

Sooners' Secondary Stifles Cal

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Junior quarterback Dean Blevins ran 10 yards for one touchdown and passed 65 yards for another and Oklahoma's secondary lived up to its reputation as the Sooners defeated pass-minded California, 28-17, Saturday.

With fullbacks Kenny King and Jim Culbreath running almost at will against the Golden Bears' lightweight line, the Sooners overcame some early fumbles to fashion a 21-7 half-time lead.

California's Joe Roth had success connecting with his receivers on short routes, but the Sooner secondary completely cut off the long pass until Roth hit wide receiver Ed Gillies on a 28-yard scoring aerial with 3:34 to play.

Roth, who passed for 379 yards against Georgia last week, was limited to 85 yards in the first half Saturday but came back after intermission and finished with 27 of 46 passes for 284 yards and a touchdown. The Bears were held to 91 yards on the ground.

Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer had high praise for Roth, who was sacked three times. "This young man has probably never had the pressure put on him before today. He was put on the ground several times and harassed. He just kept popping up and coming back. He's a very dangerous young man and with him on the field we never felt we had the game under control."

Culbreath, a senior, got the Sooners on the scoreboard with a 56-yard jaunt with 5:57 left in the first period, and Uwe von Schamann got the first of his four extra-point kicks.

Culbreath and King, who started the game, ran wild as the Sooners piled up 323 yards rushing in the first half, and finished with 490. Culbreath wound up with 145 yards and King added 130.

But Oklahoma had three early drives stopped by fumbles, losing the ball once on the California 6 after a 61-yard dash by King. Sooner halfback Elvis Peacock had a 30-yard run into the end zone nullified by a penalty.

The Bears apparently made some adjustments to contain the Sooners' inside attack at intermission, and the third quarter was a 0-0 draw.

Blevins, who had his troubles in Oklahoma's 24-3 opening victory at Vanderbilt, was much sharper operating the wishbone in the first half against the Bears.

The Sooners second touchdown occurred after reserve end Myron Shoate sacked Roth for an 11-yard loss at the Bear 1-yard line. Oklahoma got the ball at the California 36 after a short punt and Blevins scored three plays later on a 3-yard effort up the middle.

The Sooners stung the Bears with a 65-yard touchdown pass from Blevins to 5-8 split end Lee Hover midway in the second period. The bomb came on a first-down play and capped a 90-yard drive that gave the Sooners a 21-0 lead.

But Roth answered that by directing an 80-yard scoring march that cut the deficit to 21-7 at half-time. Roth clicked on four of five passes to four different receivers before running back Markey Crane rammed into the end zone from the 11. It was the last Bear scoring until a 44-yard field goal by Jim Breech and Gilles' touchdown reception in the fourth quarter.

It took a weird 71-yard touchdown play early in the final stanza involving Blevins and Hover to seal the victory for Oklahoma. Blevins was hit from behind after a 13-yard gain and the ball popped into the air. Hover picked it up and raced the final 58 yards for the score over objections from the Bears, who contended Blevins made an illegal forward lateral.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

California	0	7	0	10	—17
Oklahoma	7	14	0	7	—28

Oklahoma—Culbreath 56 run (von Schamann kick)

Oklahoma—Blevins 10 run (von Schamann kick)

Oklahoma—Hover 65 pass from Blevins (von Schamann kick)

California—Crane 11 run (Breech kick)

California—FG Breech 44

Oklahoma—Hover 58 run with recovered fumble (von Schamann kick)

California—Gillies 28 pass from Roth (Breech kick)

Attendance—71,285

STATISTICS

	Cal	Oklahoma
First downs	29	21
Rushes-yards	38-82	69-490
Yards passing	284	72
Return yards	27	37
Passes	27-46-1	2-2-0
Punts	7-39.9	4-34.5
Fumbles-lost	3-3	7-3
Penalties-yards	9-75	11-38

Individual Leaders

RUSHING: California—Jones 14-71; Crane 9-30; Oklahoma—Culbreath 15-145; King 13-133.

PASSING: California—Roth 27-46-1, 284. Oklahoma—Blevins 2-2-0, 72.

RECEIVING: California—Frelles 7-66; Gillies 2-45; Oklahoma—Hover 1-65; Ivory 1-7.