the return of another key weapon on Sunday in the form of Brandon LaFell (foot). The wideout came off the PUP list and could be active for the first time after finishing with 74 receptions, 953 yards and seven touchdowns last season. LeGarrette Blount rolled up a season-best total of 93 yards with a pair of scores last week, but was held to zero yards on five carries against the Jets on Nov. 9 in his last



BRAD PENNER | USA TODAY

New York Jets defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson warms up before the game against the Washington Redskins at MetLife Stadium on Sunday.

game with Pittsburgh.

NOTEBOOK: New York WR Brandon Marshall has eclipsed 100 yards receiving

in each of his last four games, including 111 and a touchdown in his team's 34-20 win over Washington.

... New England DE Chandler Jones had 2½ sacks last week and leads the team with 5½. ... Jets RB Stevan

Ridley (knee) looks to return from the PUP list to make his season debut against his former team.



SZE WING WONG

Yale's Copache Tyler tackles Maine's Nigel Beckford on Saturday at Alfond Stadium in Orono on Saturday. Yale beat the Black Bears 21-10.

Stony Brook's run game presents challenge for UM

BY PETE WARNER
BDN STAFF

ORONO — Twice already this season, the University of Maine **COLLEGE FOOTBALL** responded to a loss by earning a victory in the next game.

Coach Jack Cosgrove's Black Bears will try to shake the sting of their 21-10 loss to Yale last Saturday as they return to Colonial Athletic Association action against a rugged Stony Brook squad.

UMaine, 2-1 in league play, hopes to regain its collective confidence with another important contest.

Stony Brook Seawolves (2-3) at Maine Black Bears (2-4), 12:30 p.m., Alfond Stadium, Orono: The Black Bears expect a hard-hitting game against the Seawolves, who present a challenge with a big offense that likes to run the ball. That puts much of the onus on UMaine's front seven to handle that dynamic.

"They're a big, physical football team," said UMaine coach Jack Cosgrove. "They want to establish the run and they've got some good skill in the backfield and at receiver. They might use some bigger personnel groupings than you're used to seeing."

Stony Brook has posted 164 rushing yards per game led by Isaiah White (46.4 ypg) but has been spotty through the air, as quarterbacks Joe Carbone and Conor Bednarski have combined to throw for only 801 yards and five touchdowns with 4 interceptions.

However, wideout Ray Bolden is among the league leaders with 32 receptions for 395 yards and 4 TDs.

UMaine, which ranks third against the run in the CAA (124.7 ypg) has been led by linebacker Randy Samuels (43 tackles, 2 INTs), end

Trevor Bates of Westbrook (30 tackles) and tackle Pat Ricard (29 tackles). However, Yale's ground assault was the difference last week.

"It was the run game in the second half that won the football game for them," Cosgrove said.

SBU (1-3 CAA) has lost three straight, including last week's 21-14 setback against Towson. The Seawolves are third in total defense (320.8 ypg) and scoring defense (19 ppg) behind safeties Tyrice Beverette (41 tackles), Naim Cheeseboro (31) and linebacker Lionel Quintin (30 tackles, 1 INT).

The Black Bears have to try to establish more consistency in the run game led by tailback Nigel Beckford (68.6 ypg, 4 TDs). However, they'll also have to make some plays through the air with QBs Dan Collins (93-for-187, 987 yds., 2 TDs, 7 INTs) and Drew Belcher (23-for-36, 255 yds., 3 TDs, 1 INT) throwing to top wide receivers Micah Wright (34-481-3) and Jordan Dunn (29-291-1).

Husson Eagles (4-1) at Gallaudet Bison (0-5), 1 p.m., Hotchkiss Field, Washington, D.C.: The first-place Eagles make the long trip in search of their fourth Eastern Collegiate Football Conference victory.

Husson has allowed only 17 points and 223 yards per game, including just 57 rushing yards per contest. Gallaudet has mustered only 8.8 points and 198 yards a game.

Maine Maritime Academy Mariners (1-4) at Endicott Gulls (2-4), noon, Endicott Stadium, Beverly, Massachusetts: The Mariners, who have dropped three in a row, go in search of their first New England Football Conference win. MMA is the fifth most productive rushing team in Division III at 344.4 yards per outing, but continues to be forgiving on defense.

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The Seattle Mariners named Scott Servais, an assistant general manager with the **MAJOR LEAGUES** Los Angeles Angels and former major league catcher, as their new manager on Friday.

Jerry Dipoto, the Mariners' executive vice president and general manager of baseball operations, made the announcement after multiple media outlets reported Friday morning that Servais would become the 17th full-time skipper in team history.

A news conference is scheduled for Monday at Safeco Field to introduce Servais.

Servais, Boston Red Sox special assistant Jason Varitek and minor league man-

ager Phil Nevin were among the finalists for the Seattle job, according to reports.

The Mariners were seeking a replacement for Lloyd McClendon, who was let go by Dipoto after the 2015 season. Dipoto was hired by the Mariners in late September after stepping down as Angels general manager earlier this year.

Servais, 48, and Dipoto shared a working relationship in Los Angeles, where Servais oversaw scouting and player development. Servais and Dipoto also were teammates for the first five months of the 2000 season when Dipoto was a reliever for the Colorado Rockies. Servais was a pro scout for the Rockies in 2005 when Dipoto was their director of player development.

"Through the course of the 20-plus years I've known Scott, I've come to see him as one of

the most complete, well balanced and inclusive baseball people in the industry," Dipoto said in a statement. "I've been fortunate enough to call him a teammate as a player, while also having worked closely with him as an organizational leader in both Colorado and Los Angeles. He is a communicator with strong baseball acumen and leadership skills. I truly believe his strong character and career experiences as a player, coach and executive have prepared him for this opportunity."

Servais doesn't have any experience as a manager, but he recently interviewed for the vacant San Diego Padres managerial position. He was a catcher in the majors from 1991-2001.

Servais spent the past four seasons as the Angels' assistant general manager. In that role, he worked closely with

Dipoto on all aspects of baseball operations, with a focus on player development.

"I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to manage the Seattle Mariners," Servais said. "It has long been my goal to manage a big league team and while I took a slightly different path than many, I am confident in my ability to lead. We have a terrific core of players and I'm looking forward to bringing in a coaching staff that will help me establish a winning culture here as we work toward putting a championship-caliber team on the field for the fans of the Northwest."

Prior to joining the Angels, Servais spent the previous six seasons (2006-2011) as the Texas Rangers' senior director of player development. He had an 11-year major league playing career.

Roethlisberger questionable, Mariota out

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was listed as questionable **NFL** on Friday's injury report as his status for Sunday's game against the Kansas City Chiefs remains unresolved.



Roethlisberger

avoid playing him if possible. Third-year quarterback Landry Jones took all the first-team practice repetitions on Friday.

The Steelers have been preparing Jones to start all week after he replaced in-

jured Michael Vick (hamstring) in last Sunday's game against the Arizona Cardinals and passed for 168 yards and two touchdowns.

Vick has been ruled out for Sunday's game, leaving Jones and Roethlisberger as Pittsburgh's only available quarterbacks on the active roster.

Mariota on sidelines

Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota has been ruled out for Sunday's home game against the Atlanta Falcons due to a sprained left knee.

Head coach Ken Whisenhunt declared Mariota out after the rookie missed his third day of practice this



Mariota

week for the 1-4 Titans, who have lost four games in a row and eight consecutive at home.

Backup Zach Mettenberger will be starting in place of Mariota, who sustained the injury in the first half of the Titans' 38-10 loss to the Miami Dolphins last Sunday.

Dolphins' Vernon fined for hits

Dolphins defensive end Olivier Vernon has been fined \$37,363 for two separate hits on Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota last week.

The NFL confirmed to Pro Football Talk on Friday that Vernon was fined for two roughing-the-passer infractions. The NFL fined Vernon \$17,363 for striking Mariota in the knee area in the second quarter of Sunday's 38-10 win over the Titans, and \$20,000 for striking Mariota

in the head and neck area in the third quarter. Vernon said he will appeal the fines.

Mariota was injured on the first hit by Vernon.

49ers' Bethea injured

The San Francisco 49ers placed safety Antoine Bethea on the injured reserve list and activated receiver Jerome Simpson to the roster.

Bethea suffered a serious shoulder injury in Thursday night's game against the Seattle Seahawks. The 10-year veteran was injured while making a tackle attempt on Seahawks receiver Doug Baldwin.

Simpson is available to play for the first time this season after serving a six-game suspension for a violation of the league's substance-abuse policy. He hasn't played in an NFL game since 2013.

Sports A.M.

US to host 2016 Copa America soccer tourney

MIAMI — The United States will host the centenary Copa America in 2016 despite the original deals for the competition featuring in the Department of Justice's (DOJ) indictments against soccer officials in the region.

The decision paves the way for the biggest official international tournament in the U.S. since the 1994 World Cup and could see top players such as Argentine Lionel Messi and Brazilian Neymar in action at NFL stadiums.

Confirmation of the June 3-26 event was announced in a joint statement on Friday from CONCACAF, the soccer confederation for North and Central America and the Caribbean and CONMEBOL, the South American confederation.

A U.S. Soccer statement

also said the tournament would go ahead in "venues across the United States".

The move was made possible by the two confederations reclaiming the broadcast and sponsor rights for the competition from Datasa, a marketing firm that featured in the DOJ indictments.

Hockey's 'Original Blue' Roberts dies at age 75

Jimmy Roberts, a five-time Stanley Cup champion with the Montreal Canadiens and the first player taken by the St. Louis Blues in the 1967 NHL expansion draft, died of cancer Friday. He was 75.

Roberts, a defenseman, led the Blues to the Stanley Cup Final in each of the franchise's first three seasons.

"The St. Louis Blues and the Blues Alumni organization are deeply saddened by the passing of the original

Blue Jimmy Roberts," the team said in a statement.

"Jimmy was the franchise's first-ever draft pick and was instrumental in building the foundation of Blues hockey as a player and upholding its tradition as an alumnus.

"His tireless contributions to St. Louis, the Blues and the game of hockey as a whole will forever live as an example for future generations to follow. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Judy, and their two daughters."

Roberts won the Stanley Cup five times (1965, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1977) with the Canadiens, and on three occasions was selected an NHL All-Star (1965, 1969, 1970).

Roberts played in 1,159 NHL games, including 447 with the Blues, before retiring in St. Louis at the conclusion of 1977-78. He spent 15 seasons in the NHL with the Canadiens and Blues.

Popovich to follow Krzyzewski as US coach

San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich will succeed Mike Krzyzewski as head coach of the U.S. men's basketball team after the 2016 Olympics.

USA Basketball announced on Friday that Popovich, who has led the Spurs to five NBA titles, will take over starting with 2017 training camp and lead the Americans into the 2019 Basketball World Cup in China and 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, assuming U.S. qualification.

Krzyzewski, who is Duke's head coach, is planning to step down after the Rio 2016 Games. Coach K led the USA to Olympic gold medals in 2008 in Beijing and 2012 in London.

Popovich, 66, was the choice of USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo. Krzyzewski will stay on as a special adviser to Colangelo for the 2017-2020 period.

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