

Emmitt Smith Memorabilia
 Emmitt Smith Autographs Wide variety of sports collectibles
www.collectiblesofthegame.com

FREE dance lessons online
 learn how to dance right now. Free online dance lessons, videos DVDs
www.learning2dance.com

Booking Agent
 Booking personal appearances for Cheryl Burke and celebritys
www.cegtalent.com

Emmett Kelly Collectibles
 Emmett Kelly Figurines Sr. & Jr. Order Today Before They All Retire
www.collectiblesshopping.com

Ads by Goooooogle

Advertise on this site

- home delivery
- subscriber services
- contact us
- about us
- site map

Thu, Dec 2

The Daily Independent
 Ashland, Kentucky
 606.326.2600

Online
 1-800-955-5860

The Independent
 YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS AND ADVERTISING

Home Delivery
 TWO WEEKS FREE!

Currently Ashland, KY
 49 F High 58 F Low

CLICK FOR MORE WEATHER

- Homepage
- Local News
- Local Sports
- Election 2006
- Slideshow
- Obituaries
- Editorials
- Business
- Lifestyles
- Coming Up
- Schools
- AP Video
- Crossword Puzzle
- Independent, the magazine
- Classifieds
- Advertising Rates
- Newspapers In Education (NIE)
- Carrier Application Form

Published: November 15, 2006 11:43 pm

Emmitt Smith's winning dance

By ERIN CARLSON - Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Emmitt Smith danced off with the mirror ball.

The three-time Super Bowl champion, who proved to be as nimble on his feet in the ballroom as on the football field, was named the winner of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" Wednesday night. With the victory came the glittering trophy.

The NFL's all-time leading rusher beat out actor Mario Lopez.

The hunky, dimpled Lopez was generally regarded as the series most dynamic celebrity dancer, but the public's vote, the deciding factor after the contestants had tied in the judges' tally at Tuesday's final dance-off, brought Smith the victory.

"It is awesome! It is awesome!" declared Smith, after hugging his professional dance partner Cheryl Burke. "We came a long way, we really have."

Burke won last season, too, on the arm of singer Drew Lachey.

Smith had kind words for Lopez, who was gracious in his defeat. He called the former "Saved by the Bell" star a "true gentleman" and said he and partner Karina Smirnoff "raised the bar" during the

Photos



Emmitt Smith and his partner Cheryl Burke were crowned champion of "Dancing with the Stars" on Wednesday. **Adam Larkey/Associated Press**
 (Click for larger image)

Resources

- Print this story
- E-mail this story
- Discuss this story

More from the Entertainment section

[From ministering to movie making](#)

['He was entertaining'](#)

[Emmitt Smith's winning dance](#)

[House band makes move with venue](#)

[Benefit for a friend](#)

KING'S DAUGHTER
 HEART AND VASCULAR CENTER

Find a business:

Enter name or type of business

Location:

Enter city & state, or zip code

Local Search powered by PremierGuide

[Online Real Estate Guide](#)
[Online Church Directory](#)

Premium Jobs

NEED AUTO MECHANIC
 NEEDED- Auto Mechanic; also taking applications for Auto Detailing. Experience
 Call 606-369-5965 or 606-325-

competition.

"This whole journey was unbelievable ... And Karina, most unbelievable person," Lopez gushed. "It's something I'll never forget."

Smith and Burke wowed judges on Tuesday with a spirited samba, to the tune of Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke."

"What's so great about you is you are the everyday man who became a dancer in our eyes in the past 10 weeks," judge Carrie Anna Inaba told Smith, who's been dubbed "The Big Easy" for his laid-back elegance and charm.

In the closing segment of Wednesday's decision show, Burke, in a video clip, praised Smith's work ethic.

"From the beginning, he just wanted to be the best possible dancer he can be," she said.

Smith, ever the competitor, was determined to win, just as he had done so many times with the Dallas Cowboys. "You don't get into a competition unless you think you can win," he told AP Radio after Tuesday's dance finale.

During Wednesday's program, all nine of the previously rejected celebrities — Vivica A. Fox, Harry Hamlin, Joey Lawrence, Sara Evans, Willa Ford, Monique Coleman, Jerry Springer, Tucker Carlson and former beauty queen Shanna Moakler — returned for a last dance with their partners.

"Dancing with the Stars" was a surprise hit when it debuted in the summer of 2005. Now in its third edition, the show was a ratings juggernaut week after week and, last week, the dance-off show was No. 2 to ABC's "Desperate Housewives" with 22 million viewers, according to Nielsen. And the results show was No. 4, with 20.7 million viewers.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones issued a statement soon after the show ended, saying how proud he was of Smith. "Although we are all thrilled," Jones said, "we should not be surprised. ... "If Emmitt Smith is on your team, there is a good chance you are going to win."



- [Click to discuss this story with other readers on our forums.](#)

9970....>MORE

[See all ads](#)

[Ads by Google](#)

[Advertise on this site](#)

Emmett Kelly Collectibles

Emmett Kelly Figurines Sr. & Jr. Order Today Before They All Retire

www.collectibleshopping.com

Burke flower delivery

Same Day Hand Delivery Guaranteed. Get \$10 off on Flowers and Gifts.

www.justflowers.com/Flower_Delivery

Prepare to be Shocked

You may be younger than you think. Take the RealAge test and find out.

www.RealAge.com

Shop Dooney & Bourke

Shop Bloomingdales.com for all the Hottest Designers and Winter Trends

www.Bloomingdales.com

© 2006, CNHI

Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. • CNHI Classified Advertising Network • CNHI News Service
Associated Press content © 2006. All rights reserved. AP content may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Our site is powered by Zope and our Internet Yellow Pages site is powered by PremierGuide.
Some parts of our site may require you to download the Flash Player Plugin.