

Super Bowl XLIII Pittsburgh 27, Arizona 23

February 1, 2009 Raymond James Stadium (70,774)



TAMPA — Trailing by three points with only 2:30 left in the fourth quarter, QB Ben Roethlisberger led the Steelers on an eight-play, 78-yard scoring drive, punctuated by a six-yard touchdown pass to WR Antonio Holmes to clinch their NFL-record sixth Lombardi Trophy with a 27-23 victory over the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII.

Pittsburgh, which led most of the evening, struck first after Arizona deferred the opening kick. K Jeff Reed booted an 18-yard field goal on the opening drive to make it 3-0.

RB Gary Russell increased that lead to 10-0 when he plunged in from one-yard out early in the second quarter. Arizona answered that score as QB Kurt Warner hit TE Ben Patrick in the back of the end zone on a one-yard scoring strike to cut the Pittsburgh lead to 10-7.

Arizona appeared as if they were going to take their first lead late in the first half, but LB James Harrison intercepted Warner at the goal-line, raced 100 yards and dove into the end zone with two Cardinals on his back for the longest play in Super Bowl history, and a 17-7 advantage at the half.

A 21-yard field goal by Reed in the third quarter upped the lead to 20-7.

Arizona got back onto the scoreboard midway through the fourth quarter as Warner tossed another one-yard score, this time to WR Larry Fitzgerald, cutting the Steelers' lead to 20-14. A costly holding penalty in the end zone against Steelers' C Justin Hartwig gave the Cardinals a safety, further decreasing the Steelers' advantage to 20-16.

On the second play following the ensuing free kick, Warner found Fitzgerald on a 64-yard scoring strike through the middle of the Steelers' defense to give Arizona its first lead of the night, 23-20.

The Steelers were backed up to their own 12-yard line on the next drive, but Roethlisberger promptly completed four-of-six passes, three to Holmes, including a 40-yarder that moved the ball to the Arizona six. On second-and-goal, Roethlisberger threaded a perfect pass through three defenders and Holmes kept his toes in bounds for a six-yard touchdown reception and a 27-23 Steelers' lead with 35 seconds left.

Arizona had one more chance, but LB LaMarr Woodley sacked Warner, forcing a fumble to essentially end the game.

Holmes was named the game's MVP after catching nine passes for 131 yards (14.6 avg.) with one touchdown. Roethlisberger finished 21-of-30 for 256 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Defensively, Woodley recorded both Steelers' sacks, giving him two sacks in each of his four postseason games, an NFL record.

Game Summary

	1	2	3	4	F
STEELERS	3	14	3	7	27
Cardinals	0	7	0	16	23

TEAM	Q	TIME	PLAY	DRIVE	SCORE
PIT	1	9:45	Reed 18 FG	9-71; 5:15	3-0
PIT	2	14:01	Russell 1 run (Reed kick)	11-69; 7:12	10-0
ARI	2	8:34	Patrick 1 pass from Warner (Rackers kick)	9-83; 5:27	10-7
PIT	2	0:00	Harrison 100 interception return (Reed kick)	—; —	17-7
PIT	3	2:11	Reed 21 FG	16-79; 8:39	20-7
ARI	4	7:33	Fitzgerald 1 pass from Warner (Rackers kick)	8-87; 3:57	20-14
ARI	4	2:58	Safety (Hartwig holding in end zone)	—; —	20-16
ARI	4	2:37	Fitzgerald 64 pass from Warner (Rackers kick)	2-64; 0:21	20-23
PIT	4	0:35	Holmes 6 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick)	8-78; 2:02	27-23

Team Statistics

	Steelers	Cardinals
1st Downs	20 (4-12-4)	23 (2-20-1)
3rd Downs	4-10 (40%)	3-8 (38%)
4th Downs	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
Total Net Yards	292	407
Plays-Avg.	58-5.0	57-7.1
Rushing Yards	58	33
Rush Att.-Avg.	26-2.2	12-2.8
Passing Yards	234	374
Sacks	2-3	2-22
Att.-Comp.-Int.	30-21-1	43-31-1
Punts-Avg.	3-46.3	5-36.0
Penalties	7-56	11-106
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Time of Poss.	33:01	26:59

Individual Statistics

RUSHING: Pit. — Parker 19-53; Moore 1-6; Roethlisberger 4-2; Russell 2-(-3), 1 TD. Ari. — James 9-33; Warner 1-0; Hightower 1-0; Arrington 1-0.

PASSING: Pit. — Roethlisberger 30-21-1, 256, 1 TD. Ari. — Warner 43-31-1, 377, 3 TDs.

RECEIVING: Pit. — Holmes 9-131, 1 TD; Miller 5-57; Ward 2-43; Washington 1-11; Davis 1-6; Spaeth 1-6; Moore 1-4; Parker 1-(-2). Ari. — Boldin 8-84; Fitzgerald 7-127, 2 TDs; Breaston 6-71; James 4-28; Arrington 2-35; Hightower 2-13; Urban 1-18; Patrick 1-1, 1 TD.