



2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships

Roy/Mosquero Wins 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State 6-Man Football Title

Roy/Mosquero Longhorns (12-0) defeated the Gateway Christian Warriors (10-2), 46-38. This was the first state title in football for the Longhorns since 1998 and the sixth in school history. The Warriors took an early lead with 4:51 left in the first quarter, 8-0. That would be the only score in the first, as both offenses struggled to find rhythm. The Longhorns then scored 22 unanswered points, to take a 22-8 lead with 4:29 left in the second quarter. Gateway Christian, however, fought back and tied the game at 22 all as the clock hit zero going into halftime. The third quarter was the wildest part of the game, as both teams exchanged score for score. The Warriors scored first in the third to take a 30-22 lead, but the Longhorns answered right back to tie the game. Then with 1:40 left in the third, Roy/Mosquero took the lead at 38-30, as Gateway Christian responded with a kick return for a touch-down to tie the game up at 38 all. With just three seconds remaining in the third, the Longhorns scored again to make it 46-38 at the end of the third. Thirty points were scored in the last three plus minutes of the quarter. Despite the scoring frenzy in the third, neither team could punch it across the goal line in the fourth quarter, as Roy/Mosquero hoisted the blue trophy for the 2023 6-Man title.



Melrose Wins 2023 Nusenda Credit Union 8-Man State Football Championship

The Melrose Buffaloes (12-1) defeated the Clayton Yellowjackets (7-6) for the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union 8-Man State Football Championship, 50-0. The Buffaloes captured their 14th football title in school history, the ninth 8-Man blue trophy and the first since 2019. This game was all Melrose from the start, holding a 16-0 at the end of the first quarter. The Buffaloes added 28 more points in the second quarter to make it 44-0 at the half. Then shortly into the third quarter, Melrose scored again to end the game at 50-0, hoisting the blue trophy. The Buffaloes only allowed 20 points in three games during the 8-Man championship.



Texico Wins 2A Football Title for the First Time since 2008

The Texico Wolverines (11-2) captures the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union 2A State Football Championship over the Eunice Cardinals (12-3) by a score of 44-7. This was Texico's first state title since 2008 and the seventh in program history. The two teams last met in the title game back in 2019, as Eunice was the victor. Texico opened the game with a touchdown to take an early 7-0 lead. Eunice answered early in the second quarter to tie the game at 7-7. Minutes later Texico regained the lead at 14-7 and would take that lead into halftime. The second half was all Texico, scoring 21 points in the third quarter, while the Wolverine defense forces several turnovers. Texico added one more touchdown in the fourth quarter and a safety as the last few minutes were a running clock.



Third Time is the Charm for St. Michael's

St. Michael's was playing in the state final for the third year in a row and three proved to be the magic number for the Horsemen. St. Michael's beat district rival Robertson 21-16 to win the Class 3A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships on a snowy field in Santa Fe. St. Michael's (11-2) trailed Robertson (10-3) 7-0 after the Cardinals went 84 yards on the opening drive, capped off with a touchdown toss from Jesse James Gonzales to his twin brother Nathaniel. The Horsemen would find the endzone for the first time with less than a minute left in the opening quarter when Soren Annon went 78-yards for a touchdown to tie the game at 7-all. The Cardinals would take a 10-7 lead into the final quarter, but St. Michael's took a 13-7 lead when Matthias Duran powered his way over the goal line with 9:52 to play. Lucas Gurule would give St. Michael's a 21-10 lead with 3:18 left in the game on a toe-tapping touchdown catch from quarterback Reed Bass and the Horsemen would hold off a Robertson rally to win 21-16. It was the second straight time St. Michael's beat the Cardinals in 2023. It's their first state championship in 11 years.



Lovington Feeling Blue Once Again

For the second time in three years, the Lovington Wildcats ended the season on top. Lovington beat Portales 57-21 to claim the Class 4A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships at Greyhound Stadium in Portales. Senior quarterback Wyatt Gomez threw for over 300 yards and five touchdowns for the Wildcats (10-3). Gomez accounted for ten touchdown tosses in their final two games of the year. Lovington scored twice in a span of less than 90 seconds in the final two-and-a-half minutes of the second quarter and built up a 36-7 lead at halftime. It was the second time the Wildcats beat the Rams (11-2) in 2023. It's Lovington's 20th state championship overall.



Artesia Wins Their 32nd State Championship

It was number one against number two as unbeaten Roswell traveled to face Artesia at the Bulldog Bowl. The Bulldogs avenged their only loss of the season, taking down their district rival 35-21 to win the Class 5A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships.

Artesia jumped out to the early lead when quarterback Nye Estrada connected with Ethan Conn on a 35-yard scoring strike. Roswell would take a 7-6 lead late in the first on a four-yard run by quarterback Manny Fuentez. That would be Roswell's



only lead of the game as the Bulldogs scored twice in the final three and a half minutes of the first half on a 2nd TD pass to Conn and a catch-and-run touchdown from Juan Diego Duran. Roswell (12-1) would get within seven points, but Artesia (12-1) built their lead back up to 14 on another touchdown pass from Estrada to Duran with 3:35 to play in the 3rd. A pick-six score by Roswell's Xai Carrasco made it 28-21 near the end of the third, but Estrada connected with Duran once again early in the fourth to cap off the scoring and give the Bulldogs a 35-21 victory. It's the second straight state title for Artesia and 32nd in the history of the program. Their 32 titles is tied for second nationally among all 11-man football programs in the country.

The Bears Are Back On Top

On a snowy field in Rio Rancho on Championship Saturday, the La Cueva Bears beat top ranked defending state champ Cleveland 35-14 to win the Class 6A Title at the 2023 Nusenda Credit Union State Football Championships. The Storm (9-4) started the scoring in the opening quarter on a 4-yard run by Harris Mbueha, but the Bears (10-3) ran off 21 straight points in the second quarter. Cam Dyer was tough to take down as the La Cueva quarterback racked up 350 yards of total offense and accounted for three scores, including touchdown runs of 88 and 72 yards.

Cleveland got within 7 points before the break, but La Cueva shut out the Storm 14-0 in the final two quarters. La Cueva's Cheeto Lumbrera III started the second half with a 66-yard touchdown run, part of his 108-yard and two touchdown performance on the game. The Bears ended the season on a 10-game win streak. It's La Cueva's first state championship since 2018.

