

# Quake takes down the Monsoon

Vail, AZ – The Quake hopped back on the road after two consecutive home games and traveled back to Tucson to face the Monsoon, the only team they would be playing twice this season. Though the two teams met a couple weeks earlier, both teams were eager to see how much they had learned and grown in that short period of time. High winds and a cooler temperature would be the first sign of changes on this gameday.

The Quake lost the coin toss, but thanks to Tucson deferring their choice until the 2nd half, California got the ball first. Since Tucson had a kick-off returned for a touchdown the last time these two teams met, they decided to pooch the ball and gave the Quake great field position. The Quake wasted little time in putting points on the board as #5 Monique Zaky took the snap as QB, made some defenders miss at the line of scrimmage and followed her lead blockers all the way for a 56-yard touchdown. The Quake, known for going for two this year, lined up in PAT formation and #9 Kara Williams put it through the uprights. Quake 7-0. The Monsoon would start their drive from the 20 yard line and mount a lengthy, time consuming drive. In all, they ran 21 plays in their new double-wing offense. On play 18, it looked as though the drive was stopped on 4th down but a phantom pass interference penalty kept it alive. And then on the 20th play, #32 Amanda Munoa stripped the ball from #32 Melissa Overton at the 2-yard line and began running downfield. Moments later the whistle was blown by officials and marked Overton down but did not see that Munoa was running the other way with the ball. The Monsoon kept possession and scored on the following play. A 2-point conversion gave them the lead. Monsoon 8-7. This would be their only lead of the game.

The 2nd quarter would begin with the Monsoon once again moving the ball down the field. An interception by #7 Tamika Vaughn would end the drive and give the Quake the ball, though they were pinned deep. Runs by Zaky and #23 Amy Croger would move the ball away from the endzone and up to the 26-yard line where Zaky exploded through a seam, created by a Croger block for a 74-yard touchdown. The PAT was no good. Quake 13-8. On 3rd & 7, #50 Angela Mims met the running back at the line of scrimmage, ending another drive by the Monsoon. On 3rd & 11 for the Quake, regular QB #3 Deb Kuntz, hit #88 Camille Norwood for an apparent 1st down but the blow delivered by #34 Teress Harper, would pop the ball into the air and #26 Tammie Thomas would snatch it and run it into Quake territory. A 4th down stop by the Quake defense would prevent Tucson from getting a 1st

down. Kuntz would find #47 Knengi Martin wide open on 3rd & long to keep their drive going. On the next play, Kuntz would connect with Norwood again and this time it would stick, putting the Quake inside the Monsoon 20. With only seconds left before halftime, Kuntz was able to sneak into the endzone. The PAT would be blocked. Quake 19-8.

With only four possessions to their credit in the 1st half because of the ball control by Tucson, Coach Penn knew that scoring opportunities would be hard to come by, so he called for an onside kick to start the 2nd half. Williams would place the ball perfectly and #11 Alex Kirby corralled the ball before Tucson could get to it. Kuntz would reward Williams' kick with a 27-yard touchdown pass and catch on the very next play. Kirby would connect with Zaky on the 2-point conversion. Quake 27-8. Fresh from halftime adjustments, the Quake defense would show that they know how to stop this type of offense given some time. They quickly forced a three and out and Kirby would return the punt 66 yards for another Quake score. The 2-point conversion would not succeed. Quake 33-8. The Quake defense would force another three and out and a bad snap on the punt would give the ball to the Quake inside the 20. Moments later Croger would follow her blocks into the endzone for her first score of the year. The PAT was good by Williams. Quake 40-8. In a matter of 5 minutes the Quake had put 21 points up. The Quake offense spent the rest of the game controlling the clock, thus keeping the Tucson offense off of the field. The defense did up their part by getting stop after stop and did not allow the Monsoon to score again.

Final Score 40-8



**California Quake**

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