

Jets' victory powered by rookie quarterback

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — New York Jets coach Walt Michaels wanted a closer look at rookie quarterback Matt Robinson to see whether he can help fill the void left by the departure of Joe Namath.

Robinson grabbed the opportunity like a seasoned veteran, passing for 94 yards and two touchdowns Saturday night to power the Jets to a 20-14 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

"We're trying to make a decision on Robinson," Michaels said, "and you saw how he played tonight."

Robinson's first scoring pass came on a six-yard pass up the middle to wide receiver Richard Easter, but it was the second pass — a 57-yard play with Richard Osborne — which put the Jets in front for good.

Osborne caught the pass 48 inches from the right sideline at the 44 and evaded two New Orleans tacklers to run in for the score.

The pass was one of Robinson's completions in 10 attempts.

It was the second win in five seasons games for the Jets, while it snapped a three-game

exhibition win streak for the Saints.

"We didn't play with the attitude we showed in the first three games," said Saints coach Hank Stram. "We were flat, not aggressive."

New York starting quarterback Richard Todd suffered a minor bruise on his left wrist in the first quarter. Jets' offensive right tackle Marvin Powell bruised his right knee and was taken to a hospital for X-rays.

Backup New Orleans quarterback Bobby Douglass suffered a shoulder injury, but Stram said he was unsure how serious it was. Starter Archie Manning suffered a minor bruise on his left shoulder.

The Saints' scoring started with a two-yard run by Leon McQuay, a play set up by Manning's 21-yard pass to Joel Parker and 11-yard pass to Tony Galbreath. Galbreath took a 14-yard pass from Douglass for the other Saints' TD.

Pat Leahy kicked field goals of 18 and 23 yards to complete the Jets' scoring. He missed an 18-yarder, wide to the left, after the New Orleans' defense stymied New York in a first-and-goal situation at their two-yard line.

Oilers vs. 49ers: Cut it or be cut

United Press International
HOUSTON — The San Francisco 49ers preseason match against the Houston Oilers tonight will give coaches Ken Meyers and Bum Phillips excellent chances to see if their offenses can cut it.

Houston's revamped offensive line faces the challenge of stopping Cedrick Hardman, Cleveland Elam, Tommy Hart and Jimmy Webb, a group otherwise known as the "Gold Rush."

San Francisco, if it is to win its second preseason game in a row, must deal with Curley Culp, Elvin Bethea and one of the quickest four-somes of linebackers in the league.

Although both the Jim Plunkett-led 49ers offense and the Oilers offense directed by Dan Pastorini have shown spurts of success, neither is considered a consistent danger.

San Francisco did beat the Los Angeles Rams 23-14 last weekend as Plunkett, a la Steve Grogan, accounted for three touchdowns. Houston flashed a running game against the Chicago Bears despite suffering its third straight defeat.

In that 49ers game, the "Gold Rush" sacked Rams' quarterbacks seven times and showed there would be no letup from 1976, when it ranked first in the NFC in overall defense.

The "Rush" will miss one link

Monday as Webb, the left tackle, sits out with a sprained ankle.

Houston's defense is set except for one spot. Left defensive end on the same line with Culp and Bethea is still a problem. Starting there will be 6-2, 260 Jim Young, a free agent on a leave from the Houston Fire Department.

Injured, and out for another game, is hard-hitting safety C.L. Whittington. Starting for him is Mike Weger.

Both coaches have indicated they will play their starting quarterbacks for three quarters. Mopping up, if that is to be the case for either team, will be the 49ers Pat Sullivan and Houston's Karl Douglas.

The coaches will have about 12 hours after the game to reassess players' performances and decide whom to cut to reach the maximum of 52 players. The 49ers must cut six men, the Oilers seven.

Each team features one good intra-team battle.

For Houston a real contest has developed at the fullback and running back positions. Phillips will keep four, and maybe five backs. Vying for the jobs are veterans Ronnie Coleman, Fred Willis and Don Hardeman, and rookies Tim Wilson, Rob Carpenter and Horace Belton.

Tim Wilson and Rob Carpenter will start because they are the best looking backs Houston has now. Coleman, Houston's finest back last

season, will play for the first time this preseason. He has been out recuperating from hepatitis. Belton, who complicated the matter with a fine showing last week, will play.

San Francisco has five receivers vying for the flanker position opposite Gene Washington. Jim Lash, the starter during the second half of last season, leads the chase. Also in the running are Terry Beasley, Steve Rivera, Kenny Harrison and Elmo Boyd.

— See Section D for more Sports —

Colts lose 99 yards to Dorsett

United Press International
DALLAS — Tony Dorsett took his first major National Football League examination last Saturday night.

And he passed.

He did even better than that, in fact because the words that came from Dallas coach Tom Landry after the Cowboys had nipped the Baltimore Colts, 23-21, were words you

don't hear too often — particularly about a rookie.

"Dorsett had a great game," said Landry. "No question about it. He has great acceleration. If he keeps playing like that it will be difficult to keep him out."

The Heisman Trophy winner, chosen as the second player in the NFL draft, had played only one quarter in two of Dallas' three pre-

vious exhibition games. But Saturday night he played slightly more than a half against the Colts, gaining 99 yards in 18 carries.

His last two rushes of the night were for 15 and 17 yards and he almost broke the 17-yarder all the way for a touchdown.

As it was, it was good enough to move the ball into field goal position for Efrén Herrera to boot a 33-yarder on the last play of the game.

The only bothersome points were that Dorsett fumbled twice, the Cowboys lost one of the fumbles and Dorsett got his shin kicked hard on the 17-yard run, causing a brief concern that he had aggravated a knee bruise which had bothered him during training camp.

"But it wasn't my knee," Dorsett said. "It was my shin. It's no big deal. It just drew a little blood."

"Each week I feel better, physically and mentally. Endurance? I'm not a big person, but because of my running style I don't take too many brutal blows."

Other than the excitement stirred up in the fans by Dorsett and the touchdown catches of Dallas' Drew Pearson and Baltimore's Freddie Scott, the game was a bit of a bore, filled with penalties and mistakes.

"I think it wasn't a great football game," opined Baltimore coach Ted Marchibroda.

"It's hard to play good football when you have a lot of penalties."

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Player begins tests for muscle cramps

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Astros first baseman Bob Watson was scheduled to enter the hospital last night to undergo tests to determine the cause of severe cramps.

Watson, 31, was taken out of the Astros' lineup yesterday afternoon, but he remained suited up for a game with the Montreal Expos because of injuries to other players.

"I hope that they can find something so that I can be back in uniform Tuesday night," Watson said. "But it might be a week."

Watson had hoped to play the remainder of the season before having to be hospitalized, but the cramps in muscles throughout his body have become more severe recently.

Watson is in his 11th season with the Astros. He has been the most consistent hitter for the team this year, hitting .279 with 14 home-runs.

Astros manager Bill Virdon placed catcher Joe Ferguson at first base for yesterday's game and Ed Herrmann caught.

Yankees defeat Rangers with a single home run

United Press International
NEW YORK — Graig Nettles tripled with one out in the sixth inning and Reggie Jackson singled him home for the game's only run yesterday as the New York Yankees defeated the Texas Rangers 1-0 behind the two-hit pitching of Ron Guidry.

Guidry's performance raised his record to 11-6 and was his fifth complete game of the year. He struck out eight without issuing a walk and at one point retired 16 straight Rangers between hits.

Dock Ellis, now 7-11, allowed the Yankees only five hits but issued four walks and was rescued four times by double plays. Nettles' triple in the sixth appeared at first to be a homer but bounced off the glove of centerfielder Juan Beniquez, who leaped high against the wall. After Ellis retired Thurman Munson on a foul pop, Jackson lofted a 3-0 pitch into shallow center for a single.

Jim Sundberg tripled to left with two out in the first but was stranded when Guidry struck out Willie Horton. The only other Texas hit was a single by Bert Campaneris leading off the seventh but he was thrown out stealing.

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