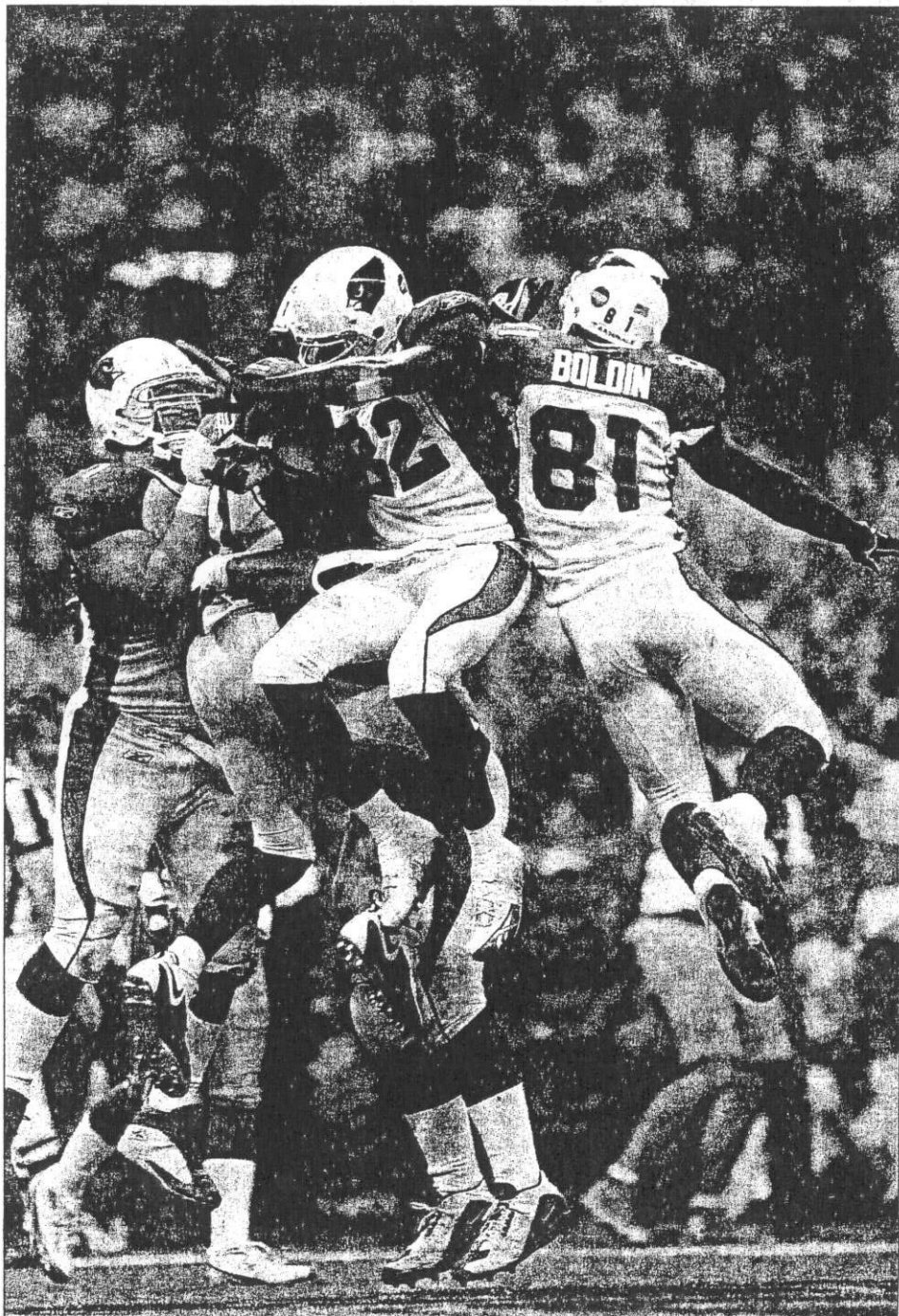


Hola, win column



Cards dominate historic game for season's 1st victory

By **DARREN URBAN**
TRIBUNE

MEXICO CITY • The roar erupted before Sunday night's game for the San Francisco 49ers, and boos were saved for the Arizona Cardinals, in what was billed a "historic night" by the NFL.

But from the beginning, the "home" Cardinals tried to win over the crowd. It started with safety Robert Griffith storming out of the pregame tunnel carrying the Mexican flag, quickly winning over a regular season record crowd of 103,467.

It ended with the Cards dominating the 49ers 31-14 to nab their first win of the season at Estadio Azteca in the league's first regular season game ever on foreign soil.

"I felt like 10 men," Griffith said of his pregame flag run. "I had a dream about it last night. I said, 'you know what, they don't know who to root for, so maybe I can get them on our side.'"

If the Cardinals (1-3) keep playing like they did Sunday, they won't be hard to root for.

Josh McCown, starting for the injured Kurt Warner, remained the only Cardinals quarterback to win a start the past two seasons en route to setting career highs in attempts (46) completions (32) and yards (385).

The offense piled up 463 yards during the offensive line's best game of the season. The defense suffocated the 49ers and their quarterback, Valley product Tim Rattay, holding San Francisco (1-3) to

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VIVÁ LA CARDINALS: Receivers Larry Fitzgerald, second from left, Bryant Johnson (82) and Anquan Boldin (81) celebrate Fitzgerald's touchdown Sunday at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City.