SPORTS

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THE BATTALION

Smith has bad outing in return trip to Big D

shed with minus-1, the worst outing of his areer. He was pounded nearly every time he ot the ball and was knocked out early in the econd quarter with a sprained left shoulder.

locker room, his arm in a sling, as his former eammates on the Dallas Cowboys polished off a 24-7 victory over his new teammates on the Arizona Cardinals.

play four quarters, play his est and do everything posible to help his team win," Smith said. "I wasn't able

17 yards and two touchowns and the defense

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By Jaime Aron THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — Emmitt Smith was all iles. Fans were cheering his every move nd flashbulbs were popping. He looked round happily, savoring his return to Texas Stadium just like he'd hoped. Everything was

Then the game began. And nothing went

Smith lost 4 yards on his first carry and fin-He spent the rest of Sunday's game in the

"Every player wants to

Quincy Carter threw for SMITH

lowed just 151 yards and rovided two safeties in a four-play span in the

hird quarter as Bill Parcells earned his first me win as coach of the Cowboys. Dallas (3-1) already was up by a touchown when Smith went out, then pulled away or its first three-game winning streak since

pening 1999 at 3-0. "This game was nothing personal to Emmitt," said safety Darren Woodson, who spent 11 years playing with Smith. "It was bout beating the Cardinals."

Smith, the NFL's career leading rusher, usually performs his best in big games, and no game this season will be bigger to him than

Thousands of fans wore blue No. 22 jerseys, and even a few red ones. There were many welcome back signs, including a huge one that read "Once A Cowboy, Always A Cowboy" next to the Cardinals' tunnel. None poked fun at his statement that he felt like a 'diamond surrounded by trash" during his last

He was applauded from the moment he with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, who wished him good luck.

Smith took part in the coin toss, then returned to the bench giddy over winning it. Cameras clicked as he swapped a ballcap for his helmet, pulled up his red socks, looked around proudly and got in place to watch the

His fun ended on the first play. La'Roi

Glover blew through blockers and wrapped up Smith 4 yards behind the line. With six carries for minus-1 yard and two

catches for 2 yards, Smith had the least-productive of his 206 career games, 201 of which

were for Dallas. He had only 25 yards on 12 carries his previous game and has just 192 yards through five games with Arizona (1-4).

Smith lost yards on four of his eight touches and had no gain twice. His best effort was 6 yards on a third-and-8 swing pass.

The Cowboys usually didn't just tackle him. They tried humiliating him, too.

Dat Nguyen swiped his arms to gesture an emphatic, "No!" after a 1-yard loss. Former dominoes mate Willie Blade stood over Smith in a Muhammad Ali-type taunt after Smith fell and lost 4 yards on a screen.

On his final play, Smith went between the guard and tackle on the left side. Williams arrived in the hole when Smith did.

"I gave him a little love tap," Williams said, smiling. "Seriously, I hope he's all

The Cowboys insisted they weren't trying to prove a point or get back at Smith for the trash quote.

"We didn't want to get embarrassed by him," Nguyen said. "He knows our defense

Smith's exit ended the most ballyhooed return of an ex-Cowboy since Jimmy Johnson came in as coach of the Miami Dolphins on Thanksgiving 1999. Still, fans had plenty to cheer.

Carter, who lost his job after an awful performance against Arizona last season, opened Dallas' second drive with a 51-yard touchdown pass to Terry Glenn on a perfectly executed flea flicker. Carter followed with an 18yard TD pass to Richie Anderson, and finished

Billy Cundiff sandwiched two field goals around halftime, then the Cowboys sacked Jeff Blake in the end zone on consecutive possessions. Both were set up by pinpoint punts, with Arizona's rookie sensation Anguan Boldin making the mistake of calling for a fair catch at the 4 before the first.

Blake was 14-of-28 for 121 yards, two interceptions and a 24-yard touchdown to Brian Gilmore that made it 7-7.

Smith said the trip to Dallas wasn't a total loss. He got to see one of his daughters play soccer Saturday.

"The experience in itself was everything," Smith said. "Just coming back here and seeing Texas Stadium and having a chance to play here in front of the Cowboys fans, it was wonderful.

"It will go down as one of the unique experiences I've ever experienced."

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Gut check

Continued from page 7

will be jacked up after a big win against Colorado," Appel said. That could be the biggest understate-

ment of the year. Baylor didn't just win Saturday; it

whipped the Buffaloes, and unless they get it together this week, the Aggies could be next. A&M coach Dennis Franchione told reporters after the game that he expects to

learn a lot about the team this week as well. "It's key in a lot of ways," he said.

'It's certainly a key for us right now to see how we're going to respond and who our leaders are and how they step up, how we move forward, how we build on it, how we learn from it."

It will be interesting.

After the Aggies endured the "Air Raid" Saturday night in Lubbock they. have two choices: They can sink like the Arizona did in a matter of minutes, or they can bounce back and try to regain some respect.

Despite promises for the future of Aggie football, many fans are ready for the sun to rise on the "Dawn of a New

If the Aggies lose to Baylor this weekend, Franchione's honeymoon in Aggieland could come crashing down.

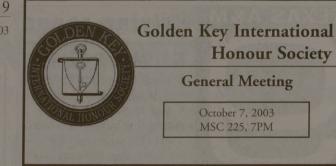
SPORTS IN BRIEF **ESPN pregame show** offers apology for remarks minus Limbaugh

NEW YORK (AP) - ESPN'S NFL pregame show returned Sunday with an apology — and without Rush Limbaugh - a week after the commentator's racetinged comments about Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb.

Panelists Chris Berman, Tom Jackson, Steve Young and Michael Irvin took criticism from the media, as well as McNabb, for not responding when Limbaugh suggested on the Sept. 28 "Sunday NFL Countdown" show that McNabb was overrated because the media wants to see a black quarterback succeed.

"Do I wish that I had caught it in hindsight? Absolutely," Jackson said Sunday. "Do I regret that I didn't? Yes. But I'm human. Mostly, I regret that I missed it for Donovan McNabb's sake. I regret that."

Limbaugh resigned from the show Wednesday, and later said he was leaving so the sports network's employees would be spared the uproar over his remarks. He denied that his comments were racially motivated.



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