

## NFL

# Ex-Jets tackle past problems

## Upcoming 'Sack Exchange' reunion has Gastineau and Klecko all smiles

By Dave Hutchinson

STAR-LEDGER STAFF

NEW YORK — The cold war between Mark Gastineau and Joe Klecko is finally over.

The pair, who were at odds as members of the Jets' famed "New York Sack Exchange" during the early '80s, were all smiles yesterday during a news conference at Mickey Mantle's as they revisited their glory days ringing up sacks.

They got into mock boxing poses — there was once talk of the rivals meeting in a two-round match — and then exploded in laughter. They embraced. They apologized. After years of personal turmoil following their respective careers, they are at peace with themselves and each other.

"Seeing him and remembering us out there on the field, it's like, 'Thank God he's alive and I can have those memories,'" Gastineau said. "I said a lot of things I shouldn't have said, and 'Joe, I apologize.'"

The two are in town to promote the "Reunion of the New York Sack Exchange," a sports memorabilia show that will take place on Sunday, March 21, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza/Meadowlands in Secaucus.

The event, presented by Steiner Sports, will mark the first time the "Sack Exchange" — Gastineau, Klecko, Marty Lyons and Abdul Salaam — have been together since 1982.

Jets quarterback Vinny Testaverde will also be on hand to sign autographs.

In addition, on March 20-21, there will be a "Giants Super Bowl XXV Reunion" at the Crowne Plaza, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Approximately 30 members of the Giants' 1990 Super Bowl team are expected

"It's going to be an exciting time," said Brandon Steiner, chairman of Steiner Sports, who said he had a difficult time locating Salaam, who is a high school coach in Cincinnati.

In 1981, the "Sack Exchange" provided plenty of excitement. Klecko had 21½ sacks and Gastineau 20 as the unit combined to record 54½ sacks. But Gastineau and Klecko became bitter enemies along the way because Klecko objected to Gastineau's sack dance.

"We were from two different worlds," said Klecko, who before yesterday last saw Gastineau about eight years ago. "I was your lunch-pail guy. The last thing I wanted was to be in the limelight. Mark liked it."

Gastineau and Klecko have had well-documented problems off the field. Klecko served jail time for perjury in an insurance fraud case, and Gastineau has been in and out of trouble for domestic abuse.

"I'm going through a program," said Gastineau, who was there with his wife, Patty. "I'm getting help."

For further information on both reunions, call Steiner Sports at (212) 689-2609.

**Notes:** The off-again, on-again negotiations between the Jets and their free-agent linebacker Dwayne Gordon are on again and the club has increased its offer. ... Jets guard Matt O'Dwyer visited the Rams yesterday and has stops scheduled for Atlanta and Cincinnati. ...

The Jets will likely decide the fate of quarterback Glenn Foley before off-season workouts begin on March 24. The club owes Foley a \$400,000 workout bonus but it isn't due until after he completes the program. ... Talks have cooled between the Jets and Jacksonville Jaguars LB Bryan Schwartz. Another Jaguars linebacker Brant Royer who visited the