

Jets fail to take flight in week 3 as QB struggles hold them back once again

By: Rylan Crum

Published Sep. 27th 2023, 10:31 a.m. ET



Bryan Woolston/ The Associated Press

The New York Jets hosted their second home game of the 2023-2024 NFL Season against their division rival the New England Patriots at MetLife Stadium on Sunday, September 24th. Even though the Patriots were heading to East Rutherford, New Jersey to play at self-proclaimed “JetLife Stadium” they still had the edge as the Jets haven’t beaten the Patriots since December 27th, 2015. Yes, you read that right, 2015. Coming into the week three matchup the Patriots have beaten the Jets in their last 14

matchups. The energy was high heading into this game as third-year quarterback Zach Wilson gets his first home start of the 23-24 season after filling in for an injured Aaron Rodgers. On the other side Mac Jones (another third-year QB) looks to keep his record clean against the Jets as so far he's beaten them in his first four matchups. As the rainy and windy divisional matchup got underway the juices got flowing, although it was a slow start with the Patriots taking the lead after the first only 3-0, both teams have shown how to win games after a slow first quarter; Especially these two teams as the Patriots beat the Jets in their first matchup last year 10-3. Now this game looked like it could end in that same score as the Patriots led New York 10-3 at half. At the midway point, QB Zach Wilson had a staggering 29 yards going 5-10 and getting sacked twice for a total loss of 19 yards. Although it is unpleasant, frustrating, and downright embarrassing for Jets fans, it's not surprising and that's what makes it worse. Wilson was ready to go into his third year backing up his childhood idol and future HOF quarterback Aaron Rodgers but that all changed when Rodgers went down within four minutes of the Jets opening game against Buffalo and suffered a complete Achilles tear. The Jets come back out at half down by one possession as Wilson is able to watch another defensive drive before he heads back out. The Jets' promising defense did what it does best and that's stop the offense and set Wilson and the Jets O up in the best position, unsurprisingly Wilson couldn't capitalize and it wasn't just on the first drive of the second half, it was all of the third quarter. The Jets finished the third scoreless. The final quarter wasn't much better besides New York's touchdown drive as Wilson led them 70+ yards for a score, in the long run, this score didn't matter as the offense

couldn't execute anything for the rest of the game and New England defeated the Jets for the 15th time in a row.

During game number two Zach Wilson heard boos which aren't new to him, frustrated with the QB play, Jets fans show how they feel and the number one fan of them all "Fireman" Ed took to Instagram to share his thoughts on the QB and saying he should be cut tomorrow (Monday) or traded. Monday comes, just like most other Mondays, Jets Head Coach Robert Saleh took to the podium at a press conference. This is where all hell breaks loose once again for Jets fans as Saleh said "He (Wilson) is our unquestioned quarterback", also stating "He's not the reason we lost yesterday". This is not something you want to hear as a Jets fan. The Jets weren't the best team on Sunday but the defense held the Patriots to only 15 points and the O-Line looked much improved from week 2 with the addition of rookie Joe Tippman. Wilson looked scared, unconfident, and seemingly unable to read a football field. Former NFL QB Dan Orvlosky took to X sharing a video of Wilson showing him throwing a short check down while former OROY Garrett Wilson was wide open running a streak route. "Feel for the kid" and "0 confidence," said Orvlosky, and he's right. During the scoring drive for the Jets Wilson looked calm and was slinging the ball because the playbook was opened up since NY was down and he took advantage of that, other than that he plays like any ball he throws won't be to his own team and even though that's the unfortunate case with Zach a lot of times you can't play like it if you want to lead a playoff contending team. The doubts for Wilson have been there since his rookie year and haven't left his side, right when Rodgers got hurt many Jets fans called for a Veteran QB to get signed. Someone who can hold them over until Rodgers recovers and maybe even lead this

team to the playoffs since they would come to a young team with as many experienced and young stars as you could want but just like normal Saleh held out and said Wilson is our guy, until this week after the Patriots game.

There was rumor that two former Colts players Matt Ryan and Carson Wentz reached out to the Jets after the Rodgers injury but shortly after Ryan denied the claims saying he's happy doing what he's doing now in the booth, Wentz, on the other hand, is currently living in Indianapolis but he's still searching for another opportunity. After Ryan denied the claim of him reaching out the main candidates included Wentz, Kirk Cousins, Nick Foles, and even Colin Kaepernick who also reached out to the Jets in a letter pleading to them about what he can do to help. As the Jets look for another veteran to lead their team they have Super Bowl champs Carson Wentz and Nick Foles on the table but New York didn't seem interested. On Tuesday, September 26th the Jets finally signed a veteran to their roster, former Bengals backup Trevor Siemian. Siemian was drafted by Denver in 2015 out of Northwestern and was a part of the Broncos Super Bowl squad, although he has won a championship he was not the Super Bowl Champion QB the Jets wanted to have this year. After being out of the league in 2018 Siemian was picked up by the Jets in 2019 but only played one game going 3/6 with 3 yards. Although he was signed to the practice squad there's a lot of speculation that he'll end up starting over Wilson in no time. Heading into this 2023 season the Jets were high on life ready to end the Playoff drought and have Future HOF player Aaron Rodgers lead them, while that ended short the focus switched to Wilson and now Jets fans are hoping Siemian can

take them as far as they know they can go with a top 5 defense and serviceable weapons on offense. The Jets stay home this week as they face off against the reigning champs the Kansas City Chiefs, while the hope is not high for NY and their quarterback situation heading into this game many just hope they show improvements and not the lackluster offense the former number 2 overall pick Zach Wilson has been apart of so far in his career.