

# Sports

## Cardinals earn trip to the Series

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals came alive on Jose Oquendo's three-run homer and behind the pitching of Danny Cox to win the National League playoffs Wednesday night, beating the San Francisco Giants 6-0 in Game 7.

The Cardinals earned their 15th World Series trip by winning the final two games at home before raucous crowds of 55,331. St. Louis and the Minnesota Twins, making their first World Series appearance since 1965, play Game 1 Saturday night at the Metrodome.

Cox allowed eight hits and extended the Giants' scoreless streak to 22 innings, a playoff record. He also ended their chance at reaching the World Series for the first time since 1962.

Oquendo's homer off Adee Hammaker capped a four-run second inning and sent Bush Stadium into a frenzy as the Cardinals came charging out of the dugout to greet the utility player who had just hit the third home run of his career — all against the Giants.

St. Louis is 8-2 in seventh games, winning more Game 7s than any other team. The New York Yankees are next at 5-5. This was the first Game 7 in NL playoff history since the best-of-seven format began three years ago.

The Cardinals, who were out-hit, outthundered and outplayed in the field for the first six games, were humming. Everything they did worked, while the Giants could do little but watch.

Only Jeffrey Leonard, the series Most Valuable Player, made a contribution for the Giants by going 2-for-3. But even his luck ran out in the sixth inning when he hit a line drive that Gold Glove shortstop Ozzie Smith deflected in the air and then caught on the carom.

## Five sacks against Houston makes Morris toast of SWC

By Anthony Wilson  
Sports Writer

In the span of one week, A&M cornerback Alex Morris went from being a billy goat to a human blitzkrieg.

In A&M's 27-21 loss to Texas Tech two weeks ago, Morris was beaten for a 76-yard touchdown pass from Billy Joe Tolliver to Wayne Walker. Actually, beaten is putting it mildly. Morris was roasted up one side and toasted down the other. He finished the day with only three tackles.

However, in A&M's 22-17 win over the University of Houston last week, Morris was a one-man "Wrecking Crew." He racked up a career high 15 tackles, 14 of which were unassisted, caused two fumbles and pressured the quarterback twice.

But his most impressive statistic was listed under "QBS" — as in quarterback sacks. Five of them to be precise. Not bad for a 6-foot-2, 190-pound cornerback who, by the way, now leads the team in sacks.

Since defensive backs are usually too busy covering receivers to get in on a good pass rush, and Morris seems to excel at blitzing, the A&M coaches decided to line him up in a linebacker's spot and move either John Roper or Aaron Wallace to a down lineman position.

Last season, Morris was given plenty of opportunities to blitz from his strong safety position. He was second on the team with six sacks.

Obviously Morris' agility, quickness and 4.4 speed gives him an advantage over bulkier, less mobile offensive linemen when blitzing. But it's the dropback of the quarterback that often depends on whether he is successful, Morris said.

"If he gets a deep drop, it's hard for a lineman to block me," the cornerback said. "But on a two or three step drop, it's kind of hard to get to him because I can't run over linemen. But usually I'm pretty effective at getting some pressure on him when he gets a pretty deep drop.

"I try to get past the lineman and get one-on-one with a running back," he added. "Most of the time running backs don't want to block you because they're not that good at blocking."

Although he was pleased with his performance against Houston, Morris said he would rather have had an outstanding game at his usual cornerback spot than at linebacker. Nonetheless, he was proud of the game he played.

"It's something that I feel like somebody else probably couldn't accomplish . . ." he said. "I went out with an extra, added incentive."

That incentive was to play especially well after a lackluster showing against Tech.

"I wasn't out there to prove myself to anybody because I know that I can play," Morris said. "I just wanted some self-satisfaction, just to say that, 'Hey, I am good. I can play. And things were just not going my way (against Tech).'"

"All I needed was a chance to get in position to where I can make some things happen, and that's what happened."

After the Tech game, Morris took a lot of flak from the media about his play. But with the help of his coaches and teammates, Morris kept a positive outlook.

"I know something bad happened to me that week," he said. "But I didn't have a bad game overall against Tech."

"The coaches weren't down on me. I caught a lot of slack from the fellas — a lot of joking around. They were calling me Burnt Toast all week."

"And then with the article in the paper about the Ore-Ida crispier award (a term used in last week's *Battalion*), I caught a lot of slack about that, but it didn't bother me. I knew I didn't deserve that award. It was just something I had to overcome. It wasn't a big deal."

Walker's 76-yard catch, the first time Morris had ever been beaten

for a touchdown, came when the wide receiver made a move in the open field at which the cornerback "bit." Walker then changed his pattern and was able to outrun Morris in to the end zone.

Initially it bothered him a lot, but he said he now realizes that those things are just part of the game.

"It kind of had me down because I knew that I was much better than what I showed on the play," he said. "But it doesn't bother me because I know that guys are going to get beat for touchdowns. It's not a big deal. It hurt me a whole lot inside knowing I got beat. But those things happen."

For his play against Houston, Morris was awarded the SWC Defensive Player of the Week honors. Because of the award, Morris knows he will be closely watched and scrutinized for the remainder of the season.

"I think that's great that somebody recognized me as being the Southwest Conference Player of the Week," he said. "This way I won't go unnoticed. . . . Everything I do good will be noticed, like everything I was doing bad was noticed."

Morris said he doesn't know exactly what schemes the defense will use Saturday against Baylor. He had his 1986 season high of 10 tackles against Baylor, but doesn't remember much about the game because he was sick.

As a freshman, Morris played cornerback in practices but always switched back to strong safety in games. He moved to right cornerback in spring practices and is beginning to feel comfortable at the position.

"The only thing is that I'm covering faster guys," he said. "It makes it difficult some times because you can't make a mistake and make up for it."

"I liked my performance at strong safety more than I do at cornerback. I'm getting a good feel for the position, so it's easing up out there."



Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

A&M's Alex Morris closes in on Houston quarterback Andre Ware during last Saturday's 22-17 win over the Cougars. Morris sacked Ware five times while racking up 15 tackles against the Cougars.

## Women's tennis team starts qualifying tourney today

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will compete in the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association qualifying tournament, beginning today on the University of Texas campus in Austin.

The winners of the qualifying round will go to the national indoors tournament to be held in February.

Freshman Cindy Churchwell will lead the Lady Aggies, along with Cindy Crawford, Lisa Keller, Jenifer Jones, Sandi Klein and Lori Davis.

Doubles teams will consist of Gaye Lynne Gensler and Keller, Crawford and Klein and Churchwell and Jones.



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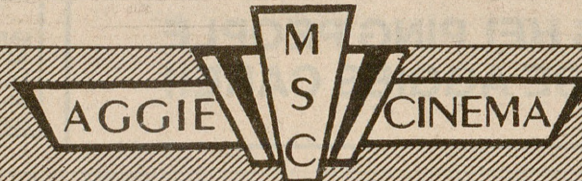
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