

10f2



BELIEVE IT!

Cards crush Cowboys for 1st playoff win in 51 years



PHOTOS BY DARRYL WEBB/TRIBUNE

'We can do it': Cardinals quarterback Jake Plummer, right, steals a line from *The Waterboy* as he addresses the crowd of fans, above, Saturday night at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Thousands turn out to welcome returning heroes

BY ED BAKER
THE TRIBUNE

It shook the Valley, or at least the ground, near Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

A sea of red-clad fans 4,000 deep lapped at the edges of the runway Saturday night as the plane of the victorious Arizona Cardinals touched down.

Music boomed. Banners waved. And fans spoke about promises to purchase season tickets as they praised the former stepchild of the Valley professional sports scene.

The mood at the victory party was so intoxicating, it even changed loyalties.

Take 47-year-old Dan Horton, Arizona native, victory celebrator and lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan. Well lifelong until Saturday. Horton says from here on, he's a friend of the Big Red.

"Don't ask me. I couldn't explain it," he said.

All he'd say was that quarterback Jake Plummer had much to do with his decision to switch. Plenty of other fans shared his affection for the former Arizona State University star.



▶ Please see **THOUSANDS**, Page A4

