

# WOODALL TOSSES 3 SCORING PASSES

Quarterback Is Outstanding  
With 10 of 17 Completions  
—Defense Key to Victory

## STATISTICS OF THE GAME

	Jets	Rams
First downs	15	12
Rushing yardage	134	51
Passing yardage	233	274
Return yardage	26	43
Passes	10-17	16-47
Interceptions by	3	0
Punts	7-35	6-39
Fumbles lost	2	1
Yards penalized	70	44

By DAVE ANDERSON

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 15—In a victory that restored their pride and faith after six consecutive losses, the New York Jets upset the Los Angeles Rams, 31-20, today. Al Woodall threw three touchdown passes.

Most of the 76,378 spectators in the Coliseum purchased their tickets months ago in the belief that Joe Namath would be on display as the Jet quarterback. Namath's absence disappointed them, but Woodall's performance embarrassed them as it did the Rams' touted defensive unit.

Provided with persistent protection, Woodall completed 10 of 17 passes for 261 yards. He collaborated on touchdowns of 29 yards with Rich Caster, 11 with Lee White and 11 with George Sauer.

### Two Long-Gainers

Two completions to Don Maynard of 45 and 47 yards positioned Caster's score and George Nock's 3-yard scoring smash in a 17-point burst in the second quarter. Another completion to Sauer, who squirmed away from Kermit Alexander for a 67-yard gain, set up White's third-quarter touchdown.

With second-stringers at quarterback and the running backs, the Jets produced the most points against the Rams since the 35 registered by the Minnesota Vikings in a 1966 triumph.

Jim Turner provided a 23-yard field goal. But the Jets could not avert being eliminated from the Eastern Division race in the American Conference. With five games remaining, they trail the first-place Baltimore Colts by 5½ games.

### A Favor for Giants

The Jets may have done the Giants a favor. The Rams fell two games behind the San Francisco 49ers in the Western Division of the National Conference. If Los Angeles is eliminated, it may become docile in its season finale at Yankee Stadium in what can be a vital game for the Giants.

In triumphing the Jets couldn't avoid their injury jinx. Dennis Onkotz, a rookie linebacker from Penn State, incurred a fractured left leg on the final play of the first half as Al Atkinson, the middle linebacker, deflated a Ram drive with an end-zone interception, his second.

Atkinson's earlier interception had positioned Turner's field goal. Ralph Baker, the left linebacker, also provided a fourth-quarter interception.

But perhaps the Jets' most spectacular defender was Earle Thomas, the rookie right cornerback. Of 11 passes thrown in his area by Roman Gabriel, the Ram quarterback, none were completed. Thomas knocked down one in the end zone and deflected another

with Wendell Tucker in the clear behind him.

Jack Snow caught a 9-yard touchdown pass, giving the Rams a 7-0 lead, and Tommy Mason scored on a 28-yard pass in the closing minutes. The two touchdown passes enabled Gabriel to surpass Norm Van Brocklin's club record of 118. But through most of the game Gabriel was booed.

The Ram pass-rush, which pounced on Woodall three times in the first quarter, was without David (Deacon) Jones, the premier left end, for much of the game and Maxie Baughan, the Rams' signal-calling linebacker, appeared only in the second half. Jones had an ailing knee and Baughan a sore arch.

Jones played in the second and third quarters, but his reputation wasn't enough to intimidate Woodall or prevent White and Nock from establishing the Jet running game. White smashed for 73 yards and Nock for 36.

In his desperation Gabriel threw 47 passes, completing 16 for 274 yards. But the Jets' three interceptions minimized that yardage. Woodall averaged 26 yards with his 10 completions, a remarkable figure. Joe Namath couldn't have improved on Al's performance.

In the Jets' most joyous locker-room celebration since their Super Bowl victory, when they also were 17-point betting underdogs, Coach Weeb Ewbank called Woodall "great" and said the defense "made the big plays."

Woodall, praising his protection, said that the Rams' left cornerback, Clancy Williams, had covered Maynard "too tight, so we knew we could burn him deep." Namath lauded Woodall for having performed with poise, and mentioned the importance of White's return following a shoulder injury.

New York Jets	0	17	7	7-31
Los Angeles Rams	0	7	6	7-20
L.A.—Snow, 9, pass from Gabriel (Ray, kick).				
N.Y.—Caster, 29, pass from Woodall (Turner, kick).				
N.Y.—Nock, 3, run (Turner, kick).				
N.Y.—FG, Turner, 23.				
L.A.—FG, Ray, 19.				
N.Y.—White, 11, pass from Woodall (Turner, kick).				
L.A.—FG, Ray, 19.				
N.Y.—Sauer, 11, pass from Woodall (Turner, kick).				
L.A.—Mason, 28, pass from Gabriel (Ray, kick).				

### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHES—N.Y.: White 21 for 73 yards; Nock 12 for 36; O'Neal 1 for 16; Mercein 4 for 7; Woodall 5 for 2. L.A.: Ellison 9 for 19; Josephson 7 for 17; Mason 2 for 6; Gabriel 2 for 9.

PASSES—N.Y.: Woodall 10 of 17 for 261 yards; L.A.: Gabriel 16 of 47 for 274.

RECEPTIONS—N.Y.: Maynard 3 for 102; Sauer 2 for 78; Caster 1 for 29; White 3 for 31; Nock 1 for 21. L.A.: Tucker 2 for 69; Snow 4 for 78; Truax 3 for 53; Josephson 5 for 58; Mason 2 for 23.

Attendance—76,378.