

USC Beats Cal With Defense, 20-6

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Jeter & Friends Contain Roth on a Day When Bell Plays Hurt

BY BOB OATES
Times Staff Writer

USC's fourth-ranked Trojans struck explosively for three touchdowns Saturday to win their sixth straight football game, 20-6, as quarterback Vince Evans and the Trojan defense outplayed California's Golden Bears.

Before a Coliseum crowd of 60,323, Evans broke up a 7-3 struggle in the second quarter with a 55-yard pass to split end Randy Simmrin, whose leaping catch at the Cal 27 set up Evans' 8-yard run for 13-3 at halftime.

The Trojans were to score only one second-half touchdown—on Mosi Tatu's 9-yard run following Evans' 20-yard pass to Simmrin—and they didn't, in truth, need that. This was a game controlled by Gary Jeter and his friends in the powerful USC defense, which held Cal's Joe Roth to 109 passing yards on a 12-for-27 day that he spent partly in the shotgun formation.

It might have been a different game if Ricky Bell had been healthier. Although the Trojan tailback scored the first touchdown on a 6-yard run, he never at any time resembled Ricky Bell.

Going in with a painful hip injury, he went out with a sprained ankle in the third quarter after gaining 78 yards on 24 carries. Quite possibly his chance for recognition as college football's player of the year went out with him.

This was his second straight sub-par game because of injuries, and, fairly or unfairly, durability is a factor in the deliberations leading to postseason prizes.

The hip injury that sidetracked Bell in the first quarter of last week's Oregon State game—in which he made only 68 yards after gaining 347 a week earlier against Washington State—interfered with both his speed and mobility against Cal.

He had a bunch of 6- and 8-yard runs but couldn't exploit any of them.

Freshman Charles White came on in the third quarter and, because he was healthy, he showed what Bell might have accomplished without his injuries. In 14 carries, White gained 93.

Though he weighs only 180, compared to Bell's 218, White has much of Bell's power and tackle-breaking strength and perhaps more speed. His high school times were 4.6 and 9.7.

The seven points USC earned with Bell in the first quarter were, however, to prove sufficient against Cal this time because of coach John Robinson's defense.

Robinson, 6-1 as a head coach, is a power football advocate, offensively and defensively, and it was with defensive power—not quickness or cuteness—that the Trojans neutralized Roth, the great Cal passer.

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A GAME-BREAKER—USC quarterback Vince Evans, in the arms of a couple of Cal tacklers, breaks free to score—and exult—at the

end of the first half Saturday at the Coliseum. The touchdown gave the Trojans a 13-3 lead and the defense did most of the rest.

Times photos by Robert Lachman

USC (6-1) DEFEATS CAL, 20-6

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Roth started and played into the fourth quarter, when he came out with a minor injury, and he passed well, though not as well as he can. His main problem was Jeter.

The Trojan tackle spent most of his time in the Cal pocket and made what could be considered the turning-point play at the start of the third quarter, when the Bears still appeared to have some kind of chance.

It was first down for them at the USC 34 and Jeter came off the line of scrimmage with the snap of the ball. He came up with Roth as he faded to pass and finally, after a backward footrace, sacked him for a 19-yard loss.

With the ball now at midfield, it was third-and-29 for the Bears, and they never had another chance to pull the game out.

They were smothered by Jeter, Walt Underwood and the others in USC's front seven and were intercepted by Dennis Thurman and Ricky Odum.

On the Bears' two longest advances Saturday—to the USC 16 in the second quarter and 30 in the fourth—coach Mike White opted for field goals and Jim Breech kicked them 33 and 47 yards.

Wesley Walker, who played most of the first half until he was hurt again in the last minute, caught one pass for 15 yards. The Bears netted only 18 yards rushing in a game in which the Trojans had the best of it in total offense, 376 yards to 119. Most of Cal's completed passes, 21 in 43 attempts, were on the short side. Some were thrown from a shotgun set.

In a penalty-plagued game, Roth's best drive was a feature of the first quarter, in which he would have moved from the Cal 19 to at least the USC 25 but for three penalties. The Trojans eventually lost 109 yards on 10 penalties.

Evans made it all up and more. He gained 33 yards for USC on 12 runs, mostly scrambles, and completed 8 of 19 passes for 120 yards.

His best two long throws went to Simmrin, the 6-2 junior, who, first was open for what was going to be a

How They Scored

SCORE BY QUARTERS

California	0	3	0	3	6
USC	7	6	7	0	20

FIRST QUARTER

USC 7, California 0

Bell, 6-yard run at 7:59. 22-yard drive, 6 plays after V. Smith fumbled G. Walker's punt and M. McDonald recovered. PAT—G. Walker (kick).

SECOND QUARTER

USC 7, California 3

Breech, 33-yard field goal at 8:01. 25-yard drive, 4 plays after Thurman fumbled Maehris' punt and Yauman recovered. Key gain—Hillmon, 7, pass from Roth.

USC 13, California 3

Evans, 8-yard run at 14:53. 60-yard drive, 8 plays. Key gain—Simmrin, 55, pass from Evans for first down at Cal 27. PAT—Kick failed.

THIRD QUARTER

USC 20, California 3

Tatupu, 9-yard run at 10:33. 60-yard drive, 8 plays. Key gains—White, 10, 9, runs; Simmrin, 19, pass from Evans for first down at Cal 19. PAT—G. Walker (kick).

FOURTH QUARTER

USC 20, California 6

Breech, 47-yard field goal at 6:18. 70-yard drive, 8 plays. Key gains—Crane, 10, pass from Roth; Hillmon, 11, run. Key play—USC called for roughing the passer, giving Cal first down at Trojan 45 (15-yard penalty).

Field goals missed—Breech (C) 1 (51); G. Walker (USC) 1 (52). Attendance—60,323

45-yard touchdown if he'd held the ball. A mile long, the pass hit his extended fingers as Simmrin went for it full speed a stride in front of a sprinting Cal defensive back.

Simmrin held Evans' second bomb on a 55-yard play and set up two touchdowns, catching four for 94.

Throughout most of the afternoon the Trojans dawdled offensively, punting seven times. But they roused themselves three times, moving explosively through three scoring series.

The first was a series typical of the Bell era. Taking possession on the Cal 22 with Mike McDonald's fumble recovery, the Trojans scored quickly on five Bell runs, the last a hard slant at Cal's right end.

Next, Evans was executing Robinson's two-minute drill just before halftime when he successfully moved the Trojans 80 yards, getting most of it on the 55-yard pass to Simmrin. The ball was in the air 63 yards and Simmrin had to jump for it to take it away from Cal cornerback Jeff Moyo.

Evans followed his big pass with an eight-yard touchdown run up the middle on a second-and-2 scramble. Following coach Robinson's instructions to "make up your mind quickly and throw or run," Evans, back to pass, was heavily rushed at the start of the play. Ducking under a sack-minded Bear end, Burl Toler, Evans bolted forward and broke three tackles en route to the end zone.

USC's third touchdown drive, sustained 60 yards in the third quarter, was less spectacular but uncommonly professional.

The key ingredient was the power and speed of White, who upset the Bear defense with two 10-yard runs. So the Bears were probably thinking about White when, on first down at the Cal 39, Evans dropped back and threw to Simmrin for 20 yards.

And on first-and-goal at the Cal 9 they were probably still thinking about White when Evans faked a pitch to the freshman tailback, then slipped the ball to fullback Tatupu for a touchdown sprint up the middle.

On his most exciting run on this series, White headed left, ran into a wall and circled back to his right to gain 10 yards.

USC's Mike Carey, the 202-pound defensive back who found out the other day he has Hodgkins disease, played on the special teams.

Ken McAllister, who played in the Cal defense, got off the longest run. Intercepting in the third quarter, he returned the ball 60 yards.

Although the Bears couldn't run, one of their running backs, Oliver Hillmon, caught eight passes.