

Cowboys win close one

By Ray Buck
Knight Ridder Newspapers

IRVING, Texas (KRT) — In a "Monday Night Football" game that followed suit for the NFL this weekend, the Dallas Cowboys won on the final play of the game against the Washington Redskins, 9-7, at Texas Stadium.

Emmitt Smith ran four out of five consecutive running plays for 3, 5, 3 and 13 yards to make it easy for Cowboys kicker Tim Seder — who had missed twice earlier — to drill a 26-yard field goal with time expired and a six-game losing streak snapped.

Don't look now, but the Cowboys are not the dregs of the NFL ... or even the NFC East. They're 1-4 after their first regular-season victory since Dec. 10. The Redskins are 0-5.

For most of the night, this game of winless wonders lived down to expectations, as the Cowboys and Redskins treated the end zone like it had barbed wire in front of it. After three quarters, the Cowboys led, 3-0.

With 12 minutes, 16 seconds left, the Redskins led, 7-3.

The turning point of game came with 2:40 left when rookie defen-

sive tackle John Nix, 240th pick overall, forced a fumble by stripping Redskins running back Stephen Davis, who was in the process, it seemed, of putting the game away.

"I'd been trying to do that all night," Nix said. "We knew they'd been fumbling the ball a lot. Somebody had to make a play. I guess it was me."

The Redskins came into the game with a league-leading 13 turnovers, tied with Dallas. It was Washington's only turnover of the game.

Safety George Teague admitted that it was beginning to get nerve-racking as the Cowboys trailed 7-6 and the clock wound down during an eight-play, 40-yard, late-game drive by the Redskins.

"I was worried we wouldn't get the ball," Teague said. "We were waiting around too long."

Then Nix stripped Davis.

The Battle of the Beatens suddenly gained interest, if anyone was still awake watching ABC.

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Foster's 301 sparks UCLA win

By Joshua Mason
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — When Freddie Mitchell is at a loss for words, something truly special must be happening.

"What he's done is amazing," Mitchell said, as he paced back and forth on the UCLA sideline, just seconds after former teammate DeShaun Foster had scampered 92 yards for his fourth touchdown run of the game. "I've never seen anything like this. I just don't know what to say."

In a performance to remember, Foster did more than quiet the fast-talking Mitchell. He also hushed a Washington defense that hadn't allowed a rushing touchdown since the last time these two teams met.

"I just wanted to get out there and run hard," Foster said of his fourth quarter spectacle. "As I was turning the corner, it was just off to the races."

For Foster and the Bruins, the 92-yard run that gave UCLA a 35-13 lead epitomized what he has been doing all season long: running for daylight and not letting anyone stop them along the way. As Foster

phrased it, they just wanted to "show America" what the Bruins were all about.

"I think he definitely made a statement out there," UCLA head coach Bob Toledo said.

On 31 carries, Foster rushed for a UCLA-record 301 yards and four touchdowns, easily eclipsing his previous career-high of 189 yards against Alabama last season. It was the strongest rushing performance against the Huskies ever, and a showing that will surely catapult Foster to the forefront of the Heisman race.

"I'm for team and individuals," Toledo said about the recent spotlight on Foster's increasing Heisman numbers. "I told this team that players make plays and teams win championships. If you're going to win as a team, the players need to make big plays. And if you make big plays, there's an opportunity to get those individual awards."

The two blemishes on Foster's masterful performance came less than a yard away from the end zone. With 5:13 to play in the second quarter, the Huskies stopped a red-zone drive after the ball slipped

out of Foster's hands when linebacker Ben Mahdavi laid a hit on him. In the third quarter, Foster had another missed opportunity for the end zone after a short 3rd-and-goal run resulted in a two-yard loss that set up a sack of UCLA quarterback Cory Paus the following play.

"He fumbled that ball, but when you're fighting for extra yards like that, you're going to fumble some balls," Toledo said. "He definitely made up for that mistake though."

What were jeers from the home crowd against Ohio State (Foster fumbled the ball a career-high four times in that contest), suddenly transformed into chants of "Heisman, Heisman," from the Bruin faithful. Don't expect much to change in the Bruin game plan the rest of their Pac-10 schedule, particularly the focus on letting Foster's golden legs carry them to the top.

"The two biggest things for any team is to play good defense and run the football," Paus said. "What did we do today? We ran the ball, DeShaun had 300 yards, and we played good defense. That's every coach's formula to win and we did it."

Moyer, Martinez lift Mariners past Cleveland, into ALCS

By Jose Miguel Romero
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE (KRT) — To get to the American League Championship Series for the second straight season, the Seattle Mariners turned to three of their most reliable players in the Division Series through its first four games — Jamie Moyer, Edgar Martinez and Ichiro.

All three players, plus a major contribution from shortstop Mark McLemore both defensively and at the plate, helped the Mariners defeat Cleveland 3-1 yesterday in the decisive Game 5 of the ALDS. So, also, did the unflappable Seattle bullpen, as the Mariners won by excelling in three of their most reliable keys to victory — starting pitching, relief pitching and two-out hitting.

Jamie Moyer baffled Cleveland for the second time in five days, winning his second game of the postseason with a sparkling one-run, three-hit performance over six innings. Moyer, a veteran left-hander unnerved by the importance and pressure of the game, retired 10 in a row from the third through the last out of the sixth inning. He also kept the Mariners in

the game throughout.

And when Moyer left the game, the Mariners' bullpen continued the dominance. Jeff Nelson struck out four in 1 2/3 innings and Arthur Rhodes retired the only batter he was asked to face. Kazu Sasaki earned his first save of the playoffs by retiring the side in order in the ninth, completing the Mariners' rally from a 2-1 series deficit to advance to play either New York in the ALCS.

When Juan Gonzalez grounded out to end the game, the Mariners gathered in the infield and embraced each other in celebration as 47,867 fans roared for several minutes.

It wasn't easy, though the Mariners got off to a good start. Cleveland starter Chuck Finley managed to keep from repeating his first-inning performance of Game 2, in which he allowed four runs, though his control wasn't sharp. The pitcher threw 40 pitches in the first three innings, running into trouble in the bottom of the second.

The Mariners loaded the bases with no outs on consecutive walks to Edgar Martinez and John Olerud. Martinez, in vintage form, drew his

base on balls after facing an 0-2 count to lead off the inning. Two batters later, Mike Cameron was hit on the right upper leg with the first pitch he saw from Finley.

It seemed, however, that Finley would work his way out of the jam after striking out Dan Wilson on three pitches and then David Bell. The next batter was Mark McLemore, who had just one hit in the series up to that point.

That lone hit was the go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning of Game 4 on Sunday, and one day later, McLemore delivered again. He lashed the first pitch from Finley into left field. Marty Cordova, the Cleveland left fielder, raced in to try and snare the sinking drive, but the ball landed in front of him by mere inches. Cordova trapped the ball while still on the ground, and McLemore clapped and pumped his fist as Martinez and Olerud scored Seattle's first two runs of the game.

Fortunately for the Mariners, all of their base runners were in motion on the play, allowing the not-so-speedy Olerud to make it home. Cameron, one of the Mariners' fastest players, took third base.

The excitement wasn't over. Just as fans were sitting down after celebrating McLemore's hit, Finley caught McLemore too far off the first base bag and threw over for an attempted pickoff play. Jim Thome, the first baseman, threw to Omar Vizquel at shortstop, who saw Cameron break for home plate and threw to the catcher, Einar Diaz. The ensuing collision knocked the stocky Diaz over backward, but he held onto the ball for the final out of the inning.

When next Cleveland came to bat, in the top of the third inning, Travis Fryman led off with a double off the left-field wall. With one out, Diaz drew a walk from Moyer, putting runners at first and third.

Kenny Lofton, mired in a 1-for-16 series slump, singled up the middle to cut the Mariners' lead in half. Then, Vizquel bunted toward third base, and Bell mishandled the ball as he attempted to throw to first. The bases were loaded with one out, and the dangerous Roberto Alomar came to bat with a chance to knock Moyer out of the game and give Cleveland a major advantage with a lead.

Alomar had grounded into an in-

ning-ending double play in the first, and much to the delight of the Safeco Field throng, he hit sharp ground ball to Bell, who started another rally-killing exchange. Bell to Bret Boone to Olerud and still, a 2-1 Seattle lead.

Moyer survived and thrived thereafter. His pitches painted the corners of the plate and thoroughly frustrated the Cleveland batters. Cleveland Manager Charlie Manuel, who had already been working home plate umpire Mark Hirschbeck for a less liberal strike zone, fumed from the bench as Moyer struck out Gonzalez, Ellis Burks and Jim Thome, all looking. Gonzalez and Burks offered opinions at Hirschbeck, who nevertheless continued to give Moyer the benefit of borderline strike calls because of Moyer's good control.

Moyer, never known for striking out the opposition with regularity, punched out six before leaving the game after the sixth inning, five of those on called third strikes.

Finley, too, did enough to keep Cleveland within striking distance, though he lasted the same amount

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