

SANTA BARBARA DONS

COACH: Will Gonzales

SEASON OUTLOOK: "7-4 is not good enough." That's been the mantra for the Santa Barbara Dons ever since they started their offseason workouts all the way back in January. The 2007 campaign was a good one for Will Gonzales' team. The Dons rebounded from a one-win season in 2006 to win their first city championship since 1995 and make the playoffs, where they fell to a strong Newbury Park squad in a fog-filled pit in the first round. It was the first time since 2001 that Santa Barbara had assumed its postseason identity, The Golden Tornado. Sharpshooting quarterback John Uribe returns for his senior season, and has two of his favorite targets coming back as well. All-everything tight end Bryson Lloyd is a Division-1 talent who caught eight touchdown passes last year, and hoops-star Roberto Nelson, who recently committed to play basketball for Oregon State, returns as a lethal deep threat. Nelson had seven touchdown receptions last season and had a team-high clip of 62 yards per contest. Uribe's numbers were stellar. He tossed 22 touchdown passes with only eight interceptions and amassed 2,148 passing yards, over 200 per game. Coach Gonzales pointed out that Uribe tossed over 100 touchdown passes in summer passing league for the second year in a row. Defensively, All-Channel League First Team members Ian Echternacht and Lenny Vargas. Echternacht led the team with 12 tackles per game last season and the 230-pound Vargas was a leader in the trenches. The running game will be platooned with the likes of RJ Bisquera, Kyle Leonard and Freddy Maldonado, who was with Carpinteria last season. Uribe, Lloyd and Echternacht have been selected as captains along with lineman Memo Gutierrez. "We're going to be inexperienced at some spots, but this is definitely the quickest group I've ever had and we return most of our offensive and defensive line," said Gonzales.