

# Pass-happy Dons hold on

Uribe breaks completion record to beat DP, 29-17

By MARK PATTON  
NEWS-PRESS SENIOR WRITER

Santa Barbara High broke another record — and avoided another broken heart.

Quarterback John Uribe completed a county-record 33 passes and the Dons withstood a late Dos Pueblos comeback to open Channel League play with a 29-17 football victory at Valley Stadium.

"It wasn't the best night for me," said Uribe, whose 395 yards were well short of the county-best 581 he recorded earlier this season when he tied the completions record of 28. "But people stepped up."

The key was controlling the ball in the final five minutes after the Chargers (2-4) had rallied to within 22-17. The Dons used up four of those minutes while driving to one last TD pass — Uribe's third of the night, and his second to Roberto Nelson.

Santa Barbara (2-4) had surrendered double-digit leads in three of its four losses.

"The whole season was flashing back to me," Dons' coach Will Gonzales said. "That's where you just hope your kids have learned their lesson and you hope your kids make a stand and say 'It's not happening tonight.' And that's what we did tonight."

"We talked about it all week. We talked about being ahead. In three of our four losses, we were ahead 14-0. The kids learned."

DP's coaches were trying to learn from their own experience: They huddled in the locker room long after the game and were unavailable for comment.

Charger quarterback Zach Boytis completed 13-of-24 passes for 174 yards and a touchdown, and he also scored on a seven-yard, tackle-breaking run with 5:10 to go. But it wasn't enough to overcome three turnovers and the Dons' gaudy numbers — 472 yards total offense.

Uribe's 52 pass attempts were just one short of the county record and his 33 completions shattered the mark of 28 that he shared with five others.

"There's no secret to it," Uribe said. "We have that spread offense and the receivers catch the ball, and it really comes down to our offensive line this year. They're doing a great job in the trenches."

"And I can't say enough about our defense tonight. They stepped up real big and made some big stops late in the game. That's where we got the W."



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Above, Santa Barbara's Bryson Lloyd celebrates a touchdown catch against Dos Pueblos. At right, DP running back Dane Limosnero dodges two defenders.

Uribe completed six passes in Santa Barbara's first scoring drive — a 65-yard march which included a 14-yard toss to Nelson on fourth down and eight from the DP 42.

"That's why we go for it because we know we have (Bryson Lloyd) and we know we have Roberto, and we have a special group of receivers this year," Gonzales said. "We're going to take advantage of it."

The TD came on a double-deflection. DP's Tyler McGaughey knocked the ball down at the goal line, but it bounced back up off another defender who was on the ground at the 2 — and right into Lloyd's arms for a seven-yard TD. The Dons missed the extra point.

"The guy came across and made a good play, and tipped it down," Lloyd said. "His

teammate thought he had a pick, but he tipped it back up and I found it.

"It was lucky, but stuff happens."

Lloyd, Santa Barbara's career receiving leader, caught 14 passes for 144 yards while Nelson had eight for another 144. Lloyd had fretted last week while watching from the sidelines with a sprained ankle as the Dons surrendered a late lead at Pacifica.

"It was my time to act, and I'm a competitor," he said. "My ankle feels good enough to play. I'm not going to lighten up because of my ankle."

The Chargers also benefitted from a



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## Lloyd returns with 14 catches

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hobbled pass, with Branden Tangle taking the ball away for an interception at the goal line. He returned it 51 yards, and DP scored on the next play when Boytis lobbed a pass to Dane Limosnero out of the backfield for a 49-yard catch-and-run down the sideline with 20.3 seconds left in the first quarter.

"You just have to have a short-term memory," Gonzales said, "and you just have to go on to the next play and the next series because that stuff can drive you nuts."

Santa Barbara did respond on its next series, taking the lead early in the second period after Robert Bisquera took a screen pass 48 yards to the Charger 21. DP's defense dug in, but Chase Chandler salvaged the possession with a 26-yard field goal.

The Chargers, who dropped as many as eight defenders into pass coverage most of the night, turned back another Santa Barbara threat at their own 4. This time the Dons passed on the field goal.

But a shanked punt by DP gave them another shot from the Chargers' 25, and this time they converted on Uribe's one-yard quarterback sneak for a 16-7 lead with 3:41 left until halftime.

"We tend to score fast, but tonight we knew that we were going to have to be a little bit patient," Gonzales said. "We knew they were going to give us a big umbrella, and we were just going to try



Santa Barbara's Freddy Maldonado looks for running room Friday night against Dos Pueblos.

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to throw underneath and sneak a few guys past them when the opportunity showed itself."

Santa Barbara shrugged off 40 yards in penalties during its next scoring march in the third quarter and reached the end zone on six straight pass completions. DP's secondary blew coverage on the last one, leaving Nelson all alone for a 35-yard scoring play with 4:37 left in the third quarter to take a 22-7 lead.

Boytis gave the Chargers hope by completing passes of 15 yards to Tangle and 17 to Eric Arroyo, with a late-hit penalty tacked on, to set up a field goal with 2:18 left in the third quarter.

DP, which had come up short on two field-goal attempts in the first half, changed kickers, with Tangle booting a

32-yarder to trim its deficit to 22-10.

Hayden Dow then intercepted a Santa Barbara pass at his own goal line and returned it to the 30-yard line, setting up another Charger score.

A 20-yard strike to McGaughey, an 10-yarder to Isaiha Brown and an eight-yarder to Tangle as he tippy-toed along the sideline set up Boytis for a seven-yard scoring run. It reduced the Dons' lead to 22-17 with 5:10 left.

But after playing ball control on its final possession, Santa Barbara surprised DP with 1:01 left on fourth-and-three from the 18 by throwing into the end zone for Nelson's second TD.

"We held on, and I'm proud of our kids," Gonzales said.

e-mail: mpatton@newspress.com