

BCSP Profile

50 DAYS TO SUPER BOWL 50



A DAY-BY-DAY, SUPER BOWL-BY-SUPER BOWL LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS ON SUPER BOWLS I THRU 49 AS WE COUNT DOWN THE 50 DAYS TO SUPER BOWL 50

DAY 43 - Monday, February 1

SUPER BOWL XLIII

Pittsburgh 27, Arizona 23

February 1, 2009 - Raymond James Stadium, Tampa

Two (2) Black College Players

Arizona Cardinals (2)

Oliver Celestin DB Texas Southern
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie DB Tennessee State

Pittsburgh Steelers (0)

None



ICONIC PHOTO: Pittsburgh wide receiver Santonio Holmes (#10) catches game-winning touchdown with :35 seconds left in Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa.

Storyline: In a game full of big plays, Pittsburgh made the last and deciding one, driving 72 yards in eight plays to score on a 6-yard pass from Ben Roethlisburger to Santonio Holmes with :35 seconds left to pull out a 27-23 win. Arizona had gone up 23-20 on a 64-yard pass from quarterback Kurt Warner to Larry Fitzgerald with 2:37 left before the winning drive.

Pittsburgh

None

Arizona

Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, DB (Tennessee State)

Two passes defended, Five solo tackles in loss to Pittsburgh.

- Defends on incomplete pass over the deep middle to wide receiver Nate Washington in first quarter. On next play, tackles wide receiver Santonio Holmes after short 5-yard completion to the left. Six plays later, tackles Holmes after 7-yard completion to the left. down to Arizona 7-yard line. Three plays later, Steelers score on 1-yard run to go up 10-0.
- Defends deep left pass against Holmes in second quarter. Four plays later, stops halfback Mewelde Moore after 4-yard reception.
- Tackles Holmes after 6-yard third-quarter reception. Penalized for grabbing the face mask (15 yards).
- Tackles Holmes after 14-yard reception in fourth quarter (game-winning drive). Six plays later, Holmes beats him to right corner of end zone for touchdown (:35).



MVP: Santonio Holmes, WR, Pittsburgh - 9 receptions for 141 yards and the game-winning 6-yard TD over DRC with :35 seconds left.

KEY FACTS: One of the big plays in Super Bowl XLIII was a record 100-yard interception return for a touchdown by Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison on the final play of the first half. Arizona quarterback Kurt Warner threw for 377 yards (32 of 43) and three touchdowns with one interception. Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisburger was 21 of 30 for 256 yards, one touchdown and one interception.



NEMESIS: (Above l.) Pittsburgh wide receiver Santonio Holmes (#10) gets behind three Arizona defenders – **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** (#29, **Tennessee State**), Aaron Francisco (#47) and Ralph Brown (#20) – and is about to pull in the winning 6-yard touchdown pass with :35 seconds left. (Above r.) Holmes tries to run away from Cromartie after making a catch.



TURN AROUND

(Above) Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison (#92) eludes Arizona wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (#11) to complete a 100-yard interception return as the first half ended in Super Bowl XLIII. (R.) Fitzgerald runs away from Harrison for a 64-yard fourth quarter score that put Arizona up 23-20 late in the fourth quarter.

