

Jets jettison receiver Green

Thankful for the NFL opportunity, he says

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If this was the extent of S.J. Green's National Football League experience, at least he knows this – he caught the only pass thrown his way on Monday.

The Alouettes' receiver was released by the New York Jets yesterday morning, only one day after a series of 10 offseason training activities began.

"It wasn't because of a lack of production," Green told The Gazette while awaiting a flight home to Tampa.

Green was one of two Als – return-specialist Larry Taylor being the other – signed by the Jets this winter. Both players – entering the option year of their contracts with Montreal – had a window of opportunity in which to work out and be signed by NFL clubs.

Green jumped at the Jets' offer although his Florida-based agent, Lyle Masnikoff, said he also had a private workout with the Jacksonville Jaguars earlier. Green quickly signed New York's offer without giving the Jags an opportunity to indicate any potential interest.

Green made it through the Jets' recent minicamp although he was hampered by a hamstring injury. Nonetheless, Jets assistant general manager Scott Cohen told The Gazette he expected Green and Taylor, who remains with the team, to make it to training camp on Aug. 1, "unless something unusual happens."

Cohen couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.

"I'm definitely surprised and didn't expect it," Green, 24, said. "They didn't give me any real explanation, so I don't know why. I guess they decided to go in another direction. I definitely don't have any regrets and embraced the

opportunity.

"I don't have any hard feelings towards the New York Jets' team or organization. I'm thankful for the opportunity and learned a lot."

At 6-foot-2, and 216 pounds, Green has the prototypical receiver's body most NFL teams seek. And the Jets need at least one receiver after losing Wallace Wright, a special-teamer who signed with Carolina.

Although Green barely got into the tryout process, he said he hasn't come away from the experience with doubts.

"I still feel as confident as before I signed the contract," he said. "I'm still the same player. All this says is they didn't like what I had. But that's one person's opinion."

Green has spent three sea-

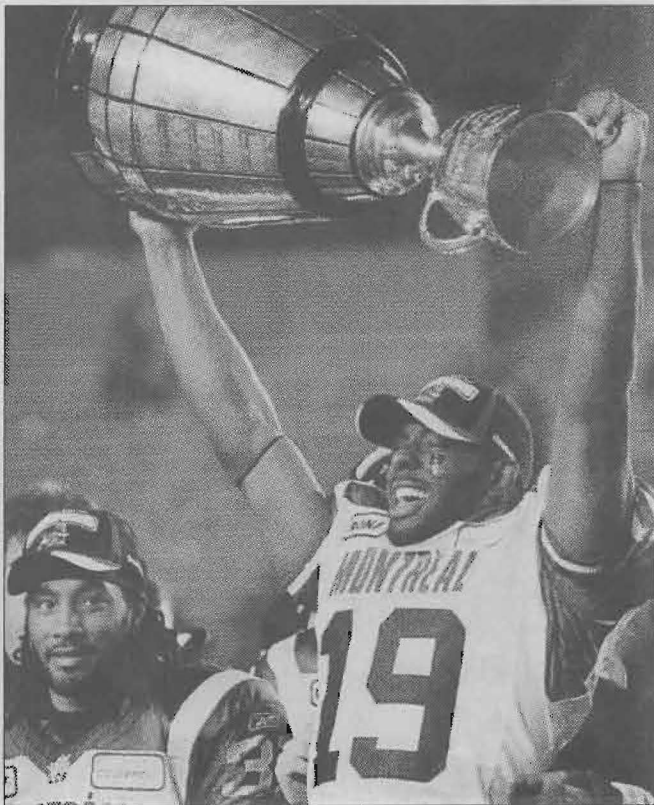
sons with the Als, but has been used sparingly because of the team's depth at receiver. He dressed for eight games in 2009, including four starts, catching 15 passes for 239 yards while scoring two touchdowns. He enjoyed his best game against Edmonton in July, with five receptions for 113 yards and a TD.

According to the Als' website, Green and his agent have 10 days in which to land another NFL opportunity; otherwise he must return to Montreal to complete his option year. Along with Jacksonville, Masnikoff said Miami has shown interest in the past.

But the agent's not bullish about Green's future with the Als. "He hasn't had an opportunity to shine. It's not like we're excited to go back."

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STUART GRADON CANWEST NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

The NFL's New York Jets parted ways yesterday with Alouettes receiver S.J. Green (right), hoisting Grey Cup in November.