

Quake with a big win over the Scorpions

Downey, CA – The 2010 California Quake welcomed the SoCal Scorpions this past Saturday and the two teams had more in common than most know. Both teams have championship trophies on the shelf, both had already lost to the Amazons this season and most importantly, both teams need to win this battle to have a shot at the playoffs. The game would live up to the billing.

The Scorpions won the coin toss and elected to put their offensive aerial assault on display. And with some misdirection, they did so on the first play from scrimmage as #3 Melissa Gallegos hit #11 Jessica Javelet wide open down the Scorpion sideline. She was pushed out at the 5-yard line by #20 Alicia Freeman. On 3rd & goal, Gallegos would run it in from 5 yards out on a QB option. The extra point was kicked through by Javelet and the Quake were down 7-0. No to be outdone, the Quake came out with determination and in a goal line set. This caught the defense off-guard and #5 Monique Zaky went untouched around the right side between the blocks of #47 Knengi Martin and #17 Helen Monterroso-Vivo for a 59-yard score. As the Quake always do, they went for two and #50 Angela Mims walked in for the conversion. Quake 8-7. A huge kick-off by #9 Kara Williams left the Scorpions with horrible field position and they were quickly forced to punt. The Quake now had the ball on the Scorpions 43-yard line. After a couple nice runs by Martin and Zaky, #3 Deb Kuntz hit Martin to get them to the 12-yard line. Zaky made two defenders miss and outran three other defenders on her way to her second touchdown of the game. Mims once again followed with the conversion. And at the end of 1st quarter the Quake were up 16-7.

The 2nd quarter began with the Scorpions knocking on the proverbial goal line door, but on 2nd & goal #11 Alex Kirby locked that door by intercepting Gallegos. Both teams would end up punting on their next drives. The Quake then put together a long drive with a big run from Martin and Kuntz hooking with #88 Camille Norwood. Unfortunately, on 1st down from the 15-yard line, Kuntz was pressured from behind by #38 Cilena Mosely and during the scramble, Mosley punched the ball loose and it was quickly recovered by #72 Michelle Starks. Both teams would once again trade punts with the Scorpions getting the better field position, starting their next drive at the 17-yard line. On 3rd & 9, Gallegos would connect with #80 Michelle Moore for the touchdown. The extra point made the score Quake 16-14. The Quake ran the two-minute offense trying to get a quick score before halftime but an interception at the Scorpion 10-yard line would end the half.

The 2nd half would start with the Quake receiving the ball, but that would amount to nothing as the Scorpion defense would force a punt. A deep punt by Williams would change field position but another deep connection between Gallegos and Javelet would once again give the Scorpions the lead at 20-16. The lead would be short lived while also indicate the tempo of the rest of the game. Zaky would take the pitch 57 yards around the right side of the line for her 3rd touchdown of the game. Mims would covert again and the Quake were back up, 24-20. The rest of the quarter would see the Scorpions punt twice and the Quake once.

The Quake found themselves in scoring position at the start of the 4th quarter but on 4th down an all out blitz by the Scorpion defense forced Kuntz to throw too quickly and the ball could not be gathered in by Norwood. Gallegos would lead her team all the way down to the 5-yard line before #52 Tarrah Philpott, a former Scorpion player, knocked the ball loose from #2 Desiree Weimann, with Freeman recovered the fumble for the Quake. Unable to move the chains, a short punt by Williams would put the Scorpions in great field position. Kirby would grab her second interception off of Gallegos, putting a stop to another scoring opportunity. The Quake offense would start to move the ball from the goal line but 1st & 10 from the 31-yard line, #23 Amy Crogertook the handoff for an apparent short gain and as she was laying on the ground, Mosely, took the ball from her and ran back for a touchdown, shocking the Quake. The extra point was missed, Scorpions 26-24. The lead would not last. On the ensuing kick-off, Zaky caught the ball at the 18-yard line, headed up the right side of the field, found a seam and sprinted down the middle of the field while five Scorpion defenders would give chase. None would catch her and the Quake were once again on top, 30-26. The Scorpions offense would go right back to work, moving the ball down the field through the air and Gallegos would hit Moore again for the go-ahead touchdown. With the extra point their lead was now 33-30. Any momentum gained by the drive would be short lived as a failed onside kick attempt was followed by Zaky taking the first play 61 yards to the house for her 5th and final touchdown. Quake now led 36-30. The Quake defense would get another interception on the following possession as Gallegos attempted go deep once more, Freeman was there to make the INT. With the clock winding down, the Quake tried to run some time off the clock but an offensive penalty put them behind the sticks and they were unable to overcome it and had to punt. Williams' punt would put the Scorpions all the way back at their own 26-yard line. On 3rd & 10 Gallegos was able to muscle a pass out to pick up a first down but in her effort to get the ball out, she took a major hit, knocking her from the game. Back-up quarterback, #7 Aisha Ruffo came in and would quickly have to adapt to the speed of the game. On her third pass, she would be picked by Kirby, which she returned for a 38-yard touchdown. Quake 42-33. With less than two minutes remaining in the game, the Scorpions needed to score quickly and then recover an onside kick. They did put one more score on the board when Ruffo hit Javelet on a post and the two Quake defenders knocked each to the ground. The onside kick would not travel the required 10 yards and the Quake only need to line up and take a knee to secure the victory.

Final Score Quake 42 – Scorpions 40



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