

Records, Royals fall in Big Game



Santa Barbara receiver Roberto Nelson caught eight passes for 109 yards and two touchdowns in the Big Game.



Dons wideout Peter Garcia was caught in a San Marcos sandwich between Gerrett Polizzi (top) and Kirk Renga.

Nelson had eight catches for 109 yards, and Maldonado caught six passes for 116 yards. All three scored twice. Uribe, who earned the annual Gary Blades Award as the Big Game Most Valuable Player, had another astonishing day. He completed 34 of 50 passes for

Henry Gonzales in 1979 (35, 57). Crook passed for a career-high 259 yards, with Nichols (132 yards and two Tds) his favorite target. There was a bit of controversy late, as Santa Barbara went for a surprise onside kick leading by 21 with just over

go-ahead on breaking out their Golden Tornado jerseys, the Dons will have one chance to better their position for CIF. Ventura is also 3-1 in the Channel League, and the winner of Friday night's game at Peabody Stadium will get the league's No. 2 playoff spot.

Dons' Uribe sets more county marks in 49-28 victory over rivals

By DENNIS BATEMAN
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Somehow it seemed appropriate that it was the 49th Big Game Friday night at Peabody Stadium. With John Uribe putting on yet another Joe Montana-like performance and three of his receivers breaking the 100-yard mark and doing their best imitations of Jerry Rice, Santa Barbara overwhelmed San Marcos 49-28 before a near-capacity crowd at Peabody Stadium.

The victory assured that the Dons would return to the playoffs for the second straight year, and also marked the first time that Santa Barbara won back-to-back City Championships since 1988 and 1989. Following the game, just about every Dons player it seemed had a handle on the commemorative Bronze Cup trophy.

"In a game like this, every one of our players was ready to go, and we just had too many weapons

for them," said Santa Barbara coach Will Gonzales, who had finished participating in his 16th Big Game as player or coach.

Santa Barbara won for the fourth time in six games following a frustrating 0-3 start. The Peabody Stadium crowd came to see offensive fireworks, of which there were plenty.

Uribe got the Dons off to a quick start with a pair of big-gainers to Bryson Lloyd. But following his second catch that put the ball on the Royals 28, the prolific senior tight end reagravated a knee injury he suffered five weeks ago against San Luis Obispo and did not return.

With his top receiver out, Gonzales knew his offense had the playmakers who could step up. Uribe found Roberto Nelson for a 20-yard touchdown pass to finish off the drive.

Later in the first quarter, the Dons held San Marcos to a punt, which Freddy Maldonado fielded at the Santa Barbara 46, scooted past the Royals' first wave and took off for a 54-yard punt return touchdown.

San Marcos, which looked dreadful in a 35-10 loss to Buena last week, came back with a knack for a big play. After methodically driving the ball across the mid-field stripe, quarterback James Crook found a wide-open Austin Nichols for a 42-yard score with 1:22 left in the first quarter. The Royals then had their turn at holding the Dons to a punt, and Crook and Nichols hooked up again for a 30-yard score on an identical play to tie the game at 14.

But Santa Barbara retaliated with 28 consecutive points through the second and third quarters. Uribe found Maldonado for touchdowns of seven and 80 yards, and hit Mendoza for a 13-yard

Please see **DONS** on C3



Dons quarterback John Uribe: 34 of 50 passes for 524 yards and six TDs.

SANTA BARBARA 49, SAN MARCOS 28
San Marcos 7 7 7 7 - 28
Santa Barbara 14 21 7 7 - 49

First Quarter
SB—Nelson 20 pass from Uribe (kick failed), 9:12
SB—Maldonado 54 punt return (Mendoza pass from Uribe), 4:54
SM—Nichols 42 pass from Crook (Leon kick), 1:22

Second Quarter
SM—Nichols 30 pass from Crook (Leon kick), 11:34
SB—Maldonado 7 pass from Uribe (Chandler kick), 7:49
SB—Mendoza 13 pass from Uribe (Chandler kick), 4:15
SB—Maldonado 80 pass from Uribe (Chandler kick), 1:44

Third Quarter
SB—Nelson 2 pass from Uribe (Chandler kick), 3:24
SM—Day 6 pass from Crook (Leon kick), 1:05

Fourth Quarter
SM—Clark 5 run (Leon kick), 6:01
SB—Mendoza 26 pass from Uribe (Custodio kick), 3:25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—SM: Clark 15-51, Miller 6-43, Hernandez 2-5, Delgadillo 1-4. SB: Uribe 16-38, Leonard 4-10, Lucatero 2-10, Maldonado 2(-1).
PASSING—SM: Crook 12-24-1—259. SB: Uribe 34-50-1—524, Nelson 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—SM: Nichols 5-132, Day 4-80, Cavalier 1-31, Kirkwood 1-14, Hernandez 1-2. SB: Mendoza 9-169, Nelson 8-109, Maldonado 6-116, Leonard 4-33, Garcia 3-18, Lloyd 2-52, Frecker 1-14, Lucatero 1-13.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—SM 2.

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