

Romo, Cowboys score cable ratings mark, win

By The Associated Press

IRVING — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones likes to brag about his team being the top drawing card in the entire entertainment world. Games like Monday night sure help his claim.

The 41-37 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles was filled with drama. The lead changed seven times, with the momentum swaying on good plays

and goofy ones.

It was the final Monday night NFL game at Texas Stadium, and it's no wonder the Cowboys were ratings gold yet again — a whopping 12.95 million homes and 18.6 million viewers.

It's touted as the largest audience ever for a program on cable television.

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo now is 11-3 in nationally televised games.



Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys players enter the field for the start of their NFL football game Monday night against the Philadelphia Eagles at Texas Stadium in Irving. The Cowboys won 41-37.

Williams among Texans with damaged homes

By Kristie Rieken

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Mario Williams dodged downed trees to get out of his neighborhood and worried about the safety and security of his home as he left for practice with a tree splayed on one end of it.

He and the rest of the Houston Texans returned to practice Tuesday for the first time since Hurricane Ike, trying to concentrate on football when most didn't have electricity and many were dealing with significant damage to their homes.

"I feel very lucky," said Williams, the top overall

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WAITING GAME

Games set to resume

UIL lets gridders, volleyball teams waive rules for waits between games.

By Joel Luna

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As area communities rebuild and work toward normalcy in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, area football and volleyball teams aim to return to competition as soon as their reshuffled schedules are finalized.

The University Interscholastic League has waived the five-day rule between games for varsity football teams — shortening it to four days until Oct. 4.

That means teams don't have to wait five days until playing again.

So if football teams schedule a game for Tuesday, they can schedule another for Saturday. This applies for both district and nondistrict games.

For volleyball makeup matches, teams can exceed the weekly total until Oct. 4, as well.

In Angleton, the Wildcats will get things rolling on the gridiron at 2 p.m. Saturday at Waller.

"I finalized a game with



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Above: Tiance Gardner, center, tackles Josh Smith as Coach Eby watches during a Tuesday afternoon practice at Angleton High School. The team practiced even though school was canceled due to Hurricane Ike.

Left: A section of fence at the Brazoswood High School baseball field in Clute lies on the ground Tuesday after high winds from Hurricane Ike caused damage at the field.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Waller last night," said Finis Vanover, Angleton ISD athletics director and head football coach. "The one thing we haven't been able to do is talk to the district representative, who is in Friendswood, because there is no communication with

them. They are the only ones who can call a district meeting."

The Wildcats (0-2) were set to hit the practice field at 4 p.m. today, but school still was not in session.

"We've had power at the high school since Sunday,

and there are three elementary schools that are up, and if we would have gotten approval we could have opened today," Vanover said. "But we are having another meeting this afternoon and decide if school will be back in session on

Thursday.

"But we will practice from 4 to 6 p.m. unless school opens — then we'll go back to the afterschool schedule," he said.

Brazosport ISD schools

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Slumping Astros fall to Marlins

By Sarah Larimer

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Jorge Cantu hit a three-run homer and rookie Chris Volstad allowed one run in eight innings to lead the Florida Marlins to a 5-1 win over the Houston Astros on Tuesday night.

It was the third straight loss for the Astros, who entered the game 2½ games behind Milwaukee and Philadelphia in the NL wildcard race.

Cantu's three-run homer in the first inning stopped Houston ace Roy Oswalt's franchise-record scoreless streak at 32½ innings. Oswalt (15-10), who had lasted at least eight innings in five of his previous six starts, allowed five runs and six hits over six innings. He struck out 10 to tie his season high.

Volstad (5-3) gave up four hits in his first start against the Astros. The rookie right-hander struck out four and didn't walk a batter. Florida's lineup rattled Oswalt early. After Cantu's home run — his 27th of the season — Dan Uggla scored on a double by Cody Ross to give the Marlins a 4-0 lead. Oswalt then hit Alfredo Amezaga with a pitch, which drew warnings for both teams.

In the second, Mike Jacobs doubled to the deepest part of the stadium to score Hanley Ramirez and make it 5-0. Oswalt settled down after Jacobs' double, but the damage was done.

Michael Bourn doubled to open the eighth inning and advanced on Brad Ausmus' fly to right. He scored on pinch-hitter Kazuo Matsui's groundout.

The Astros had won 14 of 15 before Hurricane Ike convinced Major League Baseball to move two home games against the NL-leading Chicago Cubs to Milwaukee, where Houston struggled.



TODAY'S GAME
Houston (Backe 9-12) at Florida (Nolasco 10-6), 6:10 p.m.

TV:FSN

Garcia ready to lead Euro Ryder charge

By Doug Ferguson

AP Golf Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Except for the freckles and playful grin, it's a wonder anyone recognizes Sergio Garcia at the Ryder Cup.

The Spaniard who can't seem to make a 4-foot putt with a major championship on the line, can't seem to miss from 20 feet when playing for a golf trophy he has to share.

Garcia is considered the best player to never win a major. For one week every two years, he is simply the best.

There are no excuses at the Ryder Cup, only celebrations.

"He brings a lot of passion to this team. When you see Sergio, you see Seve," European captain Nick Faldo said Tuesday, referring to Seve Ballesteros, Garcia's countryman and former Ryder Cup star. "They love this event. Obviously, match play is different, isn't it? And he gets fired up. He's great off the golf course. So he's a key member to the team."

Garcia has never lost in eight alternate-shot matches, and the only U.S. team to beat him in fourballs was Tiger Woods and Davis Love III. Garcia is 6-1 against Woods and Phil Mickelson in team matches.

Even more astounding is a 14-4-2 record in his four Ryder Cup appearances.

"If you had to pick one guy out as the toughest test, that you would say is the guy to beat, I'd have to pick Sergio," Jim Furyk said.

And make no mistake — the Americans would love nothing more than to beat him.

Garcia has proven to be the best at hitting pivotal shots, holing clutch putts and staking Europe to big leads. He also has become the best at getting under the Americans' skin.

The Ryder Cup between the United States and Europe will start Friday.



AP photo

Europe's Sergio Garcia signs autographs for spectators Tuesday during a practice round for the Ryder Cup at the Valhalla Golf Club, in Louisville, Ky. The Ryder Cup between the United States and Europe will start Friday.

"He brings a lot of passion to this team. When you see Sergio, you see Seve. They love this event."

— European captain Nick Faldo