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Cowboys players rekindle holiday tradition, visit local children's hospitals

The COVID-19 pandemic kept players from making their customary group visits the past two years.

By [Michael Gehlken](#)
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In This Story



Dallas Cowboys

[Cowboys](#) wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, running back Tony Pollard and right guard Zack Martin visited several hospital inpatients in their rooms Monday morning at Scottish Rite for Children in Dallas. Those they met included a 22-year-old Cowboys fan, Pedro Sanders. He was willing to receive them.

Sanders watched Sunday's win against the Houston Texans. While heavily favored, the Cowboys barely scraped by their one-win opponent. Sanders teased that, when seeing their 27-23 comeback develop, he thought to himself how they'd better win.

"Or else, they're not allowed to come into my room," Sanders said.

Lamb, Pollard and Martin laughed.

Can Dak Prescott Lead the Cowboys Over the 49ers?

"Hey, I feel that," Pollard said.

"I respect it," Lamb said. "I respect it."

For the first time since 2019, Cowboys players continued their holiday tradition of making in-person visits to children's hospitals in North Texas. Players and hospitals were forced to go digital during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Players split into four groups Monday and fanned the region.

Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas and Children's Medical Center in Dallas were also visited.

ADVERTISING



Players wore white jerseys and blue Santa hats. They signed team photos, footballs and other memorabilia while posing for photographs and interacting predominantly with children receiving care, the patients' family members and hospital staff.

At one point, Lamb played a game of catch in a hospital hallway with AJ Thomas, who is 12 and awaiting spinal surgery.

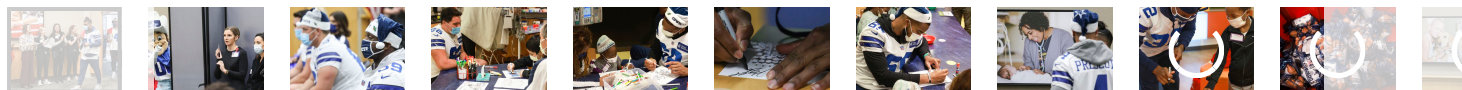
"It's just great to be back in the community," Martin said. "We had a couple years where we haven't been able to come out here and see the joy that we give some of these kids in these tough times around the holidays. It's really special for us."

Photos: Cowboys bring holiday cheer to Children's Medical Center Dallas



[1/16] Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott and quarterback Dak Prescott walk into Children's Medical Center Dallas, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, in Dallas. The Dallas Cowboys played with children at the center, handed out gifts and autographed photos. (Rebecca Slezak / Staff Photographer)

[2/16] Dallas Cowboys mascot Rowdy peaks out from behind a door. The Dallas Cowboys played with children at



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[Michael Gehlken](#). Michael Gehlken joined the Cowboys beat for the Dallas Morning News in August 2019. This marks his 13th season covering the NFL, previously having reported on the San Diego Chargers and Oakland Raiders.

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Can Dak Prescott Lead the Cowboys Over the 49ers?

