

The Press Democrat, Dick Phillips: The Bottom Line 11/5/1986

She doesn't look like a 49er or even an L.A. Raider. She probably wouldn't be comfortable huddling with those big guys, anyway.

But Lennice Ambrose of Santa Rosa is just as determined in tackling a job as any of those linebackers.

She's the founder and executive director of Spinal Cord Injury Network International in Santa Rosa California.

One of the organization major projects is education. Think about that for a minute.

Imagine someone waking in a hospital after an accident, paralyzed from the neck down.

It's difficult to envision, but that person will gradually be forced to learn a different lifestyle, one where taking a simple shower becomes a major effort.

Dressing and eating a meal may take a big part of the day.

Suddenly, a world that offered so many choices becomes very limited.

Ambrose is the mother of 19-year-old Richard Madariaga, who in 1985 automobile accident left him paralyzed from the chest down and using a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

She may not be a football star, but Ambrose has the ball and she's running with it.