Cowboys' Cundiff sees stock rise after game winner vs. STL

IIRVING, Texas (AP) then Billy Cundiff's gameinning 22-yard field goal empt bounced off the upright the final play of a preseason me, the rookie thought his ELP WANTED career with the Dallas Cowboys ght already be over.

"I knew at that moment that was truly a day-to-day exisice, and I had prepared to go me," Cundiff said. "I felt that there was any time to get cut, at was a good time.

But the Cowboys liked the ong-legged 22-year-old kid om Division I-AA Drake too nuch to let him go because of e mistake. He got another ance after that 21-19 presean loss to Atlanta on Aug. 24. nd a week later was on the final ter instead of incumbent cker Tim Seder.

And now Cundiff is the wboys' latest hero because of longer game-winner that inted so much more.

On the final play of Sunday's me at the St. Louis Rams, Cundiff's 48-yarder — his igest so far — gave the owboys a 13-10 win. Dallas proved to 2-2 to end the first onth of the season, which gan with dismal predictions ter an opening loss at the ansion Houston Texans.

"Maybe it won't be someng big for me in how I'm

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going to react, but it may be big in a sense that it kind of solidifies my position a little bit more," Cundiff said.

"It is one of those things that can be a springboard to making me more successful, or it could be something that if I draw on too much, it could kind of drag me down," he said. "It is the culmination of hard work. I want to carry it on and keep going.'

> It is the culmination of hard work. I want to carry it on and keep on going.

> > - Billy Cundiff Cowboys kicker

Cundiff has made all six of his extra points and 5-of-6 field goals, all from at least 30 yards. His only miss was a 42yarder in the season opener against the Texans.

The Cowboys liked the long range that Cundiff could provide. During his college career, he made eight field goals of at least 50 yards, including a 62-yarder.

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www.harryostudio.com yards, and he was just 12-of-21 or call Steve Carr 779-227 on kicks of at least 40 yards, and missed five attempts short-

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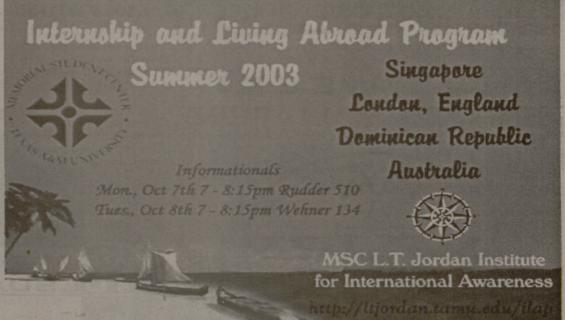
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Oakland takes game two over Minnesota, series tied 1-1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Behind Mark Mulder's steady pitching and a whole lot of timely hitting, erything was back to normal for the Athletics.

David Justice's bases-loaded triple highlighted Oakland's 14-hit barrage, and Mulder pitched six strong innings as the A's beat the Minnesota Twins 9-1 Wednesday to even their AL division series at one game apiece

Eric Chavez had a three-run homer, and rookie Mark Ellis got three hits as Oakland replied to Game with a tremendous offensive game against Joe Mays (0-1) and the Twins' bullpen.

Each of the first seven hitters in Oakland's lineup got an extra-base hit as the A's jumped to an 8-0 lead after four innings. Justice, the most prolific runproducer in playoff history, added three more RBIs to his record total during Oakland's five-run fourth. Miguel Tejada had an RBI double. Five players drove in a run, and Ray Durham scored three times. Justice's triple broke the game open, with three

nners scampering home. Mulder (1-0) wasn't overpowering, but he mostly

striking out three. He didn't allow a runner to reach hird base in the first five innings.

The Twins struggled against Mulder — though with a solo homer in the sixth.

Giants pound the Braves in game one, lead series 1-0

field goals

Steve Hoffman.

Cundiff continues to work.

on things technique-wise.

himself mentally to be cut.

the same," he said. "And I'm

just learning to relax and work

feeling he had after that Atlanta

game, when he had prepared

"I think it made a difference.

I refocused, and feel like I've

really grown as a player,"

Cundiff said. "But I make sure I

always approach every day like it is my last."

Cundiff is still driven by the

Cundiff said.

ATLANTA (AP) — Barry Bonds didn't have to come up big for the San Francisco Giants to get a jump on the Atlanta Braves.

The rest of the San Francisco lineup knocked around Atlanta's heralded pitching staff while Russ Ortiz threw seven strong innings, carrying the Giants to an 8-5 victory in Game 1 of the NL division play-

Down 8-2, Gary Sheffield and Javy Lopez home-red in the eighth to get the Braves close. Atlanta had its chance in the ninth, but Robb Nen got Sheffield to ground into a game-ending double play with two

runners on for a save. Bonds was denied a homer in the eighth when Andruw Jones leaped above the center-field wall to

make a catch. Bonds went 1-for-4 with an intentional walk and

a throwing error. His teammates did plenty of damage against Tom Glavine.

The Giants scored three runs in the second inning and three more in the fourth. Benito Santiago, J.T. Snow and Rich Aurilia each

had two RBIs. Santiago redeemed himself somewhat by leaning

into a photographer's box to grab Marcus Giles' popup with a runner on to end the inning. go hit a two-run double off Chris Ha

in the sixth to put the game out of reach.

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Continued from page 1B

ound," Stoops said. "They ave a good number of designed runs for him also, so you have to be aware of that."

No. 13 Kansas State at Colorado, 2:30 p.m. The Colorado Buffaloes egin their defense of their 2001 Big 12 North title when

they open Big 12 play by hosting the Wildcats at Folsom Field. The Buffs are coming off a 31-17 upset victory over the No. 20 UCLA last week.

"Colorado has certainly sent a very strong message with their ballgame against UCLA," said Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder. "We have no doubt about having our hands completely full.'

The Wildcats come into Boulder after defeating No. 11

USC 27-20 last week. Kansas State suffered a 16-6 loss to the Buffaloes in 2001. K-State junior linebacker Terry Pierce was the co-defensive player of the week for his 12 tackles against USC last week.

Texas A&M will host Texas Tech at Kyle Field. Nebraska, who has lost its last two games, will host McNeese State in Lincoln. It will be the first meeting between the two teams. Iowa State has the week off.



