

# JETS: Second-year player released immediately following scuffle with QB

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by the Jets. Bowles said Smith and Enemkपाली got into an "altercation" in the locker room Tuesday morning.

"It had nothing to do with football," Bowles said. "It was something very childish, and he got cold-cocked, sucker-punched — whatever you want to call it — in the jaw."

Bowles wouldn't go into detail about the nature of the altercation, except to say: "It was something very childish, that sixth-graders could have talked about. It had no reason for happening."

Smith, who was having a good training camp, will be sidelined for the rest of the summer and likely for the first few games of the season. The season opener at home against Cleveland on Sept. 13 is five weeks away.

"Depending on how surgery goes, we'll see where we go from there," Bowles said.

Smith took to Instagram and posted a picture of himself sitting in a car — mouth closed and looking stern — and a simple message: "ILL BE BACK."

In a statement issued to The

Associated Press by his agent, Enemkपाली apologized to the team and fans.

"Geno and I let our frustration get the best of us, but I should have just walked away from the situation," Enemkपाली said. "I deeply regret and apologize for my actions. It was never my intention to harm anyone. I appreciate the opportunity I had with the Jets."

Bowles said the Jets could add another quarterback, but it appears veteran Ryan Fitzpatrick will assume the starting job. Bryce Petty, a fourth-round pick this year out of Baylor, and undrafted free agent Jake Heaps out of Miami are the Jets' other remaining quarterbacks.

It was a jaw-dropping announcement by Bowles, who earlier in camp had to deal with the news that star defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson was suspended four games by the NFL for violating the league's substance abuse policy and then was arrested after a high-speed road race in Missouri 12 days later. Richardson could face additional discipline by the league for violation of the personal conduct policy once the legal process plays out.

Bowles, in his first season as



AP Photo/File

**New York Jets' Ikemefuna Enemkपाली (51) during training camp in Cortland, N.Y. in July 2014. New York Jets quarterback Geno Smith will be sidelined at least 6-10 weeks after being punched in the jaw by Enemkपाली on Tuesday.**

coach, spoke for about 2 minutes before heading to a meeting and then practice, but was clearly angered by the situation.

"The team knows this is something we don't tolerate, something we can't stand," Bowles said. "You don't walk up to another man and punch him in the face."

While the players were not immediately available because they had practice, wide receiver Brandon Marshall sent out a simple "cryface" emoji on his Twitter page. Marshall and Smith have been developing solid chemistry this offseason, with the two spending time together on and off the field.

It was unclear as to whether there had been previous bad blood brewing between Smith and Enemkपाली.

"If you have a team and you have a bunch of side issues, you can't tolerate that," Bowles said. "This is something that happened in the locker room and we're dealing with it internally and that's where we are right now."

Smith has had a rough two-plus seasons in the NFL, starting with his slip to the second round of the 2013 draft. He got the starting job as a rookie after Mark Sanchez was sidelined for the year after hurting his shoulder in a preseason game, and mostly struggled.

Last year, he had a few flashes of solid play, but again had issues with turnovers and consistency and was benched a few times in favor of Michael Vick. Smith has 34 interceptions and 41 total turnovers in his first two seasons, but new offensive coordinator Chan Gailey was impressed with his progress this summer.

Smith threw the first two interceptions of camp on Monday, an impressive stretch that had the quarterback and coaches thinking positively about his prospects for the upcoming season.

"He took time that month when we were away (before training camp)," Gailey said of Smith shortly before the news broke. "He looked at it and studied it and talked about it and thought about it. When he came back, he really had a grasp of it."

Enemkपाली had three tackles in six games last season after being taken in the sixth round out of Louisiana Tech.

To replace Enemkपाली on the roster, the Jets signed cornerback Javier Arenas, who has played five NFL seasons with Kansas City, Arizona and Atlanta.

# OKUNG: Negotiating contract without an agent

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with influential members of the business community who have become mentors.

Matt McIlwain, managing director of Madrona Venture Group in Seattle, remembers meeting Okung for the first time and being impressed that the offensive lineman had taken time to learn about the company and the venture capital process. That led to additional meetings and Okung taking the lead in planning an event connecting Seahawks players with technology entrepreneurs.

"Russell has impressed me with his leadership skills, his curiosity for learning in new areas and his analytical and thoughtful perspective on a variety of business topics," McIlwain wrote in an email.

Okung wrote in his piece that an athlete has morphed into being a businessman who "understands the market and his own personal value, but has the self-assurance and financial know-how to do so." He said the interest in business started in college and he sees himself as a corporation just as much as a football player.

"We get a chance to get so many stages, to really



AP Photo/Gregory Payan, File

**Seattle Seahawks' Russell Okung speaks to the media during the 2015 NFL Super Bowl Media Day in Phoenix.**

influence. A lot of guys tend to see it from a community standpoint, but if I'm really thinking about my legacy and longevity, I've really got to understand the markets, really got to understand where I'm investing my money, the people that are handling my money. That's just part of it. Growing my business acumen, that is part of it."

Richard Sherman, the Seahawks' union representative with the NFLPA, said the players association will be involved from afar in making sure Okung is getting a fair deal when his next contract is negotiated and will provide whatever Okung needs.

For his part, Okung knows his decision and being public regarding his choice is not sitting well with agents.

"A lot of guys really want to understand it. They don't understand that they have the resources at hand to understand the numbers of their situation. I don't know why," Okung said. "If it has to take me putting an article out there for guys to understand what I'm doing, I'm all down for it. A lot of guys are reaching out just to understand my process."

# CENTER: Nowak has played in just two games

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Nowak won the 2011 Mid-American Conference Defensive Player of the Year award at Central Michigan as a defensive tackle. After signing with the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted free agent, a pair of injuries along the offensive line led to Nowak being moved to guard. Following his release, he signed with the Seahawks and was a guard on the practice squad last season.

"The whole process of learning center and switching positions definitely has been a battle," Nowak said. "I really think I have progressed a lot. There's definitely so much farther I can go. There's no ceiling, I know that, but I really think I have improved."

Nowak has played in just two games in his career, both coming with the Jaguars in 2013.

Practices can only show so much. While Nowak has earned the confidence of the coaching staff on the practice fields, they need to see how he can handle the

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**— Drew Nowak**

responsibility of snapping the ball and communicating along the offensive line in real game situations.

"We like the young kids, but we've got to see them play now," Cable said.

Cable said there isn't a rush to declare a winner for the job but that they'd like to give the projected starting offensive line a couple of weeks to get used to playing together before the start of the regular season.

## MLB

# Cleveland edges sinking Yankees 5-4 in 16 innings

**INDIANS 5, YANKEES 4**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Michael Brantley's RBI single with one out in the 16th inning lifted Cleveland to a victory over skidding New York, which lost its fourth straight and had its lead in the AL East over Toronto trimmed to a half-game.

Brantley hit a hard single off Branden Pinder (0-2) that first baseman Mark Teixeira couldn't handle and easily scored Jose Ramirez from second base. Brantley's clutch hit ended the 5-hour, 4-minute game and triggered just the second walk-off winning celebration by the Indians this season.

Austin Adams (2-0) worked a perfect inning and combined with seven other Cleveland pitchers to record 16 strikeouts.

The first four hitters in New York's lineup — Jacoby Ellsbury, Brett Gardner, Alex Rodriguez and Teixeira went a combined 1 for 25.

**CUBS 6, BREWERS 3**

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Rizzo and Jorge Soler each drove in two runs, Dan Haren picked up his first victory for the Cubs and Chicago won for the 11th time in 12 games.

The Brewers, last in the NL Central, announced earlier in the day that Doug Melvin is moving into an advisory role after 13 years as general manager.

The Cubs, meanwhile, continue to roll.

Haren (8-7), acquired from Miami on July 31, pitched into the sixth.

Rizzo had two hits, including an RBI double, and

drew a bases-loaded walk. He is 19 for 42 in his past 12 games.

Soler extended his hitting streak to 10, and Chicago took advantage of three errors along with some wild pitching on the way to yet another win.

**DODGERS 5, NATIONALS 0**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yasiel Puig drove in a career high-tying five runs with a homer and a triple, Zack Greinke pitched six sharp innings and Los Angeles defeated Washington to snap a season-worst four-game skid.

Greinke (12-2) allowed six hits, struck out six and walked four to remain unbeaten in his last 10 starts, going 7-0 in that span. He lowered his major league-leading ERA to 1.65.

Puig homered into the left-field pavilion in the fourth to score Andre Ethier, whose leadoff triple stood up after the Dodgers challenged the call. Replays showed third baseman Yumel Escobar didn't tag Ethier's leg before he reached the bag.

**BLUE JAYS 4, ATHLETICS 2**

TORONTO (AP) — Jose Bautista hit a solo home run, Drew Hutchison pitched seven strong innings and Toronto won its ninth straight game, beating Oakland.

Toronto starting pitchers have held the opposition to three earned runs or fewer in 15 consecutive games.

Hutchison (11-2) allowed two runs and four hits in seven-plus innings.

The right-hander hadn't completed seven innings since a complete-game victory over the Chicago White Sox on May 25.

Hutchison is 9-1 with a 2.68 ERA in 12 home starts and 2-1 with a 9.00 ERA in 11 road outings.

Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

**ROYALS 6, TIGERS 1**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Lorenzo Cain went 4 for 4 with a home run and Yordano Ventura pitched six scoreless innings as Kansas City defeated Detroit.

Cain, who raised his average to .316, led off the sixth with his 12th homer, a mammoth shot to left field. Mike Moustakas snapped an 0-for-18 drought with a homer to right field with Kendrys Morales aboard in the same inning.

Ventura (7-7), who is 3-1 since the All-Star break, limited the Tigers to two hits but walked a career-high six. He struck out eight, tying his season high.

Eric Hosmer hit a two-run homer in the first, giving him 21 RBIs in the opening inning.

**METS 4, ROCKIES 0**

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Harvey pitched four-hit ball for eight innings, Ruben Tejada had a go-ahead single in the sixth and New York beat Colorado for the eighth straight time at Citi Field.

Juan Lagares had a two-run double in the eighth to help the Mets improve to 40-18 at home, matching last season's win total when they lost 41 at Citi Field.

Harvey (11-7) was dominant for a fourth straight

start. He walked none for the third straight outing and struck out four, pitching to contact rather than overpowering the Rockies. He was lifted for pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson with the bases loaded in the eighth.

Granderson got a gift RBI from Boone Logan for the second straight night. He was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded Monday. This time

Logan walked Granderson, who did not start against Chris Rusin (3-5), a lefty.

Lagares, who has lost most of his playing time since the arrival of Yoenis Cespedes, followed with the two-run double.

**TWINS 3, RANGERS 2**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Eduardo Escobar's

two-out double in the ninth inning drove in the winning run, capping a late rally by Minnesota for a much-needed victory over Texas.

Joe Mauer and Miguel Sano tied the game with RBI doubles in the eighth, and Glen Perkins (1-3) pitched a scoreless ninth to pick up the win, just the seventh for the Twins in 23 games since the All-Star break.



## A Record Breaking Friendship

Darrel Sallee and Cody Ohl's friendship began in typical Darrel Sallee cowboy fashion. Like the many people before Cody, Darrel offered a "Hand-Up" to the young Texas calf roper — a place to call home while Cody made the "Northwest Run". Starting at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo and ending at the Pendleton Round-Up, for 20 plus years, it was Cody's "home away from home" — and it was a good one! Home-cooked meals, accommodations for his horse, and anything to help Cody in his pursuit of a NFR qualification.

The 2014 National Finals Rodeo was Cody's twentieth NFR. His 6 World Championships and over 3 million in career earnings were not going to be the end to his story. The 10 rounds are a dream come true for all cowboys no matter how many times you have been there. But this year, Cody rode into Las Vegas with a heavy heart for his good friend Darrel. Despite Darrel's courageous battle with cancer, it was obvious he was in the last go-round of his life.

Prior to round 3, on national television, Cody dedicated his run to Darrel. He roped his calf in 6.6 seconds and won the round. The day of round 6, Cody received news of Darrel's passing. The NFR back number displays Cody's hand-written message, "Rest in Peace".

In round 7, Cody was on a mission. He won the round and with that win, tied the all-time NFR record for most go-round wins at 51. It wasn't over yet. On national television and in front of a sell-out Thomas & Mack crowd, he dedicated round 10 in memory of Darrel. Displaying true Cody Ohl style, he was 6.8 seconds and won the round. This win gave him the record for most go-round wins (52) in the history of the NFR.

For 51 go-round wins, Cody traditionally tossed his piggin string into the crowd during his victory lap. But on his 52nd win, he quietly coiled his rope and placed his piggin string back over his shoulder. He later sent a signed back number, his 10th go-round rope and piggin string to Hermiston for the Sallee family. This truly was one record breaking NFR; complemented and treasured by one record breaking friendship.