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Emmitt

Cowboys back shares glory for career milestone

IRVING (AP) — Emmitt Smith's latest milestone was an emotional one — once he realized it.

Smith passed Tony Dorsett to become fourth on the NFL's career rushing list with a 7-yard touchdown run in Dallas' 24-7 victory over Atlanta Monday night. Among the first to greet Smith on the sidelines was Dorsett, who was at the game to help celebrate the Cowboys' 40th anniversary.

"He said, 'Congratulations,' and I said 'Thank you,'" Smith said. "Then I kept on moving to go sit down. I didn't even realize what he was saying congratulations for."

Smith was not seated long when he heard the good news over the Texas Stadium loudspeaker. As fans cheered, he went back to Dorsett, hugged him and whispered a few words.

"I had to go tell him in his ear how much I greatly appreciate what he's done, the standards he has set," Smith, who last season passed Dorsett as the leading rusher in team history, said. "I wanted him to know that I greatly, really, truly in my heart appreciate him as a person, as a Dallas Cowboy and as a football player."

Smith was not done with his thank-yous.

He also sought Daryl Johnston, Smith's lead blocker in 131 of his 142 games, but probably not for any more. Johnston re-injured a neck injury in the opener and will not return this season. Although he is going to try coming back next year, the odds are long.

Johnston will remain with the team for moral support and advice. On Monday night, the fullback affectionately known as "Moose" was walking the sidelines carrying a clipboard. Fans gave him a "Moouoos" call when he was shown on the stadium's television screen early in the first quarter.

Report: Dallas close to relocating camp

EDINBURG, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are close to sealing a deal to move their training camp to the Rio Grande Valley, a report KURV reported yesterday.

KURV quoted an unidentified source as saying the Cowboys are nearing a deal with Dallas-based developer Ray Hunt to build a complex at a Hunt property in Edinburg.

The Sharyland Plantation development, a mix of southern Mission and southern McAllen-style mixed commercial and residential development, is now under construction.

Cowboys spokesperson Rich Dalrymple could not confirm the radio report until after Jerry Jones makes an announcement.

um's television screen early in the first quarter more air time when Smith hugged him following the milestone.

"Not having him out there is different because cause this guy has led me for all these years those yards," Smith, who came into the league a year after Johnston, said. "Not to have him being a brother almost. That's an unfortunate part of business. He's truly going to be missed by me."

Talking about Johnston made Smith choke up. He ended a group interview with that respect, hurried off a podium.

Ryder's Cup team disputes criticism

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — They eat dinner together, wear the same color shirts and play for the same goal: to break the Europeans' hold on the Ryder Cup.

Do the Americans have the passion some said they lacked in 1997 in Spain, when they lost the glam-our event for the second straight time? And does it matter?

"I don't believe it's that we are less passionate than they are," Tiger Woods, the world's top-ranked golfer, said. "We try just as hard as they do. I don't go to a tournament to lose."

Desire and determination are important. So are driving the ball in the right spot and pitching it close to the hole.

David Duval, ranked second, said when Americans lose, people go on an often misguided search for reasons — perhaps they were not as united or did not care as much as the Europeans.

The answer might be more obvious than it seems at first.

"You play golf, and whoever plays the best wins," he said Tuesday. "A lot of stuff is made up in the

case, and I think it does a disservice to the European team of the past, past several teams that have won.

"I think it's a bit disrespectful to their good play."

With the 33rd Ryder Cup starting tomorrow at The Country Club, the favored and more experienced Americans are saying all the right things — they have developed team chemistry in an individual sport and want to win for their country.

On Monday night they ate together at a downtown Boston restaurant. On Tuesday, they practiced and wore the same blue shirts. Tomorrow, they will be rooting for players they compete against on a weekly basis.

"We're just going to have to reach down inside, decide how bad we want it and go do whatever it takes," team member Hal Sutton said.

The Americans have even put behind them the issue of greater compensation for their efforts, which flared briefly last month and is now in the hands of the PGA.

"We [Americans] try just as hard as they do. I don't go to a tournament to lose."

— Tiger Woods
World's top-ranked golfer

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wagner day-to-day with injured elbow

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Houston Astros reliever Billy Wagner slightly strained ligament in his elbow and is listed as day-to-day.

Wagner, one of baseball's dominating closers with his 70 mph fastball and 37 saves, will twinge in the elbow while getting the final two outs in the eighth inning of the Astros' 6-3 victory Tuesday in Pittsburgh.

The Astros, attempting their third consecutive NL pennant, have eight games remaining.

Back trouble keeps Ripken out of game

ARLINGTON (AP) — Cal Ripken Jr.'s pursuit of his 3,000th career hit was put on hold yesterday because of back trouble — the recurring back troubles.

The Orioles third baseman scratched from Baltimore's game against last night's game against the Texas Rangers and has been out as day-to-day.

Earlier in the day, Ripken was treated by Dr. Henry B. University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Ripken has been on the disabled list twice this season because of nerve irritation in his lower back.

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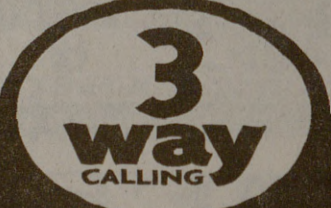
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