

06-07-08

Quake complete perfect regular season with 35-0 win in New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM – In its' eighth year of existence the California Quake had yet to go undefeated during the regular season. On Saturday, against a bigger team and difficult locale, they hoped to accomplish this special feat. The Menace were not the only opponent this Quake team faced on this hot Saturday, but the altitude and thin air would come into play as well. From pre-game warm-ups through out remainder of the game, players would have a hard time catching their breaths.

As with most of the games this year, the Quake lost the coin toss and New Mexico chose to start on offense. The tone of the game defensively would be set from the very first possession. Starting inside the 20-yard line, the Quake defense pushed New Mexico backwards and forced a quick punt. The offense, though set up with great field position were thwarted by a fumble and a false start and ended up having to punt the ball right back. The second offensive possession was much of the same as #81 Sarah Oliver, recorded a sack at the 3-yard line. Once again, starting with great field position the Quake offense would try to put points on the board. After #40 Kristin Nicholas and #5 Monique Zaky both ripped off first down runs, an apparent TD pass fell incomplete as the two WR's ran into each other. The drive would stall, and the 33-yard FG attempt by Oliver bounced off of the crossbar. With 4 seconds remaining in the 1st quarter, California found the endzone when Zaky squeezed through a hole created by #77 Elizabeth Lin and #17 Helen Monterroso, bounced to the outside and outran the defense for 48-yard TD.

From there the Quake offense would awaken, scoring three more TD's with relative ease. Zaky would add two more to her resume giving her a total of 23 for the year. #12 Catherine Vivo, seeing her first significant playing time of the year, threw her first ever touchdown pass. On the receiving end of that catch was #33 Julie Blied. The only negative on the day for California was that the offense only scored once inside the five-yard line.



Twice they were stopped, once at the end of the half and another at the end of the game.

The defense would play spectacular the whole game, allowing 4 first downs by the Menace offense while forcing 6 punts on 8 possessions. Though outsized by the Menace offensive line, the Quake defense continually pushed them into the backfield, making numerous tackles for loss and registering several sacks. The defense even managed a touchdown when #88 Alex Kirby returned a punt for a TD in the 1st quarter. Her third defensive TD of the year. New Mexico attempted a 35-yard FG toward the end of the 2nd quarter but #44 Angela Mims blocked it, securing the 5th shutout of the year.

Here are some of the statistical highlights from the game:

Offense

- #5 Monique Zaky – 9 rushes, 139 yards, 3 TD's
- #12 Catherine Vivo – 3/6 passing, 89 yards, TD, INT
- #40 Kristin Nicholas – 8 rush, 64 yards
- #33 Julie Blied – 2 receptions, 39 yards, TD

Defense

- #81 Sarah Oliver – Sack, 2 tackles
- #52 Nancy MacLeod – 7 tackles, TFL
- #63 Lisa Navarrete – 2 tackles, Sack
- #74 Erica Morgan – 7 tackles, Sack

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