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# Cowboys rebound, knock off Titans

## After struggling in opener vs. Texans, Carter looks like the man

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Standing on the blue star at midfield, his head and arms pointed at the hole in the Texas Stadium roof, Quincy Carter let it all go. Whatever anger, bitterness or other emotions he'd felt all week didn't matter anymore.

He'd just thrown his second nice touchdown pass and was leading the Dallas Cowboys to a 21-13 victory over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, securing his job and possibly saving the team's season. Both were in jeopardy after Dallas was humiliated by the expansion Houston Texans in the opener. But as Carter danced back to the sideline after his best pass of the season, his display showed that he knew he was back in charge.

"I'm starting to be a leader on this team," said Carter, who was 14-of-24 for 240 yards, one shy of his career best, with no interceptions.

Carter won his third straight game at home and improved to 5-6 as an NFL starter for a team that's 11-23 since the start of the 2000 season. His status was questioned, though, after he threw for just 131 yards against the Texans with as many near-interceptions as completions.

Critics were after him, too, and Carter seemed to be listening for the first time. His trademark confidence had been replaced by defensiveness.

But given a game plan that let him throw downfield more often, and forced to make plays because of the way Tennessee stuffed Emmitt Smith, Carter came through.

"I think Quincy is a competitor, and I'll go into war with a competitor any day."

— Dave Campo  
Cowboys Head Coach

and-11 and hit Antonio Bryant in stride for 44 yards on a pump-and-go route.

"I think Quincy is a competitor, and I'll go into war with a competitor any day," Dallas coach Dave Campo said.

The Titans (1-1) were in control the first 1 1/2 quarters, despite quarterback Steve McNair suffering a mild concussion when he ran into an equipment trunk on the Dallas sideline midway through the second quarter.

"It kind of stunned me," McNair said. "My neck was a little sore, but I was OK after that. It didn't hinder me at all."

He returned for the third quarter with Tennessee leading 10-7. On the second series of the half, McNair threw the game-changing pass when Cowboys safety Darren Woodson hit his arm as he threw.

Linebacker Dexter Coakley, shaken up two plays earlier, caught the wobbly ball and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown, giving Dallas its first lead of the season.

"I felt like a running back," said Coakley, who has scored on four of his nine career interceptions.

The Cowboys were expecting big plays from their defense this season, but didn't get any against the Texans. This game fea-

tured Coakley's and a sack by Greg Ellis that threw McNair for an 8-yard loss on third-and-9 with 2:31 left.

After going down by 11, the Titans mustered only a 52-yard field goal by Joe Nedney. Tennessee had overcome a 14-point deficit against Philadelphia in the opener.

"They just made plays at the critical times and we didn't," Titans cornerback Andre Dyson said.

McNair, who completed nine of his first 10 passes, turned cold down the stretch. He finished 20-of-38 for 226 yards with one touchdown. Neil O'Donnell replaced McNair in the second quarter and set up a 37-yard field goal by Nedney on his only series.

Smith had 59 yards, moving him 414 yards from becoming the NFL's career rushing leader. He was stuffed twice on third-and-1. Galloway caught five passes for 88 yards.

Tennessee's Eddie George had 65 yards on 19 carries.

Titans' receiver Derrick Mason had seven catches for 118 yards for his second straight 100-yard game and sixth in his last nine.

# Astros split weekend series with Cardinals

HOUSTON (AP) — Wade Miller got the first shutout of his career and extended his winning streak to an NL-best 11 straight decisions.

It's going to take a lot more for the Houston Astros to win the NL Central.

Miller pitched a three-hitter, and Lance Berkman drove in four runs as Houston beat Matt Morris and the St. Louis Cardinals 8-0 Sunday.

The victory cut St. Louis' lead in the NL Central to 6 1/2 games and gave the Astros a split in the four-game series.

"We obviously need a little miracle right here for it to happen," Miller said. "It's not likely that St. Louis is going to go out there and lose the rest of their games. They're a good team and they'll win some games. Hopefully, we can win a lot and they can lose a lot."

Miller's 11-game winning streak, which includes three no-decisions, is the longest in the NL this season. He hasn't lost since June 26 against Arizona. It was Miller's fourth complete game.

The right-hander took charge early, retiring his first 11 batters before Jim Edmonds' two-out triple in the fourth. He struck out nine and didn't walk a batter.

Scott Rolen and Kerry Robinson got the other hits for St. Louis.

Jeff Bagwell isn't expecting miracles, just luck.

"I wouldn't say miracle," Bagwell said. "Miracle is a pretty strong word, but we're going to have to be very lucky. In reality it's not over, but we're looking for a ton of help."

Berkman went 4-for-5 with a solo homer in the fourth inning, his 41st of the season. Berkman also had a two-run single in the eighth inning and an RBI double in the first. He leads the NL with 123 RBIs.

"He did just about everything but take tickets today," Astros manager Jimmy Williams said. "He did an awful lot of things out there. Driving in runs, hit a home run, threw out a guy at the plate. He really had a stellar day."

Berkman preserved the 5-0 lead in the sixth inning when he caught Eli Marrero's fly and threw out Robinson at home with catcher Brad Ausmus blocking the plate.

Berkman made a diving catch in right field in the seventh on a flyball by Albert Pujols.

"A split in this series is not good," Berkman said. "The Cardinals go to Colorado now and we have to hope for some help."

Brian Hunter also drove in an run in the eighth.

Morris (16-8) couldn't match Miller's early proficiency. Craig Biggio singled in the first and scored from there on Berkman's double over right fielder Marrero's head for a 1-0 lead.

"I just didn't pitch well," Morris said. "We could have pulled away. I'm upset. I just didn't make pitches.

RACE FOR THE PENDANT			
	W	L	GB
St. Louis	86	63	-
Houston	80	70	6 1/2
Home Away			
St. Louis	10	3	
Houston	3	9	
* 3 games remain in series at St. Louis			

I wasn't sharp today and that's it."

Berkman singled and Bagwell walked to start the third, and Daryle Ward's double to the left-field corner scored both runners. Ward took third on left fielder Pujols' fielding error.

Mark Loretta hit an RBI double to left field for a 4-0 lead.

After yielding Berkman's homer and walking Bagwell in the fourth, Morris was replaced by Gabe Molina. Morris pitched 3 2-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season. He gave up five runs and nine hits.

"We had three really tight games," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "Today, it was all Wade Miller. If I had my cap on, I would tip it to him."

Soccer Stadium helped to eclipse the old stadium record by more than 1,000 people.

The crowd was less than half the number that attended the Aggies game on Friday against the No. 1 University of North Carolina Tarheels.

Over 2,400 fans were in attendance at Meyer park in Spring to watch A&M fall to UNC 4-1 in one of the higher profile matches of the year for the Aggies.

Senior forward Heather Ragsdale scored the only goal of the night in the Aggies' loss. It was her 25th career goal.

The loss is the third straight to nationally ranked teams for the Aggies (Stanford, Cal-Berkeley, UNC). The three game skid is first in the program's ten-year history.

In South Bend, ESPN/USA Today No. 21 Notre Dame continued to display a new sense of domination that they haven't seen in quite some time.

Picked as heavy underdogs against No. 6 Michigan, the Irish stunned the crowd of over 80,000 to improve their season record to 3-0.

No. 15 Michigan State didn't fare much better, falling 46-22 at home to the University of California.

The Golden Bears held a 25-0 lead at halftime and never looked back.

California quarterback Kyle Boller threw four touchdown passes and is now averaging 50 points a game this season.

The Big 12 North took a huge hit this weekend as well.

No. 7 Nebraska was throttled 40-7 by No. 25 Penn State, adding pressure to head coach Frank Solich, who many Husker fans have begun to doubt.

No. 19 Colorado, the team that college football analysts across the country picked

to win the Big 12 this year, managed only three first downs against USC in a 40-3 loss at home.

"We were just awful," said Colorado head coach Gary Barnett. "I don't know what else to say. We were double awful on offense and just awful on defense."

The loss drops the Buffaloes to 1-2 as they prepare to travel to UCLA next Saturday to take on the No. 23 Bruins.

The upsets have made an enormous impact on this week's poll with Notre Dame moving up nine spots to No. 12, Michigan falling to No. 14 and California debuting in the Top 25 poll at No. 23.

Nebraska's troubles knocked them to No. 18 and Colorado dropped from the Top 25 rankings.

While the poll was shaky for some, the top five schools remained in tact led by Miami at No. 1. Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Florida State round out the top five.

Texas A&M moved up to No. 19 after an open date this weekend.

**Texas A&M soccer team drops games to UNC, TCU**

Heather Ragsdale had two assists on Sunday as the No. 8 Texas A&M soccer team dropped Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on Sunday, 3-0.

A&M approved its record to 3-3 while TCU dropped to 1-4-2 for the season.

Sophomore Emma Smith put the Aggies on top in the 41st minute with her first goal of the season off Ragsdale's assist.

Smith's attempt for her second goal of the game early in the second half bounced off the right post.

Sophomore Linsey Woodard and freshman Kate Ripple also scored in the game. Ripple's goal, the first of her collegiate career, came in the 89th minute of action.

A&M freshman goalkeeper Kati Jo Spisak earned her first shutout of the season and collected five saves for the game.

The 1,723 fans entering Garvey-Rosenthal

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**Upsets shake up Top 25, Big 12 power structures**

College Football fans around the country watched Saturday as the Top 25 began to see a shift in power.

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