

WEEK FOUR
CALIFORNIA at MISSISSIPPI

No. 23 California holds on to defeat Mississippi 28-20

OXFORD, Miss. -- Chase Garbers threw for four touchdowns, but No. 23 California needed a game-saving tackle at the 1-yard line from linebacker Evan Weaver on the game's final play to defeat Mississippi 28-20 on Saturday.

Cal (4-0) was in control until the final six minutes, when reserve quarterback John Rhys Plumlee led Ole Miss (2-2) on a late rally to wipe out a 28-13 deficit. Plumlee was stopped by Weaver for no gain on fourth down at the 1-yard line as time expired. Garbers completed 23 of 35 passes for 357 yards, including TDs of 9 and 60 yards to Jordan Duncan and Jake Tonges on the opening two possessions of the third quarter, setting up the late defensive heroics.

"Weaver has 22 tackles. When was the last time we didn't talk about what a great player he is? He produces every week," California coach Justin Wilcox said. "Chase was awesome. It's not even close. That's the best game he has played."

The Rebels got strong performances from quarterbacks Matt Corral and Plumlee, who led the final two possessions. Corral had a 1-yard scoring run and was 22-of-41 passing for 266 yards before leaving with a rib injury. The Rebels had 525 yards of total offense but failed on two scoring opportunities with missed field goals.

Plumlee went 7 of 7 for 82 yards in the final six minutes. Jerrion Ealy scored on a 15-yard run with 4:29 left to cap Plumlee's first series. The Rebels went 89 yards in 10 plays in the final 2:45, finished by the game-saving stop from the Golden Bears' defense.

"We had a great opportunity today, but we just didn't make enough plays to win the game," Mississippi coach Matt Luke said. "Matt did well, but we've got to look at the rib injury. John Rhys made the most of his opportunity."

Cal finished with 433 yards of total offense, including first-half touchdown passes by Garbers of 6 and 13 yards to Trevon Clark and Christopher Brown Jr. The Golden Bears were efficient offensively, going 6 for 12 in third-down situations and 3 for 3 in the red zone, capped by touchdowns.

THE TAKEAWAY

California: The Bears overcome a cross-country road trip, an early kickoff time -- especially for a Pac-12 team -- and a serious late charge to earn the decision. This win should raise expectations about Wilcox's team after flying under the radar nationally early this season.

"When you come down here and play in this environment, against those coaches and athletes and win like we had to win, it builds confidence," Wilcox said. "This is important to us and definitely is a step in the right direction."

Ole Miss: Any margin for error in a bid for postseason play was erased in a second nonconference loss; the first was at Memphis. The Rebels, while showing flashes of improvement, are still a work in progress as the most difficult section of the schedule remains.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Winning on the road against an SEC opponent, along with the first 4-0 start since 2015, should be good enough for the Bears to move up a few spots.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CAL	7	7	14	0	28
MISS	7	6	0	7	20

Scoring Summary -----

	CAL	MISS
FIRST QUARTER		
CAL TD 9:39 Trevon Clark 6 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)		
10 plays, 70 yards, 3:47	7	0
MISS TD 5:50 Matt Corral 1 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 3:49	7	7
SECOND QUARTER		
MISS FG 14:52 Luke Logan 29 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 57 yards, 4:02	7	10
CAL TD 10:43 Christopher Brown Jr. 13 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)		
10 plays, 75 yards, 4:09	14	10
MISS FG 3:59 Luke Logan 33 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 19 yards, 1:25	14	13
THIRD QUARTER		
CAL TD 11:25 Jordan Duncan 9 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:35	21	13
CAL TD 9:03 Jake Tonges 60 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)		
4 plays, 72 yards, 1:00	28	13
FOURTH QUARTER		
MISS TD 4:29 Jerrion Ealy 15 Yd Run (Luke Logan Kick)		
10 plays, 88 yards, 1:53	28	20

Team Stats	CAL	MISS
First Downs	24	27
Passes for First	19	18
Rushes for First	3	8
Penalties for First	2	1
Third Down Efficiency	6-12	5-17
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	2-3
Total Yards	433	525
Total Plays	69	86
Avg Gain Per Play	6.3	6.1
Net Yards Rushing	60	177
Rushes	33	38
Yards Per Rush	1.8	4.7
Net Yards Passing	373	348
Comp-Att	24-36	29-48
Yards Per Pass	10.4	7.3
Times Sacked	4	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-20	-12
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	6	5
Punt Average	36.3	44.0
Penalties	4	6
Penalty Yards	30	55
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	31:00	29:00

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
CALIFORNIA							
Marcel Dancy	12	47	3.9	0	13		
Christopher Brown Jr.	8	11	1.4	0	4		
Chase Garbers	12	3	0.3	0	8		
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
MISSISSIPPI							
Matt Corral	16	56	3.5	1	21		
Scottie Phillips	14	54	3.9	0	8		
John Rhys Plumlee	3	53	17.7	0	47		
Jerrion Ealy	4	25	6.3	1	15		
Team	1	-11	-11.0	0	0		
PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
CALIFORNIA							
Chase Garbers	23	35	357	10.2	4	1	86.0
Devon Modster	1	1	16	16.0	0	0	60.4
MISSISSIPPI							
Matt Corral	22	41	266	6.5	0	0	46.7
John Rhys Plumlee	7	7	82	11.7	0	0	90.0
RECEIVING							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
CALIFORNIA							
Jake Tonges	3	88	29.3	1	60		
Nikko Remigio	3	72	24.0	0	43		
Jordan Duncan	5	63	12.6	1	20		
Jeremiah Hawkins	2	40	20.0	0	24		
Kekoa Crawford	3	39	13.0	0	17		
Christopher Brown Jr.	2	23	11.5	1	13		
Trevon Clark	2	17	8.5	1	11		
Marcel Dancy	3	16	5.3	0	10		
Gavin Reinwald	1	15	15.0	0	15		
MISSISSIPPI							
Elijah Moore	11	102	9.3	0	20		
Braylon Sanders	5	73	14.6	0	40		
Demarcus Gregory	2	63	31.5	0	41		
Jonathan Mingo	1	30	30.0	0	30		
Jerrion Ealy	3	30	10.0	0	17		
Dontario Drummond	3	22	7.3	0	13		
Scottie Phillips	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Tylan Knight	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Octavious Cooley	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Dannis Jackson	1	3	3.0	0	3		