

NEL+ Science

‘BEAST QUAKE’

How **Marshawn Lynch’s** epic run 10 years ago helped prepare scientists for actual earthquakes

BY MIKE VOREL
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — “The crowd is silent now, as opposed to when the Saints have the ball,” NBC broadcaster Tom Hammond said, before more than 66,000 fans refuted that fact.

It was Jan. 8, 2011, and the 7-9 Seahawks led the 11-5 Saints, 34-30, with 3:40 left in the NFC wild-card game. At a supposedly silent Qwest Field in Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck took a snap at his own 33-yard line, turned and handed the ball to Marshawn Lynch.

Amid a morass of broken tackles, the “Beast Quake” was born.

Lynch — a 215-pound, 24-year-old torpedo — laid waste to New Orleans’ defensive line, burrowing through Scott Shanle and Will Smith’s feeble tackle attempts. At the second level, Darren Sharper and Remi Ayodele each latched onto a leg — and Lynch shook them off like Forrest Gump finally breaking free of his metal braces. Jabari Greer wrapped his arms around Lynch’s waist at the 49-yard line, and received a four-yard ride before unceremoniously tumbling to the turf.

Which is when Tracy Porter ate the most iconic stiff-arm in NFL history. As the Qwest Field crowd came irreparably unglued, the 185-pound corner attempted to wrangle a loose lion by tugging on its fur. Instead, Lynch launched Porter seven yards into the stratosphere, then skirted through defensive lineman Alex Brown’s diving arms along the sideline. He veered inside, evaded a helpless Roman Harper, and somersaulted backward — exalted — into the



Ted S. Warren/AP file

On Jan. 8, 2011, Seattle Seahawks’ Marshawn Lynch breaks away from the tackle of New Orleans Saints’ Tracy Porter — among others — on his way to a 67-yard touchdown run against the New Orleans Saints in an NFC wild card playoff game in Seattle.

end zone.

After the 41-36 wild-card win, Seahawks linebacker Aaron Curry called it “the most unbelievable, unrealistic play I’ve ever seen in the history of football.”

Added first-year Seattle head coach Pete Carroll: “It was one of the greatest runs I ever saw.”

Or heard.

Or felt.

At the time, at least, John Vidale didn’t see it (or hear it, or feel it). The director of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network at the University of Washing-

ton, Vidale was working in the lab an hour or two after the game when he was told there was a play he needed to see.

“So I went to YouTube and found videos of Marshawn’s run, and it was striking,” said Vidale, who currently works as a professor of earth sciences at USC. “Some of them were taken with phones in the stands. People were just cheering forever. It was deafening. It looked like everything was shaking. So I just figured I’d see if the seismometers recorded anything.”

See **Beast Quake** / A6



During their 2011 NFC wild card playoff game against the New Orleans Saints, Seattle Seahawks’ Marshawn Lynch breaks away to score a 67-yard touchdown as quarterback Matt Hasselbeck celebrates in the background. The Seahawks won 41-36. Lynch finished with 131 yards on 19 carries, the first Seattle back to top 100 yards all season. Elaine Thompson/AP file

PAC-12 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | ARIZONA 67, OREGON STATE 51

Pueyo, McDonald lead No. 11 Arizona past Oregon State

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Helena Pueyo reached a career-high in scoring by halftime, Aari McDonald extended her string of double-digit scoring to 78 games and No. 11 Arizona gave Oregon State a rare wallop, 67-51 on Sunday.

Pueyo scored all of her 15 points in the first half as she made all four attempts from beyond the 3-point arc. Mc-

Donald poured in 20 points for Arizona (10-2, 8-2 Pac-12 Conference), her double-digit scoring streak ties the mark set by Oregon grad Sabrina Ionescu.

Arizona upended No. 10 Oregon 57-41 on Thursday, sweeping the Oregon schools for the first time since 2011.

Oregon State (3-4, 1-4) was playing for the first time since Dec. 19 after an extended

pause for COVID-19 concerns. Taylor Jones and Savannah Samuel led the Beavers with 11 points each, three other players scored eight apiece.

Arizona closed the first half on a 14-1 run to build a 40-26 lead. Oregon State was never able get closer than 11 in the final two quarters.

This marks the first time Arizona has won eight of its first 10 conference games since the

2003-04 season.

Arizona’s roster was bolstered over the weekend when Madi Conner, who graduated a semester early from high school, was granted eligibility. Conner did not play Sunday as she is following COVID-19 protocols.

EXIT POLL

The Beavers fell out of the WBCA Coaches’ poll on Dec.

22, marking the first time they have not been ranked in the poll since the 2013-14 post-season rankings. OSU also fell out of the AP Poll on Dec. 21, snapping a 76-week run, the seventh-longest in the nation at the time.

Oregon State next plays host to the Washington teams, UW on Friday and Washington State Sunday. Arizona plays host to Utah on Friday.

NFL PLAYOFFS



Chiefs and Henne hold off Browns

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs had lost Patrick Mahomes to a concussion and were in danger of losing the game.

Then their defense and Chad Henne — their defense and Chad Henne?! — kept their hopes of a Super Bowl repeat alive, holding off the Cleveland Browns 22-17 on Sunday to advance to their third straight AFC championship game.

“#HenneThingsPossible,” a sidelined Mahomes wrote on Twitter immediately after the victory.

With their star quarterback reduced to a spectator, the oft-forgotten bunch opposite Mahomes’ high-powered offense forced the Browns to punt in the waning minutes. Then, his 35-year-old backup showed some moxie with a long third-down scramble and audacious fourth-down completion to Tyreek Hill — when go-for-broke Andy Reid decided to go for it — that gave the Chiefs a first down with just over a minute left and allowed them to run out the clock.

“That’s why we love Big Red. He’s always on time,” Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu said. “He’s like our spirit warrior out here behind the scenes. He’s always trying stuff. We always knew he has one play on the table.”

Mahomes hadn’t played in 21 days, since the Chiefs clinched the AFC’s top seed in Week 16, but he hardly missed a beat before leaving midway through the third quarter. He finished 21 of 30 for 255 yards and touchdowns passing and running.



Brady, Bucs end playoffs for Saints

NEW ORLEANS — Tom Brady’s best game in three tries against New Orleans kept the Buccaneers moving on in the NFL playoffs, and has Saints quarterback Drew Brees headed home — perhaps for good.

Brady and the Bucs’ offense turned three Saints turnovers, including two interceptions of Brees, into touchdowns, and Tampa Bay beat New Orleans 30-20 in the divisional round of the NFL playoffs Sunday night.

Two of those touchdowns came on short passes to Mike Evans and Leonard Fournette. And after Brees was intercepted by linebacker Devin White in the middle of the fourth quarter, Brady drove the Bucs to the 1, from where he scored himself to all but ensure his 14th trip to a conference championship game — his first in the NFC.

That game will take place in Green Bay next week, where the 43-year-old Brady will try to advance to his 10th Super Bowl in a showdown with Packers All-Pro QB Aaron Rodgers.

Meanwhile, the Brees era in New Orleans could be over after 15 seasons.

The game may have been the last in the Superdome for the 42-year-old Brees, who is under contract for one more year.

— Associated Press