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Final Score Cardinals 17 - 49ers 10

The Arizona Cardinals completed a series sweep against divisional rival San Francisco Sunday afternoon when they beat the 49ers 17-10 at Monster Park.

Quarterback Kurt Warner got the offense rolling early, completing his first nine passes of the game and driving the team 68 yards

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down the field on their first possession of the contest. The offense struggled to find the endzone early in the game, but recently signed kicker Nick Novak capped off the 14 play drive by connecting on a 30 yard field goal to give the Cardinals a 3-0 lead late in the first quarter.

Three possessions later the 49ers countered and in just 6 plays they drove 85 yards down the field, culminating in a 1 yard touchdown run by Maurice Hicks to put San Francisco on the board.

The Cardinals were threatening to score on their final possession of the second quarter but with the clock running down Warner's pass intended for Boldin was intercepted by Mike Adams. The Cardinals trailed the 49ers 7-3 after the first half.

Arizona's offense came out strong to start the second half, driving 58 yards in 8 plays. The Cardinals were unable to pick the first down on 3rd and 1, forcing them to attempt another field goal. Novak was successful on a 35 yard attempt, narrowing in on the Niners 7-6 lead.

Defensively the Cardinals came up big on the next series. On first down linebacker James Darling intercepted an Alex Smith pass and returned it 7 yards to the San Francisco 29 yard line. The Cards offense had difficulty moving the ball and settled for another field goal attempt. Novak connected on the 19 yard attempt to regain the lead for the Cardinals half way through the third quarter.

On the Cardinals next offensive possession they continued to struggle to string plays together and were forced to punt the ball back to the Niners. However Scott Player's punt was blocked by Keith Lewis and recovered by Cory Smith at the Arizona 26 yard line. San Francisco's offense was unable to capitalize off of the big special teams play. The Cardinals defense pressured Smith and on second down safety Adrian Wilson sacked Smith for a loss of 3 yards. Arizona's defense held the Niners from gaining any yardage on the series, forcing them to settle for another field goal attempt. Nedney connected on a 48 yard attempt to give San Francisco a 10-9 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Cardinals failed to gain a first down on the opening drive of the fourth quarter and on their second possession of the quarter, Warner was picked off by Lewis for the second time of the afternoon. On the very next play Cardinals defensive tackle Darnell Dockett forced a fumble and Adrian Wilson recovered the ball for the Cardinals. The Cardinals returned to the field but following an offensive holding call on center Nick Leckey Arizona was faced with a 3rd and 20 situation. Wide receiver Anquan Boldin caught a pass from Warner on third down and broke several tackles as he ran 54 yards into the endzone to give the Cardinals their first touchdown of the game. Fullback Obafemi Ayanbadejo rushed 2 yards into the endzone on the two point conversion to put the Cardinals up 17-10 just over four minutes into the fourth quarter.

Defensively the Cardinals continued to make big plays and on the

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next drive, veteran safety Robert Griffith intercepted a Smith pass returning it 11 yards for the Cardinals. On San Francisco's next offensive possession rookie cornerback Eric Green picked off another Smith pass, returning it 13 yards to the 49ers 29 yard line.

The Cardinals offense returned to the field and Warner took a knee 3 times as the clock ran down to end the game.

The Cardinals improved to 4-8 on the season in their sweep over the 49ers. Arizona will face the Washington Redskins next Sunday at Sun Devil Stadium.

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