

05-24-08

# Quake rally to win with thrilling last second victory over Showgirlz

Downey, CA –With the season coming down to the final weeks, it was only appropriate that the battle between the two top teams in the Pacific Southwest Division would come down to the final seconds of the game. The first game in Las Vegas was a nail biter with California pulling out a hard earned victory by three points. The result would be the same but the way the game was played was completely different.

The game started off as a defensive battle as both defenses forced turnovers. California picked off Vegas twice and blocked a FG attempt in the 1st Quarter. The Quake struck pay dirt in the 1st Quarter when #3 Deb Kuntz hit #33 Julie Blied in the corner of the endzone for a TD. That was all of the scoring for the quarter as the 80-yard drive by California took up most of the clock. Las Vegas would take a lead into the half, 15-13, only the second time all year that California had trailed. On the first possession of the second half the Showgirlz defense would force another fumble by the Quake offense. The drive would stall but this time the FG was put through the uprights, just missing the outstretched arms of #80 Esther McGee. The lead was extended to 5 points, 18-13. This margin would be huge as one of the tie-breakers for the league is head-to-head points. Since California won the first match by three, Las Vegas would have to win by more if they want to have a chance at winning the division.

Both defenses were abused the rest of the game as #5 Monique Zaky (5 TD's) and #26 Dena Houser (3 TD's) took over. In the 4th Quarter alone, a combined 35 points were scored. After the dust had settled, both of these warriors had done their part to win the game for their team. The Quake defense awakened toward the end of the 4th Quarter, forcing a turnover on downs with 5+ minutes left. All California had to do was run the clock out or score, but a fumble by Zaky gave the Showgirlz another chance and with help from two personal foul penalties by the Quake defense, found the endzone with under a minute and half left. Only 1:18 was left on the clock and California needed a TD to take the lead. Another option was to get within FG range and kick it to make the score 38-37. The Quake could lose but still have the tie-breaker advantage. Led by Zaky, the Quake offense marched 60+ yards in 5 plays and put the ball in the endzone! However, they scored too quickly as 40 seconds were left on the clock for Las Vegas and Houser. With no timeouts and the Quake defense in prevent mode, Las Vegas had to work the sidelines



and an excellent open field tackle by Blied kept the clock running on 3rd down. The Showgirlz were unable to move the ball far enough for a FG attempt and turned the ball over on downs after a desperation pass fell incomplete with 4 seconds remaining. Final Score Quake 41 – Showgirlz 38!

Both teams proved that they have a ton of heart and are playoff worthy.

Here are some of the statistical highlights from a game that featured an offensive explosion:

#### Offense

- #5 Monique Zaky – 35 rushes – 343 yards – 5 TD's
- #3 Deb Kuntz – 6 of 14 passing – 75 yards – 1 TD
- #33 Julie Blied – 4 receptions – 31 yards – 1 TD

#### Defense

- #80 Esther McGee – Sack, 2 tackles, TFL, Blocked FG
- #88 Alex Kirby – 7 tackles, INT
- #20 Alicia Freeman – 8 tackles
- #44 Angela Mims – Sack, 4 tackles, TFL
- #83 Melissa Strother – 2 tackles, INT

The division leading California Quake (6-0) look to lock up the #3 seed for the playoffs on the 31st, visiting the Southern California Breakers (3-2). No touchdowns were scored in the first meeting between the two teams. The Quake secured a victory behind a stellar defensive performance. Come out and support your UNDEFEATED California Quake!

**California Quake**

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