

Cal vs Oregon, Oct 2, 1993

The Bears came in as heavy favorites against the Ducks, who had not won in Memorial since 1986. Cal fans were stunned as Oregon scored on their first five possessions (three scores from consecutive Bear turnovers). Cal fans had seen so few highlights (a 24-0 deficit at the end of the first quarter) that they didn't make any noise (aside from cursing) until, after Oregon's fourth touchdown, kicker Tommy Thompson's extra-point try slammed into the right goal post leaving the score at 30-0 in the second quarter.

The Cal offense used the emotion from the missed extra-point to engineer a 54 yard scoring drive that culminated with Lindsey Chapman scoring the touchdown from the 1 yard line. Doug Brien made the extra point, and the Bears ended the half down 30-7. Cal fans were saying ³At least we didn't get shutout.²

Cal began the second half with Quarterback Dave Barr lateraling to Chapman, who took the ball 61 yards for a touchdown, bringing Cal to within sixteen points of the Ducks at 30-14. Cal fans were saying ³At least we're making this less of a blow-out.² Oregon followed with an 81 yard seven play drive that concluded with a touchdown and two-point conversion to give them a 38-14 lead. The Bears answered back, scoring on 46 yard pass to Damien Semien. The two point conversion failed and the Bears were down 38-20.

The next event suddenly had all Cal fans believing a comeback was possible. After the Bear defense stopped the Ducks on three straight plays, Dante DePaola blocked the Ducks' punt attempt and Eric Zomalt picked up the ball and took it 19 yards for the touchdown. Brien's extra point made the score 38-27 with 6:55 left in the third quarter.

Neither team scored on its next three possessions, though Oregon came close. With the ball on Cal's 2 yard line with fourth down and 1 yard to go, the Ducks tried to ice the game only to see Ike

Booth knock down what would have been a TD pass to Juan Shendrick. On its next possession, Oregon made a field goal to go up 41-27 with 5:11 left in the game.

On Cal's next possession, Barr answered by throwing a 72 yard bomb to Semien, who had beaten the Duck secondary. With 4:53 left, the Bears were still down 41-34. A touchdown would bring the Bears to within 1 point, with a choice of going for the tie or the win-something that was unthinkable to Cal fans two hours earlier. Oregon answered with a 30 yard run, but the Bear defense stiffened and Cal got the ball back on their own 15 yard line with 2:22 remaining. The Bears soon faced 3rd and 10, but Barr rolled right and threw an 18 yard pass to Iheanyi Uwaezuoke. Four completions and a 1 yard run later, the Bears were at Oregon's 26 yard line. Barr then threw a perfect strike to Uwaezuoke who streaked down the left sideline into the end-zone. After some consultation, head coach Keith Gilberston went for the win. On an audible play, Dave Barr threw a fade pattern Mike Caldwell on the left-rear corner of the end-zone. All Cal students saw was a flag fly up from the mass of players, but Cal alumni watched Caldwell grab the pass despite defensive pass interference and come down with one foot in bounds. Cal fans erupted in joy now that Cal had the lead 42-41 with 1:17 left.

The Bear defense stopped the Ducks on the next possession, and the worn-out fans and players celebrated the greatest comeback ever in Cal and Pac 10 history. As incredible as Cal's comeback from being down 30-0 was, two teams have had greater comebacks in NCAA history-Maryland beat Miami in 1984 and Ohio State beat Minnesota in 1989; Both teams had come back from 31-0 deficits.