



## Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007: California Football Scrimmage Notes

I watched the practice and scrimmage for the first time this spring this afternoon. The practice actually started at 3:30pm, and the scrimmage around 5. Here's what I recall in no particular order:

1. Quarterback Kevin Riley \*did\* play contrary to some other reports, in both drills and the scrimmage. He was the 3rd string QB. I have high hopes for Riley, and you can see his quick release, but he looks like Kyle Reed did last spring and fall - still feeling his way. Riley threw at least one interception that appeared to be his fault (I think on an underthrown bomb to Desean Jackson that Hagan intercepted short of the end zone, but I could be remembering wrong). Bryan Van Meter was 4th string, and Cory Smits also got some time in drills. In my opinion, Reed made some good plays (nice post to LaReylle Cunningham, long decisive scramble on 3rd down) and some bad ones, but seems to be Cal's most likely #2 QB for now behind Nate Longshore.
2. During the pass blocking drills for backs against LBs: I was surprised to see both James Montgomery and Bryan Schutte block very well, better than Justin Forsett in my opinion. On the other hand, I love the way Forsett is running. He knows which hole to hit, and he hits it quick. I was disappointed to see that Tracy Slocum did not play.
3. Linebackers: Didn't see Zack Follett today and Greg Van Hoesen only took part in the first few drills (might have got dinged up). So it looked to me like Worrell Williams was playing the Mike position on the first unit with Anthony Felder and Justin Moyer on the outside - don't remember which one was at Sam/Will positions. I thought all three played well today, especially Williams (couple big TFLs) and Felder (big tackles, nice 3rd down pass deflection). Eddie Young also looked good. Williams dominated in 1-on-1+blocker tackling drills as usual, but of course he does not have to worry about being in the right position on those drills as has been his issue sometimes in games (being out of position) - he's already there to start in the drills. This time, it was good to see that Williams was also in position to make some big plays during the scrimmage as well as the drills.
4. Pass rush: not much from the defensive ends - bummer. This is the Bears' biggest weakness. Of course, this could just be a good job by our offensive tackles and TEs - couldn't tell. Some good pass and run blitzes by linebackers Worrell Williams, Eddie Young, others, I think Mike Mohamed on one occasion.
5. Punt returns: I think we know Desean owns this role, but Brandon Jones, Nyan Boateng, and Robert Jordan also returned punts during drills. The punt blocking and coverage seemed to have a few chinks. There were some blocks and near blocks, and Desean, Nyan, and Brandon each took one back to the house. Man, Boateng definitely looks like a stud. He switched over to gunner for punt coverage on one play and appeared to outrun Hagan. It will be good to have him in 2008 when our three WR amigos are gone.
6. There seemed to be lots of mixing and matching between 1st/2nd/3rd teams of different units, but here's who seemed to be first team on O and D. Keep in mind that lots of players didn't play due to injury or other issues. I won't talk about the different



sets obviously, as requested by the coaching staff, but I'm going to list 12 first teamers on O rather than 11 – it should be obvious why.

QB: Nate Longshore

RB: Justin Forsett

FB: Will Ta'ufo'ou

WRs: Djax/Hawk/Jordan - all look good.

TE: Craig Stevens

LT: Chet Teofilo (starting LT Mike Gibson is not playing in the spring)

LG: Brian De La Puente

C: Alex Mack

RG: Kevin Bemoll (this may be Norris Malele's position to reclaim when he returns in the fall)

RT: Mike Tepper

DEs: Tyson Alualu, Cody Jones

DTs: Matt Malele, Mika Kane

MLB: Worrell Williams (Follett & Van Hoesen did not play in scrimmage)

OLBs: Anthony Felder, Justin Moyer

Safeties: Thomas Decoud, Robert Peele

CBs: Syd'Quan Thompson, Darian Hagan

And the second teamers (this appeared to be a lot more fluid from series to series, including some play from a couple first teamers on OL):

QB: Kyle Reed

RB: James Montgomery

FB: Brian Holley, (RJ Garrett 3rd string?)

WRs: Nyan Boateng, Sam Desa (Drew Glover, Cameron Toler, Alex Stroud 3rd string) - Desa did make a nice short TD catch on a fade, though I never noticed him otherwise.

TE: Cameron Morrah/Some play by Skylar Curran too

LT: Chet Teofilo/Prueitt (Matt Laird/Justin Prueitt 3rd string)

LG: Mark Gray/Mark Boskovich

C: Chris Guarnero/Mark Gray

RG: Kevin Bemoll/Richard Fisher



RT: Alex Mack (shifted over here from his starting Center position, Laird/Prueitt third string)

DEs: Rulon Davis, John Allen (Tad Smith, Jon Karacozoff 3rd string)

DTs: Derrick Hill, Mike Costanzo

LBs: Eddie Young, Mike Mohamed, Shea McIntyre (Kyle Kirst, Tyler Morrow, Matt Russi 3rd team? - seemed fluid between these 6 with Follett/GVH out .... Morrow had a nice interception)

Safeties: Hampton, Ezeff, didn't see which other safety was 2nd vs. 3rd team, but B. Johnson, K. Frank also played some here

CBs: B. Jones, Jesse Brooks, #6 Gary Doxy? didn't see Charles Amadi

On third string, there were a lot of runs by fullbacks Ta'ufo'ou and Holley. Tailback Bryan Schutte played in drills but not in the scrimmage and as previously noted, Tracy Slocum did not play at all.

7. Longshore's out patterns still don't look as accurate as his deep middle throws (which are awesome as always). In fact, Reed and Riley might look a bit more natural on out passes than Nate, though Nate definitely knows the offense well at this point.

8. I can see with rangy athletes like Boateng and Morrah how they will sometimes be accused of loafing. But after watching for a while, I think that's just how they run and play, sort of how Russell White, before he gained weight, appeared to just look like he was just jogging through the defense. They are deceptively fast and agile. To beat a dead horse, Morrah still needs to work on his blocking as far as I could tell.

9. In general, I was impressed with the level of hitting during the scrimmage. I like that we look both fast \*and\* physical. Of course, as always, it's really hard to tell how good or bad our guys are when they're playing against each other.

10. The entire team ran sprints at the end, possibly as a result of a wager regarding kickers making their final kicks (last drill after the scrimmage). Jeff Tedford briefly but sharply stepped in after the 2nd sprint to command that the sprints be full speed.