

Dankworth Has His Day as Roth Rests

BY SKIP BAYLESS

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BERKELEY—With California's main attraction, quarterback Joe Roth, on the sideline charting plays instead of running them, UCLA quarterback Jeff Dankworth stole the show at Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon.

Dankworth shook off a muscle spasm in his lower back to run 18 times for 107 yards and a touchdown, hit 8 of 12 passes for 83 more yards and six more points and guided the fumbling Bruins past Cal, 35-19.

Roth, whose knee was strained last week against Oregon State, watched in civilian clothes as his counterpart ran the UCLA offense masterfully. For Dankworth, who hasn't had nearly the publicity buildup as Roth, the victory was doubly satisfying.

"I realize an option quarterback—unless he's started three years—won't be in the limelight near as much as a passer," said Dankworth, who has played behind John Sciarra the last two seasons.

"I won't have the stats running an option offense, where they may not give the quarterback the run, and most people only look at stats. But it gives me a different kind of satisfaction to run an offense I think is more complex and takes more athletic ability. I get just as big a thrill watching Wendell Tyler break one for a touchdown."

Tyler, the lightning bug of a halfback, began the rash of Bruin fumbles when he was stripped of the ball in the second quarter (UCLA lost six altogether). The visitors then seemed to lose their momentum and saw a 14-0 lead shrink to 14-13 at halftime.

But after Tyler was benched for a while, he came back to score second-half touchdowns from 33 and 13 yards and finish with a game-leading 131 on 19 carries.

"The coaches just wanted me to sit down and concentrate on what I was supposed to be doing," said Tyler, who until Saturday had cured his fumbling of last season. "I just wasn't mentally ready. It would have been a great day for me—without the fumbles."

But Tyler was satisfied for other reasons. "It was an important win for us pride-wise," he said, throwing out his chest. "Last year Cal people were saying UCLA didn't deserve to go to the Rose Bowl (the Bruins, who tied Cal for the Pacific 8 title, had beaten the Golden Bears). We beat Ohio State, and they still said we weren't as good as Cal. So today we had to prove to them who was best."

"Man, we turned the ball over six times and they still couldn't take advantage of our defense."

That's what impressed UCLA coach Terry Donahue.

"I was extremely pleased with our defense," said Donahue. "They went in there and stopped them from moving the ball when the momentum had shifted. That's tough. I just don't know how to explain the fumbles. We were leading the conference in fewest turnovers going into the game."

Donahue also wasn't overly pleased that his defense twice had let Cal slip out of fourth-down situations. As UCLA did against Ohio State, the Bears snapped to the short man in punt formation, John Dixon, who took off around the unprotected end.

"We weren't expecting it," Donahue said.

But nevertheless, the young coach was satisfied. "This was a great victory," he said with a long sigh, "because it's the fifth time in a row that we've beaten California, and anytime you do that you've established dominance. That's important."

"For Cal (which now has two conference losses)—this was their whole season and everybody knew it."

Donahue also was relieved that his quarterback wasn't seriously hurt. A Bear helmet had torn a muscle in the lower left side of Dankworth's back, and with the 6-foot, 195-pounder on the bench, the Bruins sputtered.

"It began to spasm, but they gave me a shot of cortisone and taped a pad on it and I was ready to go again," said Dankworth, who also suffered two cuts on his face.

"But it's tough to put a second team guy (Steve Bukich, who fumbled the ball twice during his late second-quarter stint) in cold in such a tough situation."

"But overall, I was happy with the way I performed. We converted on several key third downs, and we threw the ball well when we had to. There's no way they can cover Wally Henry (whom Dankworth hit with a 27-yard touchdown strike) one-on-one like they tried to do."

"They really only stopped us three or four times on offense. Early in the second quarter, I thought maybe we could do to them what we did to Washington State (62-3), but I missed a bomb I should have hit and then we turned the ball over."

Several times Dankworth ran what Donahue calls "just an old sandlot quarterback sneak." But the first time was the most successful, as Dankworth stepped out of a toe-hold tackle and sprinted 18 yards up the gut for the Bruins' first touchdown.

"Cal knew we might run it," said Dankworth, who had run a variation of the play against Stanford. "But they just had a mental lapse, because their nose guard was overloaded to the strong side."

Dankworth was asked how much Cal's offense was hurt by the absence of Roth, who probably will be the first quarterback selected in the National Football League draft. Dankworth didn't hesitate.

"I think it hurt more not having Wesley Walker (the flanker also was in street clothes with an inflamed arch) and the deep threat," he said. "Fred Besana (who subbed for Roth) has played before and could be starting for a lot of teams in the Pac-8."