

Stanford: Wong plays better against Oregon

Continued from Page 2B
ity," Wong said. "It's not like I didn't have confidence before, but now I am accepting more of a role in getting the job done."

That is something that worries Oregon offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter.

"He is an outstanding pass rusher," Koetter said. "The [Oregon] players and coaches said that he's improved, that he continues to get better with each year they play against him. Stanford's deal in the passing game is to try to put pressure on the quarterback, and he is one of the main guys who does that."

While Wong may feel he is accepting a more important role this year, his teammates think he is becoming a more intense player.

"[Wong] has always been kind of leader, he's always been real vocal, always trying to pump the team up," said strong safety Eliel Swinton. "Even though you don't see him saying stuff during a game, he is saying stuff to us like 'Let's go, let's work through this.'"

"[Wong] seems a little bit more

intense this year," added linebacker Chris Draft, who rooms with Wong this year. "Our defense has to be leaders — everybody on the defense has to be a leader, and he's played his part."

Wong has definitely become more vocal on the field this year, as evidenced by his play last week in Seattle. As time was winding down in the third quarter last Saturday, Wong took exception to a Husky knocking his helmet off. His outburst following the play was perhaps a good sign to many Cardinal fans.

"That's just him showing a lot of emotion this year and showing how his desire for the game has grown within him into more of a hunger for him," Swinton said.

For Wong and the rest of the Cardinal defense, this season has been the first in years in which people are actually talking about the defense rather than the offense. Most notably, people are boasting that Stanford has the 20th-ranked scoring defense in the nation at just 15 points per game.

"We do want to keep scores

down," Wong said. "We don't want to be pushed around and be considered one of the Stanford teams of the past with all the offense and no defense."

Despite the defense's improvement, Wong still lacks what the Ducks have — a Pac-10 Championship.

"I never want to go home because it will be rubbed in my face," Wong said. "I'll go out places or see my friends, they make a concerted effort to tell me about what I missed out on."

Accordingly, when Wong takes the field on Saturday, he'll be looking for a win even more than his teammates.

"It's huge for me," he said. "These are some of the games that every athlete likes to play in — with people back home watching."

"I try to get up for every game the same, but for some reason or another I usually end up raising my level of play a little bit higher against Oregon."

If Wong does step his play up, it could be a long Saturday afternoon for the Ducks.

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NOTRE DAME -10 Washington	Wash	N. Dame	N. Dame	N. Dame	Wash	Wash	N. Dame
FLORIDA -20 LSU	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	Lsu	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	FLORIDA
Florida St. -5.5 MIAMI	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	MIAMI	Florida St.	Florida St.
BYU -41 Unlv	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	Unlv	Unlv
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