



# WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL

## QUAKE NEWS 2011

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# Quake rally for playoff victory with 22 unanswered points in final 8 minutes of game

Downey, CA - This past weekend the California Quake found themselves facing a gaggle of challenges. Not only were they playing at Warren High School for the first time, they were hosting a playoff game for the first time since 2001. As if that weren't enough, the opponent on the other sideline was three-time IWFL champion Sacramento Sirens. Though the Quake had beaten the Sirens twice already this season, everyone knows beating a team a third time in one season is most difficult for a multitude of reasons.

The Sirens won the coin toss and elected to defer to the choice until the 2nd half, meaning the Quake would have the chance to score first. The drive started very nicely as they easily drove the ball into Sirens territory before unraveling with 3 negative plays in a row. This would be a common theme for the night. The Quake would continually drive on Sacramento only to have drives thwarted by penalties, turnovers and/or mental mistakes. After the 37-yard punt by #27 Bobbie Graham rolled through the endzone, the enthusiastic crowd were quickly quieted as Sacramento's offense marched 80 yards for the first score of the game. The touchdown happened as #2 Chantelle Powers hit #22 Ashlee Sharp just over the outreached arm of #55 Sharrica Miller. The extra point snap was botched but Sacramento led 6-0. California would pick up a couple first downs and then be hit with a penalty and the drive stalled. Called upon again, Graham would deliver a 41-yard punt this time, pinning Sacramento inside the 20. The tide of the game then took to the Quake as they drove deep into Sirens territory. A bad snap would lead to a 6-yard loss, combined with a 15-yard penalty and then another penalty resulted in California being pushed back across the 50. This was followed up by an errant snap that hit #70 Alicia Sierra motioning across the formation and was quickly recovered by the Sirens.

Sacramento would drive into the red zone again. This time Miller was able to get a hand on the pass, deflecting into the air where it was intercepted by #74 Erica Morgan. A turnover for a turnover quickly turned into another turnover by the Quake. A pass directed toward #11 Alex Kirby from #3 Deb Kuntz, would be tracked down and picked off by #24 Traniece Brown-Warrens and returned all the way to the Quake 1-yard line. Two plays later the Sirens would punch it in for the touchdown on a reverse to #23 Katie George. The Sirens would fake the extra point and go for two but the pass fell incomplete. Midway through the 2nd quarter the Sirens lead was 12-0. California would another drive together before the half but the result would be the same as a fumble and penalty ceased all momentum.

The second would start with the Sirens receiving the ball and looking to make it a three score game. They would do just that as #22 Ashlee Sharp would take a fly sweep to the right and follow her blockers downfield before making one last cut that guaranteed her a touchdown. The extra point made 19-0. As with the 1st half, the Quake offense would quickly pick up a couple first downs before stalling. This

drive ended horribly as the snap on the punt went whizzing by Graham and gave the Sirens great field position with the 26-yard loss. This is about the time the Quake defense said enough. The missed tackles and multiple defenders in on tackles disappeared. It seemed as though every tackle from here on out was a hard hit from a single Quake defender that put a Siren on the ground. After being handed great field position, Sacramento was left to try a 38-yard Field Goal that fell short. Remember this play.

The 4th quarter would start with the Sirens up big and the Quake offense left to wonder if they would ever stop shooting themselves in the proverbial foot. With just under 10 minutes left in the game, the Quake found themselves in the worst position, backed up to their own 8-yard line. They would line up in their goal line set and run a trick play that found #47 Knengi Martin (a fullback) throwing the ball to #1 Jessica Cheeks. The play seemed to ignite the offense as well as the crowd. Two plays later #31 Design Trotter found a hole around the left side and the next thing you know she is racing down the sideline. The two-point conversion by Martin made the score 19-8. The Quake pooched the kickoff that was caught and protected by the Sirens. With time winding down, the defense kept throwing everything at Sacramento. A fumble was forced when #52 Tarrah Philpott timed the snap perfectly and hit Powers as she backed away from center and the ball was quickly recovered by #79 Hiroko Suzuki. California scored in just 4 plays with Cheeks scoring on a 7-yard run. With just over 4 minutes remaining, the score was 19-14. With the crowd at full-throttle, the noise caused a false start by the Sirens at 1st and 15. They would not pick up the first down and had to punt. The Quake had the ball with just over 2 minutes left on the clock and 68 yards to go to take the lead. The drive did not start well as they immediately lost 5 yards. Cheeks would take the next handoff and race 35 yards up the sideline before being forced out. Trotter and Kirby would rip off huge first downs runs and with 39 seconds left in the game, Coach Penn used his final timeout. Immediately out the timeout Kirby faked a handoff to Cheeks, and ran up the middle, high-stepping as she reached the endzone. A crowd that already seemed loud, grew louder and Sacramento looked on in disbelief. The two-point conversion would make the score 22-19. The defense would force quick throws that never had a chance of reaching their intended receivers and the Quake offense would end the game by taking a final knee.

With the improbable comeback, the Quake travel Northeast on July 16th to face the Wisconsin Warriors, who knocked off the Portland Shockwave in similar exciting fashion 13-12. Please help every Quake player get there by donating (click here to donate today)

Final Score  
Sirens - 19  
Quake - 22

California Quake  
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