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Cowboys shuffling backfield

By Jaime Aron THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING — Troy Hambrick is struggling. Richie Anderson is hurting. And the Dallas Cowboys are going into the make-or-break part of their schedule

With a little of each in mind, Bill Parcells signed Adrian Murrell on Wednesday to add more

versatility to the Cowboys' running game. What exactly Murrell will add remains to be

A 1,000-yard rusher from 1996-98, Murrell last played as a backup for Washington in 2000. He came back this summer, spending three weeks in training camp with Dallas because he wanted to play for Parcells. He was told up front that he'd be released before the opener because of salary-cap reasons, but to stay in shape because he might be called back

Murrell's style fits what the Cowboys need a hybrid of bruising runner Hambrick and quick, outside-the-tackles back Aveion Cason.

"I brought him in with the idea of getting him ready to play," Parcells said. "I hope to integrate him into the system and see how it goes. I have an idea of what he was able to once do. And I think there is a place for that if we can get back some version of Adrian Murrell.

Murrell, 33, takes the roster spot of center Gennaro DiNapoli, who was placed on injured reserve with a sprained right ankle that could require surgery

Hopefully I can show something throughout this week that gives them confidence to put me in

I'm just here to have an opportunity to get a couple of snaps and do well when I get that opportunity.

Murrell comes in a few days after the Cowboys ran for just 60 yards in a 16-0 loss to Tampa Bay and a few days before Dallas plays Washington.

The Cowboys (5-2) are about to start a run of five games in 25 days, with four at home. The Redskins are the only team in that stretch with a losing record.

So Parcells has dubbed November "showtime," challenging his NFC East-leading team to emerge still in the playoff chase in December.

"If we play good football now ... then I think we'll have a chance," Parcells said. "If we don't, then I think we'll be a middle-of-the-pack or less team. Simple as that.'

How Murrell's arrival fits in was one of many questions Parcells didn't directly answer.

The obvious part is that Murrell can replace Anderson's averages of 5.3 carries and 2.3 catches if Anderson doesn't play Sunday.

Anderson was held out of practice Wednesday because of a muscle problem near his shoulder that causes tingling in his hands. He's listed as questionable:

But Anderson is a fullback; Murrell isn't. Parcells said that if Anderson plays, Murrell could be active too.

So maybe Murrell was brought in to spur Hambrick.

After three seasons as Emmitt Smith's backup, Hambrick is averaging just 3.2 yards per carry in his first chance to be the featured back. Of his 137 carries, 24 have lost yards; that's the highest total in the NFL.

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Continued from page 1B

of fairness that it is in college football's best interest to fix it instead of forcing Congress to intervene.

NCAA President Myles Brand said he is open to a system that would be more inclusive, but does not believe that there is a need for radical changes or adoption of a playoff system.

Harvey Perlman, chancellor of the University of Nebraska, said the current system is the fairest way to determine a national champion and provides adequate opportunity for schools outside the BCS to play their way into contention.

A team that finishes in the top 12 of the BCS standings is eligible for consideration, and a team in the top six automatically gets a spot.

And Keith Tribble, chairman the Football Bowl Association and chief executive

Congress debates college bowl system

Congress is reviewing whether college football's Bowl Championship Series (BCS), which generates millions of dollars in revenue every year for the schools involved, violates antitrust laws by favoring members of the six powerhouse football conferences

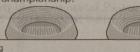
The winners of the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Pacific-10, and Southeastern Conference get berths. Any team is eligible for one of the remaining berths as long as they have nine wins and a top 12 standing. The top non-BCS team can receive an automatic berth if among the top six teams in the nation.

Sugar Bowl This year's championship, the top two teams in BCS standings will meet here regardless of conference.

Rose Bowl The winners of the Big Ten and the Pac-10 conferences will meet here if they are not in the championship.

Orange Bowl Organizers Organizers
choose either the
Atlantic Coast
Conference or the
Big East winner

Includes winner of the Big 12 unless in the championship. unless that pick plays in the championship.



SOURCES: Associated Press; BCSFootball.org officer of the Orange Bowl the last five years. Committee, said the bowl games are attracting more fans, benefit-

"For the past 90 years, bowl games have been the heart and ing their host communities and soul of college football. It has never been healthier," Tribble generating more money than ever, paying out \$800 million in

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