

# GO CRU GO!

## **Kern County Crusaders rearing to get back on the field since their last season was cancelled by the COVID-19 pandemic**

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2021 March Scrimmage against the L.A. Bobcats. 2021 April Scrimmage against the L.A. Bobcats.  
Photo Credit: Kern County Crusaders Media Team

Now in their 6<sup>th</sup> season, the Kern County Crusaders continue to draw the attention of Kern County's top female athletes. Their season was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this season has been shortened for the same reason. The all women's, local, tackle football team will kick off their season on May 8, 2021 in Riverside, California against the Inland Empire Desert Eagles, with their first home game taking place on May 22, 2021. Belonging to the Women's Football Alliance Professional League, their pre-season consisted of two scrimmages against the Los Angeles Bobcats, both games were wins for the Crusaders. The 20, all female, roster has been practicing since January and hopes to continue to grow in strength and numbers.

This year's Crusaders' Team is led by Head Coach, Keith Powell. Powell in his 2nd year as Head Coach, comes with 40 years of coaching experience. His coaching background includes winning a 2013 Youth National Championship, as well as a 2015 8-Man National Championship.

"Looking for an exciting 2021 season and expecting to win our league with an experienced core group of ladies to build on. But always room for more," says Head Coach Keith Powell.

Powell is accompanied in leadership by their Defensive Coordinator, Ryan Brandon. Brandon has been with the Crusaders from the start, and helps with all aspects of the game. Brandon comes with 15 plus years of high school and college level coaching experience.

“We all know the difficulties of this pandemic and what our country has had to go through. But the athletes that have pushed through, stayed the course and safely continued to train have shown extreme grit and determination, which is a huge reflection of their character. This season means so much more than years past and why the coaching staff is excited to see these amazing athletes perform on the football field,” boasts Defensive Coordinator, Ryan Brandon.

Zach Richardson, owner of the team for six years now, started the league to promote female athletes and their place in a male dominated sport. A native of Bakersfield, he continues to grow the team to bring positivity to the diverse, athletic women of Kern County.

“The excitement for the Kern County Crusaders’ program and the players for our 2021 season is unparalleled to years past. Our staff and hardworking players, while excited to get back on the field, are even more focused on making sure that we can complete our season after our cancellation of the 2020 season. The entire organization is aware of the hardships returning from 1 season off and their hard work and dedication know how important it is to play in 2021 and continue to build on the foundation of what they have helped establish for many more years,” claims Team Owner, Richardson.

The Crusaders are grateful for their ongoing list of partners, and hope for more of the community to become involved. This year they are supported by Strength and Health Gym, Fabulous Burger, RLH Fire Protection, A3 Sports Performance, Your Drugstore, Hookem n Bookem Outdoors, LEVL Lifestyle and Shropshire Chiropratic. The Crusaders are always welcoming new partners, check out their website at [Sponsor Us](#) for more information.

The community is invited to come out and support these athletes. You can find their full schedule here [2021 Game Schedule](#). Home game’s will be played at West High School located at 1200 New Stine Road in Bakersfield, California.

### **Kern County Crusader’s 2021 Roster**

**Coaches:** Keith Powell (Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator), Ryan Brandon (Defensive Coordinator), David Gambill (O-Line Coach), Tracy Terry (Line Coach) and Tyler Potter (Defense Assistant Coach)

**Name, Jersey #, Position, Stats**

Andrea Popoy-Permijio, 84, O-Line, 5'3, 198 lbs  
Ashley Cordova, 35, RB/MLB, 5'7, 240 lbs  
Ashli Schnaidt, 55, OL/SS/LB, 5'4, 160 lbs  
Carla Mackey, 77  
Carmen Millan, 56, OL/DL, 5'7, 215 lbs  
Cassie Short, 6, S/W/K, 5'8, 150 lbs  
DaShonda Spratley, 12, FB, 5'3, 175 lbs  
Elizabeth Salinas, 30, LB, 5'2, 175 lbs  
Erlinda Martinez, LT/LG, 5', 155 lbs  
Heather Allen, 66, OL/DL, 5'7, 200 lbs  
Isabet Flores, 10, S/RB/WR/CB, 5', 105 lbs  
Jordan Richardson, 7, OLB, 5'9, 160 lbs  
Juana Sanchez, 11, WR/CB, 5'4, 155 lbs  
Kimberlyn Sandoval, 79, OL/DL, 5'6, 250 lbs  
Lauren Lorenz, 23, LB/OL, 5'6, 190 lbs  
Laurisa Hollenshed, 4, RB/CB/SS, 5'6, 160 lbs  
Marleen Pratt, 43  
Megan Sharp, 74, OL/DL, 5'6, 185 lbs  
Theresa Diaz, 89, OL/DL, 5'4, 225 lbs  
Victoria Spencer, 24, WR/S, 5'4, 160 lbs

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