

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 13, 2008**

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## **Butte finishes 12-0 with 17-9 win over Mt.SAC for California CC Football Title**

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Butte College finished the 2008 football season with the nation's only undefeated community college team, defeating Mt. San Antonio, 17-9, Saturday night for the California Community College Athletic Association Championship before a crowd of 4,123 at Orange Coast College.

Northern California champion Butte, from Oroville, completed a 12-0 season. Southern California champion Mt. SAC, located in Walnut (Los Angeles County), wound-up 12-2.

Mt. San Antonio's high powered offense, scoring at a 45.4 clip, could not overcome the state's No. 2 defense, led by player of the game Brandon Rankin. (He is also the state defensive player of the year.) A 6-foot-4, 250-pound defensive lineman, Rankin had 2 1/2 sacks and six tackles. The Mounties could manage only 30 yards rushing against the state's leading rush defense -- and 218 yards of total offense, half of their normal output.

Butte scored on its first possession, on a 19-yard pass from Ryan Ratekin to Justin Hilton to complete a 79 yard drive in seven plays, and was never headed. The Butte defense didn't give up a TD until the final five minutes. That was after the Roadrunners had established firm control with 6:38 left on a 13-yard scoring run by Alex Courtney, following a 65-yard punt return by Kiki Paul. Mt. San Antonio finally scored its only touchdown on the next possession, going 51 yards on six quick plays with Burton Iosefa running it in from the one with 4:26 remaining. But Rankin blocked the PAT attempt to provide an 8-point cushion that held up until the end.

Butte defensive back Lametrius Davis recovered a fumble to thwart Mt. SAC's next possession, with 2:03 remaining. The game ended with the Mounties on their own 30-yard line throwing an incomplete pass on fourth down.

Butte rolled up 384 yards, led by offensive player of the game Alex Green, who rushed for 119 yards on 27 carries. Ratekin completed 11 of 30 passes for 151 yards. Butte rushed for 220 yards, including 50 by running back Aaron Courtney and 37 by back-up quarterback Jordan Rodgers. Rodgers, brother of former Butte star Aaron Rodgers (now starting for the Green Bay Packers), played only briefly in the first half, completing his only pass for 13 yards and then suffering a concussion after a 30 yard run.

The Roadrunners, in their initial state finals appearance, laid claim to the official California CC title, along with the mythical top spot among the nation's 142 JC/CC

programs for the first time. Mt. SAC finished as the state runner-up for a second straight year. City College of San Francisco won the 2007 title.

Mt. San Antonio quarterback Tyler Vanderzee completed 10 of 29 passes for 143 yards, but was intercepted twice. Season starter Nick Lamison, an all-state region player of the year, played sparingly with an ankle sprain, completing 5 of 14 for 45 yards. The Mounties' Matt Austin was the game's top receiver with 8 (for 91 yards). Mt. SAC linebacker John McDowell had 10 tackles and was voted defensive player of the game.

Butte controlled the ball, nearly doubling the Mounties' time of possession, 39:37 to 20:23.

Butte coach Jeff Jordan called the triumph by his college of fewer than 11,000 students over a school nearly four times larger "surreal."

"It was a magical year," he said. "Our kids never quit believing they could do it. Our defense played as well as they could. We didn't let the deep balls get over our head. We needed to do the things we do: be a physical downhill run team -- and let them get a little impatient."

Rankin said it was "a rough ride."

"We're a family," he said. "We just grew together this season. We had to win. We didn't come this far to lose."

Rankin is from Shalotte, N.C., where he attended West Brunswick high school. He is looking to return to that area of the country and possibly compete for an Atlantic Coast Conference university.

The only previous state championships in Butte's 39-year school history were two small college division basketball crowns in the 1970's.

Mt. San Antonio, in its 63rd year, is among the largest of California's 110 community colleges, serving approximately 40,000 students in the San Gabriel Valley. The Mounties won the state football championship in 1997, the year the CCCAA resumed state playoffs after a 24-year hiatus.

**Box Score (Final)**

#1 BUTTE vs #2 Mt. San Antonio (Dec 13, 2008 at Costa Mesa, CA)

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score	
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BUTTE.....	7	0	3	7	- 17	Record: (12-0,5-0)
Mt. San Antonio.....	0	3	0	6	- 9	Record: (12-2,5-1)

**Scoring Summary:**

1st 10:06 BUTTE - Hilton,Justin 19 yd pass from Ratekin,Ryan (Heath,Auggie kick), 7-79  
3:34, BUTTE 7 - MSAC 0  
2nd 01:28 MSAC - Harfman,Jacob 47 yd field goal, 7-53 1:46, BUTTE 7 - MSAC 3  
3rd 11:48 BUTTE - Heath,Auggie 27 yd field goal, 9-46 3:06, BUTTE 10 - MSAC 3

4th 06:38 BUTTE - Courtney,Aaron 13 yd run (Heath,Auggie kick), 2-15 0:52, BUTTE 17 - MSAC 3  
 04:26 MSAC - Iosefa,Burton 1 yd run (Harfman,Jacob kick blockd), 5-51 2:03, BUTTE 17 - MSAC 9

	BUTTE	MSAC
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b> .....	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>RUSHES-YARDS (NET)</b> .....	<b>48-220</b>	<b>19-30</b>
<b>PASSING YDS (NET)</b> .....	<b>164</b>	<b>188</b>
Passes Att-Comp-Int.....	31-12-1	45-15-2
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS</b> .....	<b>79-384</b>	<b>64-218</b>
Fumble Returns-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.....	1-65	1-6
Kickoff Returns-Yards.....	3-78	3-72
Interception Returns-Yards...	2-0	1-5
Punts (Number-Avg).....	8-35.1	8-44.1
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	9-55	8-55
Possession Time.....	39:37	20:23
Third-Down Conversions.....	8 of 21	1 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions.....	1 of 2	1 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.....	3-4	1-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards.....	4-14	0-0

**RUSHING:** BUTTE-Green,Alex 27-119; Courtney,Aaron 17-50; Rodgers,Jordan 2-37; Bellamy,Josh 2-14. Mt. San Antonio-Iosefa,Burton 6-15; Vanderzee,Tyler 7-13; Garcia,Isaac 3-11; Lamaison,Nick 1-6; TEAM 2-minus 15.

**PASSING:** BUTTE-Ratekin,Ryan 11-30-1-151; Rodgers,Jordan 1-1-0-13. Mt. San Antonio-Vanderzee,Tyler 10-29-2-143; Lamaison,Nick 5-14-0-45; TEAM 0-2-0-0.

**RECEIVING:** BUTTE-Quail,Angel 3-74; Carter,Matt 3-29; Bellamy,Josh 3-22; Hilton,Justin 1-19; Green,Alex 1-13; Renton,James 1-7. Mt. San Antonio-Austin,Matt 8-91; Edwards,Michael 3-56; Canada,Jesse 3-26; Iosefa,Burton 1-15.

**INTERCEPTIONS:** BUTTE-Hills,AJ 1-0; Conner,Anthony 1-0. Mt. San Antonio-Foley,Jordan 1-5.

**FUMBLES:** BUTTE-Quail,Angel 1-0. Mt. San Antonio-Austin,Matt 1-1.

Stadium: Orange Coast College Attendance: 4321  
 Kickoff time: 5:00 pm End of Game: 8:21 pm Total elapsed time: 3hr21min  
 Officials: Scorer: Kenneth Walter;  
 Temperature: Wind: Weather:

Butte defeats Mt. SAC 17 - 9

**SACKS (UA-A):** BUTTE-Rankin,Brandon 2-1; Watts,JonBon 1-0; Dickson,Tyree 0-1. Mt. San Antonio-None.

**TACKLES (UA-A):** BUTTE-Davis,Lametrius 6-2; Rankin,Brandon 4-2; Hills,AJ 2-3; Dickson,Tyree 1-4; Watts,JonBon 3-1; Burns,Bobby 3-0; Pace,Preston 1-1; Guglielmi,Carlo 1-1; Simmons,Alfonzo 1-1; Decaneva,Nick 0-2; Clayton,Eric 1-0; Paul,Kiki 1-0; Conner,Anthony 1-0; Renton,James 1-0; Luster,Brandon 0-1. Mt. San Antonio-Rowe,Alfred 7-3; McDowell,John 3-7; Foley,Jordan 4-4; Lutui,Vaikalafi 6-1; Gaisie,Dominiqu 3-3; Ikner,Anress 3-3; Fangupo,Hebron 1-4; Latu,Manoa 3-1; Udoh,Ikenna 1-2; Daniels,Austin 1-2; Alt,Robert 2-0; Uelese,Tenise 2-0; Hunt,Justin 1-1; Federico,V 1-1; Irvin,Bruce 1-1; Powell,Siope 0-2; James,Kerel 0-2; Harfman,Jacob 1-0; Lavea,Samuel 1-0; Wilson,Darrell 1-0; Cohen,Jason 0-1; Miller,Jeremiah 0-1; Soliai,Wayne 0-1.