

Nighthawks swoops away with an amazing OT victory against the Carolina Queens

By Ashley Branch | Week 3 Saturday, 26 April 2014



Charlotte, NC - Arriving with less than 30 players, the Nighthawks knew they lacked the depth of their opponents. But what they didn't have in numbers, they made up for with heart and the desire to win. Each player was armed with the knowledge of two and sometimes three other positions, willing to step in whichever spot was necessary. So, when the Nighthawks stepped on the field Saturday evening, there was only one thing on their minds, bringing home a "W." Each player was determined that nothing could stop them and when an actual Nighthawk swooped over the field late in the game, they knew it was destiny. "We own the night," is the team mantra and when the final whistled sounded in overtime, their opponents, the Carolina Queens, knew why.

In a game that started with an upsetting fumble, the Nighthawks knew they would need each other more than ever in order to defeat the Carolina Queens. Instead of pointing fingers, the team banded together, substantiating another slogan, "I am my sister's keeper." The Nighthawks plowed into the end zone scoring the first touchdown of the game. The Queens answered with a touchdown of their own and a two point conversion, leading at the half 8-6. Both teams stepped back on the field ready for a fight. In a game that was determined on the ground, the ladies dominated the field, rushing for a total of 324 yards.

Although the Queens responded with touchdowns of their own, the Nighthawks defense held the Queens from scoring in the last frantic seconds of regulation, ending with a 22-22 tie. Having won the toss, the Nighthawks opted to defend first. Fourth down, with only four yards to go, the Nighthawk defense forced a Carolina runner out of bounds one yard short of a touchdown and the offense took the field. The team huddled together near the 25 yard line, urging each other to give it everything they had. With 9 yards to go, the Nighthawks QB urged her teammates to play, "like your life depends on it." The offensive coach had no doubt in his mind which play he would call. The one that his players joke about, his favorite play, and the one that would win them the game if executed to perfection. The Nighthawks were tired. Some sore, some in pain, and some hurt, but they were not finished. When the ball was snapped, each player on the field gave their final push. As the referee held up both hands, signaling a touchdown, the players rushed into the end zone, applauding and hugging each other. The battle was over, and the Nighthawks were victorious.

Having celebrated all the way back to Baltimore, the Nighthawks begin preparation for their next matchup. Week 3 - Record 1-1