

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, August 5, 2001

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Elliott victorious at Brickyard 400

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bill Elliott passed Rusty Wallace 12 laps from the end, then held him off on a restart to win the Brickyard 400 on Sunday.

It was the second win in a row for the 46-year-old Elliott, whose career has been rejuvenated by car-owner Ray Evernham.

Elliott had the dominant car all day but found himself fifth after the final pit stop by the leaders on lap 130. No problem for the red No. 9 Dodge on this day.

The green flag came out again on lap 134 of the 160-lap event. The former Winston Cup champion was third by lap 137, took second from Tony pole-winner Stewart on lap 139, and quickly chased down Wallace, another former series champion.

It took Elliott some time to set up Wallace's Ford for the pass, but finally pulled it off with ease coming off turn two on lap 149.

Debris on the track brought out the eighth and final caution flag of the day on lap 152, frustrating Elliott, who had begun to pull away.

Wallace was not able to make a challenge as Elliott steadily moved ahead, beating the runner-up to the finish line by 1.269 seconds — about 15 car-lengths.

Arbitrator awards Arnott \$7.5 million

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Arbitrator Carol Wittenberg has awarded Dallas Stars forward Jason Arnott a two-year, \$7.5

million contract, Stars general manager Doug Armstrong said Sunday.

Arnott, 27, will receive \$3.65 million for next season and \$3.85 million for 2003-2004.

Last season, Arnott had 25 goals and 20 assists in 73 games with the New Jersey Devils and three goals and one assist in 10 games with the Stars.

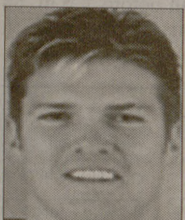
The Stars obtained Arnott in a March 19 trade, also getting Randy McKay and a 2002 first-round draft pick in exchange for Joe Nieuwendyk and Jamie Langenbrunner.

Saarloos, Astros take out Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Kirk Saarloos won his fourth straight start and got his first career RBIs with a two-run double to send the Houston Astros to a 5-4 win over the Montreal Expos before a crowd of 20,027 for a Gary Carter bobblehead promotion.

Saarloos (4-2), the NL Rookie of the Month for July, hit one of Houston's four doubles off Javier Vazquez (8-7) with runners at first and second and two outs in the second.

The Astros made it 3-0 on Geoff Blum's RBI single in the fourth and added two more when they got three straight hits leading off the fifth, including Daryle Ward's RBI single to chase Vazquez.



ARNOTT

Texans ready to show their stuff

Franchise's first game against Giants in Hall of Fame Game

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — OK, Houston Texans. Let's see if you're ready for some NFL football.

The league's newest expansion team will take another historic step on Monday night, when the Texans make their pre-season debut against the New York Giants in the Hall of Fame game.

"It will be the first time anyone has seen the Texans," coach Dom Capers said. "Right now, nobody knows a thing about the Houston Texans."

We're about to learn. On prime time national TV. In broadcaster John Madden's debut with partner Al Michaels in ABC's Monday night booth. And against the Giants, a veteran team eager to put a 7-9 season behind.

It would be understandable if the Texans were feeling a little pressure.

"We don't have much time to sit around and evaluate this," Capers said. "We have to look forward to the next game."

It's been nearly three years since the league awarded Houston an expansion franchise, and now the Texans will get a chance to showcase what they've been up to.

Rookie quarterback David Carr, the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft, is expected to play

the first few series, but Capers said Houston will keep its game plan "fairly simple."

The Texans have been pleased with Carr's progress, and their young quarterback won over a few more teammates by jumping into the middle of a fight with the Dallas Cowboys in Friday's scrimmage.

"You see your center on the ground and somebody on top of him and you step in to help," Carr said. "It just shows you how far we've

come as a team."

When the Texans' \$60 million investment wasn't mixing it up, Carr, whose first attempt was batted down, went 2-of-4 for 36 yards. He made a nice throw over the middle for a 35-yard gain to tight end Billy Miller.

"We're trying to build on the good things and get through the mistakes," Carr said. "There were some ugly things out there in the scrimmage. We have to eliminate some of those."

Still, Capers called Carr's debut "a good start."

Houston's defense is eager to get off on the right foot, too.

"It's time to see where we are," linebacker Kevin Mitchell said. "It's time to stop talking and take this chance to see how far along we are as a defense."

"It will be the first time anyone has seen the Texans. Right now, nobody knows a thing about the Houston Texans."

— Dom Capers
Texans' head coach

Search for Cowboys' third receiver continues

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — They're talented, fast and looking for a job. The Dallas Cowboys, it just so happens, have some openings.

For the second consecutive season, the Cowboys are sifting through a collection of young, raw receivers to be the third wideout behind starters Joey Galloway and Raghbir Ismail.

New offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet's West Coast-style offense will likely provide plenty of opportunities for as many as five receivers, and unlike last year, the competitors seem to be seizing the opportunities.

"There's no question that we have the best receiving corps, including depth, since I've been here," said Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. "We've seen a lot of improvement

from that group. The skills of our wide receivers is going to be a real plus for us this year."

The mostly likely candidates for the third receiving role are Antonio Bryant, a prodigious second-round pick from Pittsburgh; Reggie Swinton, a second-year speedster and special teams star; and Ken-Yon Rambo, a second-year wideout who has shown flashes of playmaking ability during training camp.

Others in the mix are Jeremaine Copeland, who's been a star in both NFL Europe and the now-defunct XFL; Randal Williams, who's been timed at under 4.1 seconds in the 40-yard dash; and Richmond Flowers, who spent much of last year on the Cowboys' practice squad and was one of

NFL Europe's top receivers this spring.

"I'm real pleased with our receivers," said Cowboys coach Dave Campo. "If we're going to win, we're going to need to make some big plays. I think all of our guys can do some good things."

From that group, the Cowboys will need to cull a dependable option to take pressure off of second-year quarterback Quincy Carter and a running game that was the NFL's third-best last season, but far from dependable.

It also wouldn't hurt if the receivers can help out Ismail and Galloway, who finished with 53 and 52 receptions last year. The third-best receiving output on the team? Running back Emmitt Smith, who caught 17 passes.

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