



WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL

QUAKE NEWS 2011

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Quake Defense Dominates, earns shut-out against Portland

Downey, CA – After spending last weekend in the freezing rain, the California Quake were happy to be playing at home in the beautiful Southern California weather. Mother Nature obliged and a light breeze accompanied the sunshine, creating a perfect setting for a football game.

As last, the Quake started the game by putting the offense out. Behind the running efforts of #31 Design Trotter and #5 Monique Zaky, the Quake quickly moved the ball downfield. On the 7th play of the drive, #30 Leah Hinkle jumped the route and made a great, albeit lucky, interception to halt the drive. The Portland offense took the field and was able to pick up one first down before having to punt the ball away. #11 Alex Kirby would return the punt 20 yards, well into Shockwave territory. A steady dose of Zaky and the Quake were on the board in 6 plays with 3:56 left in the first. The defense would force a quick 3 & out, forcing another punt, one that #47 Knengi Martin would return back into the Shockwave side of the field. Wasting little time #3 Deb Kuntz would hit Kirby for a 37-yard Touchdown pass and the 2-point conversion by Martin would extend the lead to 14.

The Quake would possess the ball twice more in the half, one drive ending with an interception in the endzone by #2 Rebecca Brisson of Portland. Portland would use a great return by #5 Natalie Nash to finally flip field position. The scoring opportunity would be short lived as #83 Melissa Strother picked off a pass from #21 Veronica Ferguson just before the end of the half.

Portland started with the ball in the second half and

looked to cut the deficit in half. They were on their way thanks to the passing of Ferguson and running of #24 Rebecca Dawson but an ill-timed fumble was recovered by #79 Hiroku Suzuki of the Quake. When the Quake offense got on the field, they changed up the pace and went no-huddle on the Shockwave. This caught the defense off-guard and allowed California to move the ball downfield with ease. Martin and Zaky ate up chunks of yardage and Martin punched it in from the 6, while Zaky converted the 2-points, a role reversal of sorts. An unsportsmanlike penalty put the kickoff at the 25 and the return by Nash set Portland up at the 50. The Shockwave were able to get into the redzone for the second time, but on 3rd and 3, #74 Erica Morgan sacked Ferguson for a seven yard loss. Out of field goal range, the Shockwave went for it on 4th only to see the pass attempt fall incomplete.

With a shutout looming, the Quake offense, looked to play a little defense. Using the combination of Zaky and Martin, with a couple a passes by Kuntz mixed in, the Quake ran off over 6 minutes and Martin picked up her second TD of the game. With only 19 seconds left, Portland attempted two deeps passes, one of which was picked by rookie #33 Sara Rathbun.

Final Score
Portland – 0
Quake – 28

California Quake

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