

Wilson's calf is improving, but Fields will start at QB

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Russell Wilson's balky right calf is improving. It just might not heal in time for him to wrest the Pittsburgh Steelers starting quarterback job away from Justin Fields, at least in the short term.

Coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday he expects Wilson to see an uptick in his workload during practice this week, though Fields is expected to get the nod for a fifth straight week when Pittsburgh (3-1) hosts Dallas (2-2) on Sunday night.

The 35-year-old Wilson hasn't played since aggravating a calf injury shortly before the season opener in Atlanta. The Steelers have brought the nine-time Pro Bowler along slowly. He felt good enough to throw during 7-on-7 drills with the scout team but it's still uncertain when Wilson could get cleared to be a full participant.

"We will evaluate his ability to move and function and protect himself and obviously evaluate his level

of productivity," Tomlin said. "And we'll let that be our guide in terms of whether we get into serious consideration as we push forward toward game time this week."

Tomlin has deflected questions for weeks about whether Fields has done enough to earn the starting gig outright. He did it again Tuesday, though a little less emphatically than before.

Asked if there's a chance he could stick with Fields as the "hot hand" much in the same fashion he did with Mason Rudolph at the end of last season as Kenny Pickett recovered from ankle surgery, Tomlin opened the door a bit.

"There's a potential for that," he said. "But we're not there as I stand here today."

That time is fast approaching, however, especially if Fields continues to improve as the weeks pass. Fields wasn't mistake-free in a 27-24 loss to Indianapolis on Sunday, but impressed Tomlin with the way

he responded after a fumble early in the second half. Fields led Pittsburgh on three straight touchdown drives to get within striking distance on a day he finished with 367 yards of total offense (312 passing, 55 rushing) and three touchdowns total (one passing, two on the ground).

"I just think when you're in those moments, you get an opportunity to show who you are in those moments (so) there's less speculation," Tomlin said. "And so some things that I was speculating about somewhat last week about his steady demeanor, about his competitiveness and so forth, just got solidified and verified with the challenges that we faced."

Fields is completing 67% of his passes with three touchdowns and one interception through four games. His 98.0 quarterback rating is 10th among players who have started each game and his rushing total against the Colts was a team high. He's also growing more aggressive

as he gets more comfortable running first-year offensive coordinator Arthur Smith's scheme.

Tomlin pointed to the length of the season still to go as one of the reasons the Steelers have not tried to rush Wilson back, particularly as he deals with a calf problem that's been bothering him since the first day of training camp. Wilson is no longer the scrambler he was a decade ago, and Pittsburgh's offensive line is dealing with a string of injuries, the latest an Achilles tendon tear to right guard James Daniels on Sunday that ended Daniels' season.

The Steelers are optimistic veteran Isaac Seumalo — out since late August with a pectoral injury — will be able to return against Dallas. The rest of the line will feature first or second-year players at three of the other four positions. It won't be enough for Wilson to merely be able to plant and throw. He's going to have to show the coaching staff

he can get out of harm's way while also being able to run the entirety of the offense without limitations to receive "serious consideration" to play, Tomlin said.

It may take some time for Wilson to get to that point. If Fields avoids any major setbacks, by the time Wilson is healthy it may be too late to stay atop the depth chart.

Asked if there's anything specific Fields can do to convince Tomlin he's the better option than a healthy Wilson, Tomlin just smiled.

"Just play well," he said. "Win. That's our business."

NOTES

LB Alex Highsmith (groin) will miss a second straight game. ... RBs Jaylen Warren (knee) and Cordarrelle Patterson (ankle) could be limited during the early portion of the week. ... LB Nick Herbig and DT Keanu Benton could also be limited early in the week.

Buffalo's Von Miller suspended by NFL for 4 games

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo Bills edge rusher Von Miller was suspended four games by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the league's personal conduct policy.

The NFL did not reveal the reason for the suspension, which comes as Buffalo (3-1) prepares to play at the Houston Texans on Sunday. Miller, the NFL's active leader in sacks, is eligible to rejoin the Bills ahead of their home game against Miami on Nov. 3.

Miller was accused last November of assaulting his pregnant girlfriend at their home outside Dallas during the Bills' bye week. He turned himself in to police after be-

ing accused of third-degree felony assault of a pregnant woman, which is punishable by two to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The woman and Miller have been in a relationship for seven years and have two other children together.

No charges have been filed. Miller said in July he considered the case closed based on feedback from his attorneys.

"My life is all about football right now and my kids, and being the best teammate and best football player I can possibly be," he said at the time. "I'm happy to be here with the Buffalo Bills. I'm happy to just be in this moment, living my life and do the

things that we do normally."

The 35-year-old Miller has three sacks in four games this season. He failed to get one in 14 games last season, including playoffs, after recovering from a torn knee ligament.

Miller has 126 1/2 sacks, which is tied for 17th on the career list with Derrick Thomas.

In Miller's first comments about his arrest in December, he disputed the allegations, calling them false and "blown out of proportion." Miller indicated something happened between him and his girlfriend, but stressed it did not approach what he was alleged to have done.

According to a police affidavit regarding the alleged assault on Nov. 29, Miller twice put his hands on his girlfriend's neck, pulled out some of her hair and threw her onto a couch. The woman was treated for minor injuries, including bruising on her neck, officers wrote.

Police wrote that Miller became "visibly angry" when the woman went into an office in their shared apartment and slammed the door behind her.

Miller then told her to "get out," police wrote, and when she tried to collect her laptop and cellphone, Miller began pushing her. She repeatedly yelled, "Stop. I'm preg-

nant," the affidavit said. She fell into a chair after being pushed, and Miller then put one hand on her neck and held it with pressure for three to five seconds, police wrote.

According to the document, Miller then threw the woman's laptop on the floor and stomped on it. She told police she recorded some of the attack and, when she threatened to call police, he left.

The Bills filled Miller's spot on the roster by signing defensive tackle Zion Logue off the Atlanta Falcons' practice squad. Logue was drafted in the sixth round by Atlanta after playing in college at Georgia.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS												
AMERICAN CONFERENCE												
East												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	122	83	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	76	62	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-0-0	
Miami	1	3	0	.250	45	103	1-2-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	
New England	1	3	0	.250	52	87	0-1-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	
South												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Houston	3	1	0	.750	79	94	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	85	85	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	79	90	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	60	109	0-1-0	0-3-0	0-4-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	
North												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	75	53	1-0-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	106	88	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	102	104	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	66	87	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	0-0-0	
West												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	92	72	2-0-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	
Denver	2	2	0	.500	62	55	0-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68	50	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	
Las Vegas	2	2	0	.500	78	97	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE												
East												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Washington	3	1	0	.750	121	102	1-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	97	104	0-2-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	
Phila.	2	2	0	.500	86	96	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	2-2-0	0-0-0	
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	60	84	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	
South												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	97	78	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	75	85	1-2-0	1-0-0	0-2-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	127	70	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	2-2-0	1-1-0	
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	73	129	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	
North												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Minnesota	4	0	0	1.000	116	59	2-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	1-0-0	
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	104	82	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	3-1-0	0-0-0	
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	77	75	2-0-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	104	89	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	
West												
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div		
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	102	85	2-0-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	103	82	2-0-0	0-2-0	2-0-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	
Arizona	1	3	0	.250	96	106	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	
L.A. Rams	1	3	0	.250	75	115	1-0-0	0-3-0	0-0-0	1-3-0	1-1-0	

Thursday's Games												
Dallas 20, N.Y. Giants 15												
Sunday's Games												
Atlanta 26, New Orleans 24												
Chicago 24, L.A. Rams 18												
Cincinnati 34, Carolina 24												
Denver 10, N.Y. Jets 9												
Houston 24, Jacksonville 20												
Indianapolis 27, Pittsburgh 24												
Minnesota 31, Green Bay 29												
Tampa Bay 33, Phila. 16												
San Francisco 30, New England 13												
Washington 42, Arizona 14												
Kansas City 17, L.A. Chargers 10												
Las Vegas 20, Cleveland 16												
Baltimore 35, Buffalo 10												
Monday's Games												
Tennessee 31, Miami 12												
Detroit 42, Seattle 29												

FINAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE						NATIONAL LEAGUE					
BATTING —Witt, Kansas City, .322; V.Guerrero, Toronto, .323; Judge, New York, .322; Y.Alvarez, Houston, .308; Diaz, Houston, .299; Altuve, Houston, .295; Rooker, Oakland, .293; Kwan, Cleveland, .292; J.Soto, New York, .288; Ja.Duran, Boston, .285											
RUNS —J.Soto, New York, 128; Witt, Kansas City, 125; Judge, New York, 122; Henderson, Baltimore, 118; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 114; Ja.Duran, Boston, 111; Semien, Texas, 101; V.Guerrero, Toronto, 98; Altuve, Houston, 94; Santander, Baltimore, 91											
RBI —Judge, New York, 144; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 118; Rooker, Oakland, 112; J.Soto, New York, 109; Witt, Kansas City, 109; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 108; Perez, Kansas City, 104; V.Guerrero, Toronto, 103; Santander, Baltimore, 102; Raleigh, Seattle, 100											
HITS —Witt, Kansas City, 211; V.Guerrero, Toronto, 199; Ja.Duran, Boston, 191; Altuve, Houston, 185; Judge, New York, 180; Henderson, Baltimore, 177; Diaz, Houston, 175; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 173; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 170; J.Soto, New York, 166											
DOUBLES —Ja.Duran, Boston, 48; Witt, Kansas City, 45; V.Guerrero, Toronto, 44; Bleday, Oakland, 43; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 39; Judge, New York, 36; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 34; Devers, Boston, 34; Neto, Los Angeles, 34; W.Abrun, Boston, 33; Arozarena, Seattle, 33											
TRIPLES —Ja.Duran, Boston, 14; Witt, Kansas City, 11; Isbel, Kansas City, 8; Henderson, Baltimore, 7; Varsho, Toronto, 7; Volpe, New York, 7; Greene, Detroit, 6; Meadows, Detroit, 6; W.Perez, Detroit, 6; 8 tied at 5											
HOME RUNS —Judge, New York, 58; Santander, Baltimore, 44; J.Soto, New York, 41; Rooker, Oakland, 39; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 39; Henderson, Baltimore, 37; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 35; Raleigh, Seattle, 34; Witt, Kansas City, 32; O'Neill, Boston, 31; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 31											
STOLEN BASES —Caballero, Tampa Bay, 44; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 41; Garcia, Houston, 37; Ja.Duran, Boston, 34; D.Hamilton, Boston, 33; D.Moore, Seattle, 32; Mullins, Baltimore, 32; D.Blanco, Kansas City, 31; Witt, Kansas City, 31; Gimenez, Cleveland, 30; Neto, Los Angeles, 30; Robles, Seattle, 30											
PITCHING —Skubal, Detroit, 18-4; Lugo, Kansas City, 16-9; Rodon, New York, 16-9; Berrios, Toronto, 16-11; F.Valdez, Houston, 15-7; Gil, New York, 15-7; Burnes, Baltimore, 15-9; P.Lopez, Minnesota, 15-10; Bello, Boston, 14-8; Kirby, Seattle, 14-11; Gausman, Toronto, 14-11											
ERA —Skubal, Detroit, 2.39; R.Blanco, Houston, 2.80; F.Valdez, Houston, 2.91; Burnes, Baltimore, 2.92; B.Miller, Seattle, 2.95; Lugo, Kansas City, 3.01; Houck, Boston, 3.12; Ragans, Kansas City, 3.14; Gilbert, Seattle, 3.24; Wacha, Kansas City, 3.35											
STRIKEOUTS —Skubal, Detroit, 228; Ragans, Kansas City, 223; Gilbert, Seattle, 220; Crochet, Chicago, 209; Kikuchi, Houston, 206; P.Lopez, Minnesota, 198; Rodon, New York, 195; Omer, Minnesota, 191; Bibac, Cleveland, 187; Burnes, Baltimore, 181; Lugo, Kansas City, 181											

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

MLB PLAYOFF GLANCE												
Wild Card Round American League Tuesday, Oct. 1												
Kansas City 1, Baltimore 0												
Detroit 3, Houston 1												
Wednesday, Oct. 2												
Detroit at Houston, 2:30 p.m.												
Kansas City at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m.												
National League Tuesday, Oct. 1												
N.Y. Mets 8, Milwaukee 4												
San Diego 4, Atlanta 0												
Wednesday, Oct. 2												
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.												
Atlanta at San Diego, 8:30 p.m.												

MLB PLAYOFF BOXSCORES												
KANSAS CITY 1, BALTIMORE 0												
Kansas City												
Massey 2b	4	0	1	Henderson ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Witt ss	4	0	1	Westburg 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pasquantino dh	3	0	0	Santander rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perez c	4	0	1	Mountcastle 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gurriel 1b	3	0	1	O'Hearn ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Melendez lf	3	0	0	Rutschman dh-c	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampson lf	0	0	0	Cowser lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pham rf	3	0	0	Urias 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Isbel cf	3	0	0	Kjerstad ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garcia 3b	2	1	1	Mullins cf	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 29 1 5 1												
Baltimore												
DP—Kansas City 0, Baltimore 2. LOB—Kansas City 3, Baltimore 7. 2B—Mullins (1), Urias (1), SB—Garcia (2).												
IP H R ER BB SO												
Kansas City												
Ragans W,1-0	6	4	0	0	0	8						
Long H,1	1	0	0	0	0	0						
Bubic H,1	7/5	1	0	0	0	1						
Erceg S,1-1	1/5	0	0	0	0	1						
Baltimore												
Burnes L,0-1	8	5	1	1	1	3						
Akin	7/5	0	0	0	0	1						
Dominguez	1/5	0	0	0	0	1						
Burnes pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.												
T—2:25. A—41,506 (45,971).												