



2024 Western State Bowl Champions

DESIGN, PHOTOS AND WORDS BY BRANDON ROWLEY

Santa Ana Dons

8-3 Record

3-2 in Conference


28.5 Points Per Game

302.4 Yards Per Game





**Quarterback Nate Bento
leading the game captains
out to the coin toss
at the bowl game Nov. 25**



RB - Owen Smith #5

543 Yards

5 DTs

4.1 Yards per Carry



RB - Will Saucedo #6

737 Yards

10 TDs

67.0 Yards per Game

Dons pummel cougars for bowl game championship



After a bowl game drought since 2012, the Dons have now showered their coach with ice-cold Gatorade for back-to-back seasons.

Santa Ana College took on LA Southwest in the Western State Bowl last Monday, where they cruised past the Cougars 35-20.

“This team is so resilient, hard workers, no egos,” said defensive coach James Gugliemana. “I know we had a couple of games where it was tough for us but this was the perfect way to end the year.”

The season was riddled with injuries for the Dons, especially on the offense, which led to struggles in the passing game.

But under the bright lights, during the biggest game of the year, it clicked for quarterback Nate Bento and wide receiver James Farmer

Bento and Farmer connected four times, two ending up as touchdowns. Bento also had a season’s best 206 passing

yards and a 66% completion percentage.

Farmer earned player of the game for Santa College, while Zamir Richardson was awarded team MVP.

“I just balled out today, I found the zone,” said Richardson. “It’s a different level of play, everything slowed down for me. It was amazing.”

His two-sack, three-tackle-for-loss performance reflected his great season, which led the defensive unit to another dominant season.

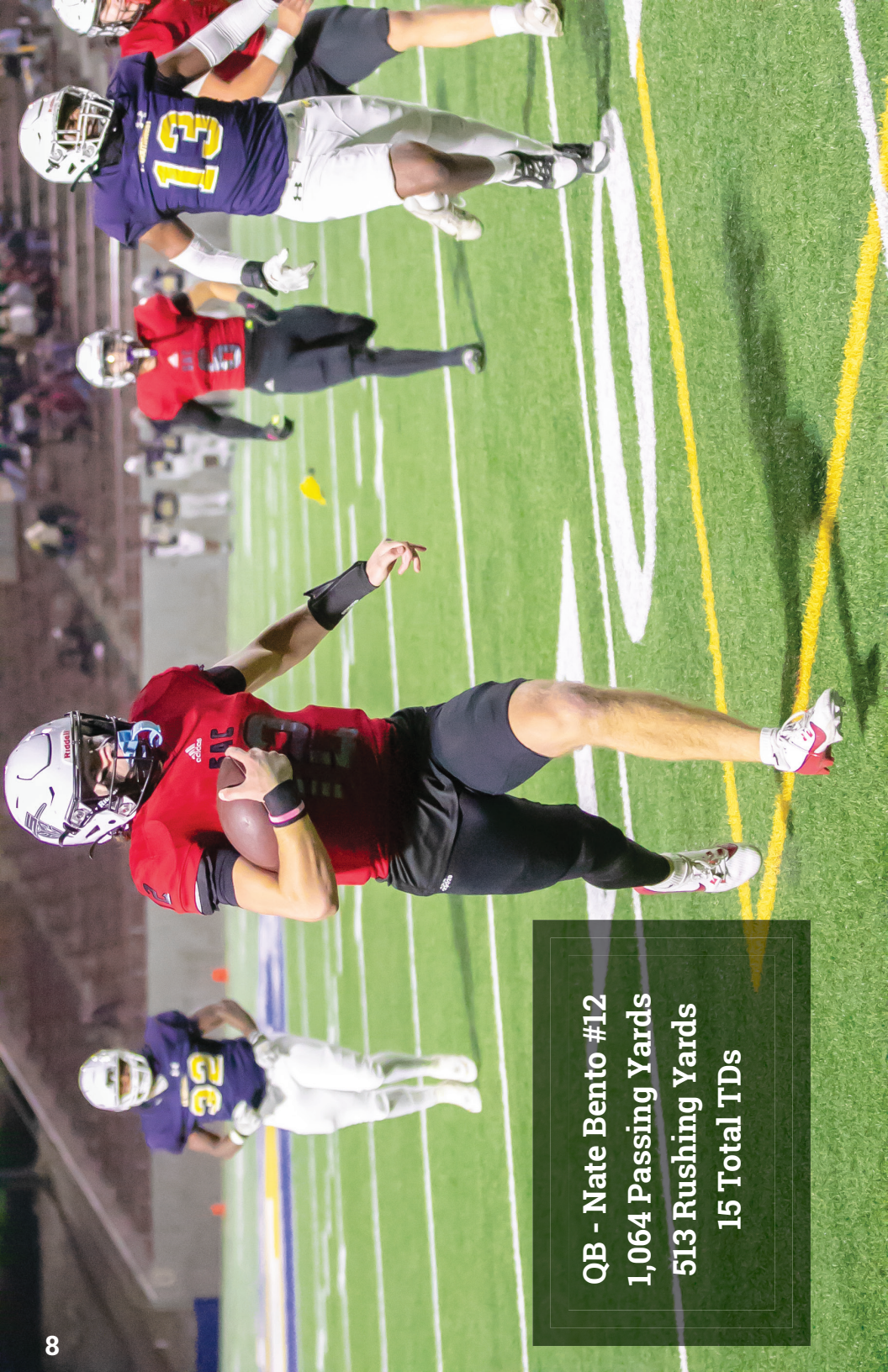
The Dons controlled this game with fundamental work on all sides of the ball, and it was seemingly over by the third quarter.

As the clock wound down in the 4th quarter, tensions on the sideline rose while players silently stalked their head coach waiting for their moment to strike.

The clock hit zero, and a now Gatorade-soaked Head Coach Geoff Jones spoke his final words to this team.

“This is something they can never take away from us, you guys are bowl champs as a team. I love all of you, proud of all of you.”





QB - Nate Bento #12
1,064 Passing Yards
513 Rushing Yards
15 Total TDs

WR -

James Farmer #2

Bowl Game MVP

223 Receiving Yards

3 Receiving TDs

10.1 Yards per

Reception





DE - Zamir Richardson #42

Team MVP

9.0 Sacks | 15.5 Tack. for Loss

2 Fumble Recoveries

46.0 Tackles

P/K -

Aaron Hotchkiss #41
7/9 Field Goals (41 long)
39/40 Extra Points | 98%

1658 Punt Yards
Long of 51





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