



WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL

QUAKE NEWS 2011

4/9/2011

Quake overcome weather and foe in season opener

Tucson, AZ – Normally, when one thinks about weather in Tucson, Arizona, images of days laying out by the pool or sitting inside soaking in the air conditioning come to mind. When the California Quake arrived in Tucson Friday night, they were greeted with colder than normal temperatures. Come kick-off on Saturday evening, the temperature was in the 30's and the rain had been steadily falling for hours on end.

Winning the coin toss, the Quake asked to receive the ball. The opening kickoff came to #20 Alicia Freeman who looked to be carrying with both arms, but a perfectly executed hit by #33 Carolyn Epperson jarred the ball loose...FUMBLE! The opening play disaster for California was averted thanks to #31 Design Trotter quickly hopping on the ball but the fumble was a sign of things to come. In all, there were over 15 fumbles on the evening, 11 by the Quake alone.

The Quake looked to establish a passing game early, even in the steady rain, but was unable to connect on any passes until after the rain stopped during halftime. The Monsoon mixed up formations along with a balanced attack of both run and pass to move the ball more effectively than the Quake during the 1st quarter. Using field position, Tucson found themselves in scoring position thanks to a great catch and run by #44 Ruby Parks. The Monsoon got on the scoreboard when #13 Jessica Van Apeldoorn called a QB sneak to the left side for the one yard needed.

That would be all of the scoring done by Tucson although they did get close a couple more times behind the running of #22 Jackie Adriano. The rest of the game would belong to

the Quake. Four different players scored TD's in the first half, all of them on the ground. Trotter would start the scoring with 53-yard run. Next up was #3 Deb Kuntz, with a QB sneak of her own. With less than two minutes before the half, #22 (for this game) Monique Zaky took one 80 yards and after a mistake on special teams by Tucson, the very next play #11 Alex Kirby scored from 40 yards out. At the half, the Quake led 28-6.

After halftime, both teams came out of the locker to find themselves completely soaked but at least it was no longer raining. The game was stopped several times for injuries and cramps but in the end, the speed of California was too much for the Monsoon. Scoring in the second half were Kirby and Trotter again, #1 Jessica Cheeks on 68-yard pass from Kirby and #47 Knengi Martin with a 53-yard punt return. The defense registered two sacks (#10 Bianca Nieves and #79 Hiroku Suzuki), two interceptions (Kirby and #76 Heather Cunningham), 15 tackles for loss and applied constant pressure to the Tucson QB.

Final Score
Quake - 60
Monsoon - 6

California Quake

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