

WEEK ONE
UC DAVIS at CALIFORNIA

Brown's 197 rushing yards leads Cal past UC Davis 27-13

BERKELEY, Calif. -- Christopher Brown Jr. rushed for a career-high 197 yards and a touchdown in his first start, and California overcame a sloppy first half and beat UC Davis 27-13 on Saturday.

Chase Garbers shrugged off two turnovers and completed 16 of 28 passes for 238 yards and two touchdowns, both to Kekoa Crawford. Greg Thomas kicked a pair of field goals, including a career-best 47-yarder, as the Golden Bears won their third consecutive opener under coach Justin Wilcox.

California won despite four turnovers including a fumble by Ashtyn Davis on the opening kickoff. That set up a short touchdown run by Ulonzo Gilliam Jr. and the Aggies went up 10-0 on a field goal by Max O'Rourke before the Bears rallied.

"We weren't in sync but it wasn't panic," Wilcox said. "We battled back and got into some rhythm on both sides of the ball. We just made it really difficult on ourselves at times."

Brown, a seldom-used backup to Patrick Laird last season, provided the biggest spark and became the first Cal running back to go over 100 yards in his first start since Jahvid Best in 2008.

"We knew Chris would get the ball a lot," Wilcox said. "That's what we expect of him. Probably more touches and more yards than he had all last year. He's been preparing for this."

That was critical on a day when Cal's passing game was hit-and-miss for most of the afternoon. Garbers threw an interception in the first quarter and lost a fumble in the third.

Brown's 5-yard touchdown in the third quarter helped put the Bears up 20-13. He later carried four times for 21 yards to set up Garbers' second touchdown throw to Crawford, a 26-yarder that was tipped near the goal line by Davis cornerback Jaylin White.

"Offensively we just came out too loose," Garbers said. "We were kind of lackadaisical to start. We regrouped and came out and did what we do."

Jake Maier, the Big Sky Conference player of the year, completed 19 of 37 passes for 173 yards.

The Aggies, 10-3 a year ago, were held to 100 yards total offense in the second half.

THE TAKEAWAY

UC Davis: The Aggies controlled the game early and had Cal's offense on the ropes but couldn't sustain the momentum. Maier made some crisp throws but clearly misses not having his No. 1 receiver from a year ago, Keelan Doss, who graduated. The loss probably won't drop Davis too far down in the FCS rankings -- the Aggies were No. 8 going into the game -- but coach Dan Hawkins and his group have a lot to clean.

California: The Bears were understandably rusty coming out of the blocks and their first four drives ended in two punts, an interception and a fumble. They eventually settled down and pulled away in the second half but will have to make significant strides heading into next week's Pac-12 opener in Washington. Johnson's running was huge considering Cal running backs had only two 100-yard games in 2018.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UCD	10	0	3	0	13
CAL	0	13	7	7	27

Scoring Summary -----

	UCD	CAL
FIRST QUARTER		
UCD TD 13:44 Jr. Ulonzo Gilliam 2 Yd Run (Max O'Rourke Kick)	7	0
4 plays, 21 yards, 1:10		
UCD FG 0:40 Max O'Rourke 40 Yd Field Goal	10	0
12 plays, 42 yards, 4:04		
SECOND QUARTER		
CAL TD 10:13 Kekoa Crawford 37 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)	10	7
6 plays, 87 yards, 1:53		
CAL FG 7:16 Greg Thomas 44 Yd Field Goal	10	10
5 plays, 34 yards, 1:52		
CAL FG 0:43 Greg Thomas 47 Yd Field Goal	10	13
12 plays, 50 yards, 3:25		
THIRD QUARTER		
UCD FG 11:24 Max O'Rourke 32 Yd Field Goal	13	13
10 plays, 60 yards, 3:36		
CAL TD 3:01 Christopher Brown Jr. 5 Yd Run (Greg Thomas Kick)	13	20
8 plays, 67 yards, 3:49		
FOURTH QUARTER		
CAL TD 13:52 Kekoa Crawford 26 Yd pass from Chase Garbers (Greg Thomas Kick)	13	27
8 plays, 67 yards, 2:39		

Team Stats	UCD	CAL
First Downs	15	24
Passes for First	9	10
Rushes for First	5	13
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	5-17	4-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	1-2
Total Yards	266	471
Total Plays	68	79
Avg Gain Per Play	3.9	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	83	233
Rushes	30	51
Yards Per Rush	2.8	4.6
Net Yards Passing	183	238
Comp-Att	20-38	16-28
Yards Per Pass	4.8	8.5
Times Sacked	0	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-14
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	8	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	7	5
Penalty Yards	50	42
Fumbles	3	4
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Time of Poss	27:27	32:33

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
UC DAVIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jr. Ulonzo Gilliam	18	89	4.9	1	14		
Tehran Thomas	6	12	2.0	0	7		
Carson Crawford	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Troy Spencer	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Justin Kraft	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Jake Maier	3	-24	-8.0	0	0		
CALIFORNIA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Christopher Brown Jr.	36	197	5.5	1	26		
Marcel Dancy	5	32	6.4	0	13		
Chase Garbers	7	18	2.6	0	13		
Jeremiah Hawkins	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Ricky Walker III	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		
PASSING							
UC DAVIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jake Maier	19	37	173	4.7	0	0	
Carson Crawford	1	1	8	8.0	0	0	
CALIFORNIA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Chase Garbers	16	28	238	8.5	2	1	
RECEIVING							
UC DAVIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Justin Kraft	3	58	19.3	0	27		
Jared Harrell	2	31	15.5	0	16		
Carson Crawford	6	28	4.7	0	12		
Khris Vaughn	2	21	10.5	0	17		
Tehran Thomas	2	19	9.5	0	16		
Wesley Preece	2	9	4.5	0	8		
Matthew Hyman	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Jr. Ulonzo Gilliam	2	7	3.5	0	4		
CALIFORNIA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kekoa Crawford	3	84	28.0	2	37		
Nikko Remigio	4	46	11.5	0	30		
Jake Tonges	1	31	31.0	0	31		
Gavin Reinwald	1	19	19.0	0	19		
Trevon Clark	1	13	13.0	0	13		
Jordan Duncan	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Jeremiah Hawkins	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Christopher Brown Jr.	2	9	4.5	0	5		
Marcel Dancy	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Makai Polk	1	8	8.0	0	8		