Cal Beats OSU

Written by RUGBYMag Staff Saturday, 09 March 2013 23:02

Corvallis, Ore. - A starting lineup featuring 10 full changes and an overall count of nine frosh-sophs on the field by the final whistle resulted in a 62-7 win for the No. 2 Golden Bears over Oregon State Saturday in their PAC Rugby Conference match on Peavy Field on the OSU campus.

Cal led 26-0 at minute 57 when Beavers wing Nathan Kimmell scored a try that was converted by flyhalf Nick Cattrell to account for the Oregon State's tally.

But after that, a yellow card for a high tackle put Oregon State down a man, and Cal punished them severely. Between minute

No. 8 Danny Barrett had three tries, and fullback Jake Anderon equalled him in points with a try and five conversions. Prop Lyall Davenport and sophomore winger Andrew Battaglia both scored pairs for the Bears.

Although Cal improved to 16-0 overall and 4-0 in the PAC playing its fourth match in eight days, a high error count and sometimes disconnected phase play left the Bears less than fully satisfied with their performance.

"We want to improve after every performance and today is no different," said Anderson.

Cal captain Seams Kelly was given his first PAC conference rest of the season, offering a start to junior transfer Alex Quimson at outside center. Inside center was occupied by Eakalafi Okusi and the halfback combination consisted of freshmen Harry Adolphus at flyhalf and Russell Webb making the first start of his career at scrumhalf.

It amounted to an inexperienced backline and it showed; still, Cal competed hard enough to win back some of the 50-50 balls it frequently created.

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"The contest on the ground was the key difference," said Beavers head coach Anthony Lally, whose team fell to 0-2 in the conference and 3-3 overall. "They were very good and low over the ball, and their explosiveness added to the possession and territory in Cal's favor."

In the reserve-grade contest following, Cal defeated Oregon State, 122-0.

After their Pacific Northwest trip, the Bears will be back in Berkeley to train for their annual trip to Canada, where they aim to win their seventh straight "World Cup" series against the University of British Columbia in Vancouver March 24.

Cal will be back on Witter Rugby Field to celebrate Homecoming when it hosts Utah at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. That will be their final PAC Conference game.

Oregon State still has Arizona, ASU and the Utes to play.

"This is a terrific conference to play in, and there's no fluff," said Lally. "We aren't in a situation where we're concerned with getting a false sense of confidence. Playing these games is really helping us get better."