

Roth Gets Cal Off Fast--- Georgia Steals It. 36-24

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ATHENS, Ga.—Cal quarterback Joe Roth threw two long touchdown passes in the first half and three interceptions in the second half Saturday.

So Georgia won the game, 36-24, after losing the half, 21-12.

Roth completed 21 of 36 for 379 yards—and twice bombed Wesley Walker for touchdowns on plays measuring 69 and 88 yards—to come within 36 inches of the California one-game yardage record he set last year.

Georgia scored the three winning touchdowns in the last 21 minutes when the Bears seemed to run out of gas in the third quarter, settling for a field goal the only time they threatened after halftime.

The Bulldogs came quickly with their go-ahead touchdown on their first offensive play after their first interception. Exploiting a sudden Cal weakness, second-string quarterback Matt Robinson threw his first-down pass into a large hole in which Georgia flanker Gene Washington was the lone inhabitant. It went 33 yards.

Thereafter, on a warm, sunny afternoon, as the Bears grew weaker, the Bulldogs got progressively stronger and bolder.

Roth's two touchdowns came on picture passes to flanker Walker. The first ball was in the air 30 yards, the second 55. The first was fired into a seam where Walker was closely guarded before he pulled it in and ran away.

The second was lobbed when Walker was still in the pack. His 9.4 speed took him out of the pack like a jet taking off. He was in full stride when the ball dropped in gently over his head.

A Cal sprinter, Walker has improved his hands and concentration since last year. He played one of his great games after hurting his ribs in a freak collision warming up. The pain eventually drove him from the field.

Roth looked thinner and taller than last year. Listed at 6-4 and 205, he took command of the game with his full repertoire of bombs, intermediate passes and short ones in the first half—but seemed to lose his touch in the third quarter. The killer interception, the first, was overthrown.

Walker caught four for 181 yards as Cal led in total offense (434 yards to 338) on a day when, minus Chuck Muncie, it gained only 55 rushing.

Said coach Mike White: "We must be able to run better. Joe can't be expected to do it all."

Georgia, a 4-point favorite, had been ranked 15th and 16th in the preseason polls. Cal was 11th and 15th.

Georgia coach Vince Dooley said: "They (the Bears) had a better defensive team than I thought and it's going to make them a very balanced team this year."

As balanced as you can get without running.