

Sanchez caps impressive practice

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

Associated Press
CORTLAND, N.Y. — Mark Sanchez scrambled behind the line of scrimmage, his eyes locked in on the end zone.

The New York Jets rookie quarterback reared back, zipped a pass into Brad Smith's hands for a touchdown and celebrated as if he'd just won a game. Sanchez did it again on his next pass a few minutes later, capping another solid training camp practice Thursday.

"The last play of the game, you've got to have it, win or lose," coach Rex Ryan said. "He had to scramble on both of them. Found an open guy, showed good vision downfield and then threaded the needle."

Sanchez, competing with Kellen Clemens for the starting job, was having a good practice until kicking it up a notch with his last two tosses. He finished 7 for 14 in 11-on-11 drills, while Clemens was 4 for 7 with two interceptions on the day before the team wraps up camp at SUNY Cortland.

"In all fairness to Kellen, he's been around here a long time and if I'm going to play, I need to earn it," Sanchez said. "That's the right thing to do. I thought that was the right thing for the organization to do. That's what I've done, just competing like crazy to give Coach a reason to put me on the field, and when I get my opportunities, try and make the most of it."

He certainly has done so. Despite a mostly mediocre week that followed a sizzling debut

JETS

against St. Louis last Friday, Sanchez appears to hold a slight edge over Clemens in the competition.

"We've had fun through this whole camp," Sanchez said. "I want to peak at the right time and finish this camp strong and have fun with it and hopefully run away."

Ryan said early in camp that he'd like to select a starter by the third preseason game against the Giants on Aug. 29. He has softened on that, saying he doesn't want a set deadline. But if Sanchez sparkles in his first NFL start at Baltimore on Monday night, the rookie could all but lock things up.

"This is a big-time Monday night game," Sanchez said. "It's as close to a real game as possible. I'm so excited to try and build on last week. I think that's the main focus. That doesn't necessarily mean I have to throw the ball deep every first play I get in."

Sanchez, who came in after Clemens started against the Rams, threw a 48-yard strike to David Clowney on his first NFL pass. So, any plans to come out throwing again against Baltimore?

"I can't tell you," Sanchez said, laughing. "Ed Reed's watching."

And so is Ryan and the rest of the Jets organization.

"If Coach is looking to make a decision, then we're coming down it," Clemens said. "We have a few practices possibly and the one game left. I don't think that the

coach's decision on who is going to start is going to come out of the one game."

Clemens has had a solid week of practices after going 4 for 4 for 24 yards against St. Louis. He also was 4 for 4 working with the second-team offense Thursday until he was picked off by Rashad Barksdale and Drew Coleman on consecutive passes, the second coming in red-zone drills.

"It was the last play of the game," said Clemens, who has 12 interceptions to Sanchez's five. "You've got to throw it somewhere. Drew Coleman actually came off his guy on the outside and came in to make a great play. You never want a pick, but there are some situations where it is less hurtful."

Ryan was complimentary of both quarterbacks after practice, saying Clemens' grasp of the offense is "ridiculous."

"He knows where it all goes with the motions, the shifts," Ryan said, "and can get everybody lined up."

He then went on to rave about the rookie.

"Sanchez knows what he's doing," Ryan said. "He knows the routes. He knows all that. I'm not so sure he knows the blocking patterns. I would say (Clemens) is way ahead there. He gives himself a chance to be physical. In other words, let his physical talents and abilities show because he knows what he's doing."

If Clemens earns the starting role, Ryan said he wouldn't be wary of pulling him — or anyone else — if they struggle.

Norwalk LL sweeps titles



Contributed photos
The Norwalk Little League completed a successful season by capturing titles at the Kinlock Tournament as well as the Corbo Tournament. At top, members of the Kinlock champions: Back row; Sean Welch, Nate Cutting, Brendan Hanzlik, Paul Salata, Edward Petrillo and Ryan Evans. Front row: Drew Pace, Alex Scallion, Kevin Love, Trey Newcomb, Jared Smith and Tom Arduino. Bottom photo, the Corbo champions are: Back row, left to right, Manager Jim Benincaso, Johnny Swick, Jake Somma, Tommy Benincaso, coach Jim Benincaso, Alex Marino, Moe Ortiz, coach Tysen Canevari, Kyle Mossop and Jake Fishman. Front row, left to right: Mike Pascarelli, Joey Benincaso, Matt Arduino and Trey Canevari. Missing from photo are Danny Frattaroli and Evan Uva.

Webster back at practice, has interception

By TOM CANAVAN

Associated Press
ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Giants chief executive John Mara said Thursday that the team will make a decision on whether to return to the University at Albany for training camp after the current camp ends.

Mara wants to make the decision quickly so the team can have arrangements for lodging, food service and other services lined up before year's end. The Giants have trained at Albany since 1996.

The other option is for them to train at their new headquarters in the Meadowlands sports complex, which has an indoor field house and three grass practice fields.

The university has more grass fields and lodging for the players, but does not have an indoor facility that would allow them to run full practices during inclement weather.

GIANTS NOTEBOOK

Starting cornerback Corey Webster intercepted a pass in the afternoon practice on Thursday in his first meaningful workout since returning from a hip problem that sidelined him for about a week in training camp.

"I overworked and did a little too much," Webster said during a lunch break before the afternoon practice. "It was a little sore. I kind of strained it a bit, but everything is good now."

Webster spent most of the past week getting treatment for his hip and working with some of the younger defensive backs at practice.

"You never want to come out," said Webster, who intercepted a David Carr pass out in the flat. "You work hard to get here to camp and you never want to have a lit-

tle setback."

Webster, who did not play in Monday's preseason game against Carolina, does not know whether Tom Coughlin will allow him to play Saturday against the Bears.

Webster, who also was bothered by a hip in minicamp, isn't worried about his hips being a continuing problem.

Defensive tackle Rocky Bernard has looked good in limited action since being taken off the non-football injury list on Wednesday.

"I don't feel I am that far behind," Bernard said Thursday. "I just have to get into football shape, because you can run and ride the elliptical and all that stuff but it's nothing like putting the pads on and playing."

Bernard will not play Saturday night when the Giants are in Chicago to play the Bears, but says he will play in one of the other preseason games.

Steelers' Roethlisberger hurts foot or ankle

Associated Press
LATROBE, Pa. —

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger injured his right ankle or foot during the last half-hour of the team's final training camp practice. It was not certain how badly he was hurt or how long he would be out.

Roethlisberger had an ice pack on the back of the ankle when he was carted off at the end of Thursday's workout, with offensive coordinator Bruce Arians accompanying him. Roethlisberger didn't talk to reporters, but he could be overheard saying, "Oh it just feels great. It feels like a car ran over it."

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NFL

receiver Brandon Marshall will play in Denver's preseason game at Seattle this weekend.

Marshall spent a second straight day working almost exclusively with the scout team Thursday, 24 hours after saying he was nowhere near mastering the new offense.

Marshall is upset with the Broncos over their refusal to redo his contract or trade him and with their handling of his acquittal on battery charges last week.

Retired players sue for use of identities

MINNEAPOLIS — NFL Hall of Famer Elvin Bethea and five other players sued the league for using their names and images for profit without their permission.

The players filed a class-action lawsuit

Thursday in federal court in Minneapolis. The lawsuit accuses the NFL of exploiting retired players' identities in films, highlight reels and memorabilia to market the league's "glory days" without compensating the players.

Talib arrested for allegedly hitting cabbie

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay cornerback Aqib Talib was held out of practice Thursday after police say he punched a taxi driver and was jailed on charges of simple battery and resisting arrest without violence.

Sullivan, Nance inducted into Pats Hall of Fame

BOSTON — Patriots original owner Billy Sullivan and fullback Jim Nance were inducted posthumously into the team's Hall of Fame in a ceremony Thursday.

Pilot Pen adds two wildcards

Fernando Verdasco and Nadia Petrova will join the loaded tournament field

Contributed report

NEW HAVEN — World No. 10, and Australian Open semifinalist Fernando Verdasco and World No. 12 Nadia Petrova have been granted wildcards into Pilot Pen Tennis tournament, it was announced Thursday

TENNIS



by tournament director Anne Worcester. The Pilot Pen, an Olympus US Open Series event on the ATP World Tour and Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, is set for August 21-29 at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale University.

Verdasco, who will be making his fifth appearance at the Pilot Pen, is having an exceptional year. The Spanish left-hander reached a career-high No. 7 earlier this year after advancing to the quarterfinals or better in his first eight tournaments, including a semifinal showing at the Australian Open where he lost to fellow countryman and eventual champion Rafael Nadal.

Since then he has reached the fourth round at the French Open and Wimbledon, and the quarterfinals at Bastad. He was a semifinalist in New Haven last year and reached the quarterfinals in 2005 and 2007.

Petrova, who last year won the eighth and ninth titles of her career at Cincinnati and Quebec City, will be making her fifth trip to New Haven, where she has won doubles titles in 2001 (with Jelena Dokic) and 2004 (with Meghann Shaughnessy). A veteran on tour, she has played in Grand Slam semifinals (French Open), been a Fed Cup and Olympic team fixture

for Russia, and also has sixteen Tour doubles titles on her resume. This year she has reached the semifinals at Ponte Vedra Beach and the fourth round of both the French Open and Wimbledon.

Verdasco and Petrova join fellow wildcard recipients Taylor Dent, 2009 French Open champion, 2007 Pilot Pen champion, and World No. 6 Svetlana Kuznetsova and American Meghann Shaughnessy in the field. John Isner, who was to receive a wildcard, has withdrawn his request due to exhaustion suffered while playing in Cincinnati. Two men's wildcards and one women's wildcard are still to be awarded.

For tickets, how to become a volunteer, or more information about the tournament, please call the Pilot Pen Tennis Box Office, 888/99-PILOT, 203/776-7331, or log on to www.pilotpentennis.com.

Serena cruises at Rogers Cup

Associated Press

TORONTO — Serena Williams cruised past one of the Bondarenko sisters at the Rogers Cup.

Williams defeated Ukraine's Alona Bondarenko 6-1, 6-4 Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals, two days after sister Venus Williams fell to Kateryna Bondarenko.

Williams will face the winner of the match between Zheng Jie and Lucie Safarova. The second-ranked Williams is the highest-seeded player left in the tournament after No. 1 Dinara Safina also lost Wednesday.

Earlier, Elena Dementieva rallied past Shahar Peer for a 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 victory. Dementieva will face Samantha Stosur, who swept Virginie Razzano 6-3, 6-1.

Samantha Stosur, who swept Virginie Razzano 6-3, 6-1. Aravane Rezaï couldn't repeat after her upset of Safina, falling 6-3, 6-4 to Alisa Kleybanova.

Gannon wins Shorehaven Ladies event

Staff reports

Janey Gannon edged out Jeanne Hersam to win the Shorehaven Ladies 18 Holer's Best Par 3 Tournament on Thursday at Shorehaven Golf Club in East Norwalk.

Gannon and Hersam each finished with a total score of 12 on the course's par 3 holes. Nancy Guerret

LOCAL GOLF

placed third with a 14. She was followed by Ellen Mann (14), Bonnie Baron (14), Carolee Joerman (14), Jackie Johnson (15) and Helen Chesney (15).