

1981 AFC WILD CARD PLAYOFF GAME DECEMBER 27, 1981
BILLS 31, JETS 27

Buffalo Bills	17	7	0	7	-	31
New York Jets	0	10	3	14	-	27



at



In one of the most exciting playoff games ever played, the Buffalo Bills hung on to defeat the Jets, 31-27 as Bill Simpson made an interception on the two-yard line with time running out. The Bills scored on the opening kickoff when they recovered a Bruce Harper fumble and quickly built a 24-0 second quarter lead. The



Mickey Shuler

Jets rallied in the third quarter to make it 24-13. The game appeared over as Joe Cribbs busted a 45-yard TD to give Buffalo a 31-13 lead with 10:16 left. The Jets refused to die, however, and with Richard Todd at the controls, New York scored two quick TDs and were now down 31-27 with 3:44 to

go. A swarming defense forced the Bills to go three and out, and with 2:36 left and the goal line 80 yards away, Todd started the Jets on their march. They drove to the Bills' 11-yard line with 14 seconds on the clock, but Simpson made his game-saving interception and the Jets' season ended.

STARTING LINEUPS

Jets Offense

WR	Walker
LT	Ward
LG	Rasmussen
C	Fields
RG	Alexander
RT	Powell
TE	Barkum
WR	Gaffney
QB	Todd
RB	McNeil
FB	Newton

Bills Defense

LE	Williams
NT	Smerlas
RE	White
LLB	Sanford
LILB	Haslett
RILB	Villapiano
RLB	Robertson
CB	Clark
CB	Romes
S	Freeman
S	Simpson

Jets Defense

LE	Gastineau
DT	Salaam
DT	Lyons
RE	Klecko
OLB	Buttle
MLB	Blinka
OLB	Mehl
CB	Dykes
CB	Holmes
S	Schroy
S	Ray

Bills Offense

WR	Butler
LT	Jones
LG	Lynch
C	Grant
RG	Borchardt
RT	Devlin
TE	Brammer
WR	Lewis
QB	Ferguson
RB	Cribbs
FB	Leaks

TEAM STATISTICS

	Jets	Bills
First Downs	23	15
Rushes-Yards	22-71	23-91
Passing Yards	348	230
Total Yards	419	321
Pass Att-Comp-INT	51-28-4	34-17-4
Times Sacked-Yards Lost	5-29	2-38
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	1-0
Penalties-Yds. Lost	6-55	8-62

SCORING

Team	Play	Score
Bills	Romes 26 yd. fumble return (Mayer kick)	7-0
Bills	Lewis 50 yd. pass from Ferguson (Mayer kick)	14-0
Bills	Mayer 29 yd. Field Goal	17-0
Bills	Lewis 26 yd. pass from Ferguson	24-0
Jets	Shuler 30 yd. pass from Todd (Leahy kick)	24-7
Jets	Leahy 26 yd. Field Goal	24-10
Jets	Leahy 19 yd. Field Goal	24-13
Bills	Cribbs 45 yd. run (Mayer kick)	31-13
Jets	Jones 30 yd. pass from Todd (Leahy kick)	31-20
Jets	Long 1 yd. run (Leahy kick)	31-27

PASSING

Jets	Att	Cmp	Yds	TD-I	Bills	Att	Cmp	Yds	TD-I
Todd	51	28	377	2-4	Ferguson	34	17	268	2-4
Totals	51	28	377	2-4	Totals	34	17	268	2-4

RUSHING

Jets	Att	Yds	TD	Bills	Att	Yds	TD
McNeil	12	32	0	Cribbs	15	83	1
Long	8	28	1	Leaks	6	12	0
Todd	2	11	0	Ferguson	2	-4	0
Totals	22	71	1	Totals	23	91	1

RECEIVING

Jets	Rec	Yds	TD	Bills	Rec	Yds	TD
Dierking	7	52	0	Lewis	7	158	2
Shuler	6	116	1	Cribbs	4	64	0
Gaffney	4	64	0	Leaks	3	23	0
B. Jones	4	64	1	Brammer	2	17	0
Walker	3	24	0	Butler	1	6	0
Barkum	2	41	0				
Newton	1	12	0				
Harper	1	4	0				
Totals	28	377	2	Totals	17	268	2

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Jets: INT: G. Buttle 2-40, Dykes 1-22, Holmes 1-0. **Sacks:** Gastineau 1-21, Klecko 1-17.

Bills: INT: Bess 1-49, Villapiano 1-18, Simpson 2-12. **Sacks:** F. Smerlas 2-18, R. Bess 1-9, S. White 1-1, M. Humiston 0.5-1, M. Kadish 0.5-1. **Sacks:** N/A.

Shea Stadium - Att. - 57,050