

# Brad Smith Adds Unpredictability to Jets' Conservative Game Plan

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Barton Silverman/The New York Times  
Brad Smith (16) had a 57-yard run on the Jets' first drive, leading to Thomas Jones's 1-yard score.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Technically, [the Jets'](#) Brad Smith is a wide receiver, listed as second on the depth chart behind Braylon Edwards.

Perhaps now that the Jets are in the playoffs, they should list Smith in the postseason as “AP,” for all purpose.

On Sunday night, in a [37-0 victory](#) against Cincinnati, Smith scored his third touchdown of the season, this time from the quarterback position.

In the second quarter, Smith scored on a 32-yard option run that looked like the sort of thing he might have done in college when he was a standout quarterback at Missouri.

Or, check that.

“I didn’t really run it much in college,” Smith said. “It’s fun. Something the defense is not used to seeing.”

[Smith](#) has been one of the sparks as the Jets went 5-1 in their last six games, a stretch that helped them to an improbable postseason berth.

Last week, Smith [returned a kickoff 106 yards](#) for a touchdown in a [win against Indianapolis](#). It was the longest scoring play in Jets history.

And on Nov. 22, Smith scored a touchdown on a 4-yard return of a blocked punt in a loss to New England.

Smith also took a long snap and carried the ball 57 yards in Sunday's playoff-clinching victory. He finished the game with a team-best 92 yards on four carries.

Jets Coach [Rex Ryan](#) discussed Smith's emergence as a multiple threat in recent weeks.

"We started giving him the ball," Ryan said. "He's always had the ability. He's such a weapon. He can pass the ball, too. Maybe we'll find that out one of these days."

Although Smith also has caught seven passes this season and completed the one that he threw, he has yet to catch one or throw one for a touchdown.

Nor has he returned a punt for a touchdown, although he shows up in that statistical list, too, with a 21-yard return.

Oh, and he also makes tackles on special teams. With as many as four postseason games to play, it is hard to figure what Smith might do next.

When asked if he has any more tricks up his sleeve, Smith said to ask the Jets' offensive coordinator, Brian Schottenheimer. Then Smith's expression brightened and he said, "We might."

Although Smith has gained 207 rushing yards this season, mostly as a quarterback, he does not appear on the depth chart in that position behind the starter [Mark Sanchez](#) and the backups Kellen Clemens, Erik Ainge and Kevin O'Connell.

Clemens called Smith a "multidimensional athlete who is incredibly valuable."

"His contributions are appreciated," Clemens added. "It takes a lot for a defense to prepare for the package he presents."

Smith was asked whether he had to carry more playbooks and study more than the average player.

"Not as much as you'd think," Smith said. "It's all very compact and streamlined."

Smith is in his fourth season in the [N.F.L.](#) after being drafted in the fourth round, [103rd over all](#). In college, he became the first player in [N.C.A.A.](#) history to pass for at least 8,000 yards and run for 4,000.

He holds Missouri's career marks for rushing touchdowns with 42 and for passing touchdowns with 56. Clemens explained how Smith managed to stay motivated despite his many roles.

"Brad is a humble guy," Clemens said. "As great an athlete as he is, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better person."

After the game Smith dressed at his locker, seemingly unaware of the growing crowd of news media gathering around him with more determination than [Bengals](#) tacklers.

Instead of speaking of his own accomplishments, he chose to open his remarks with comments about his team, which has experienced unexpected success after slumping at midseason.

"So many times we didn't come through and play at the best of our ability," he said. "This is a blessing."