

Ducks shot down by Stanford in overtime

Stanford attack too strong for Oregon defense

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

PALO ALTO — What a difference a week makes.

On Oct. 5, Stanford quarterback Chad Hutchinson was knocked out of the Cardinal 26-7 loss at Husky Stadium with a concussion late in the fourth quarter. This weekend, he led the Cardinal to a 27-24 overtime win over the Ducks.

Hutchinson finished Saturday's game with a season-high 365 yards passing while connecting on 27-of-41 passes. But more important for Stanford was the eight-play, 56-yard drive he led the Cardinal on to set up Kevin Miller's game-tying 25-yard field goal with less than a minute left in regulation.

Forty-nine yards of Stanford's final drive came on a fourth-and-12 play from the Cardinal 35 when Hutchinson hit flanker Andre Kirwan down the right sideline for a 49-yard completion.

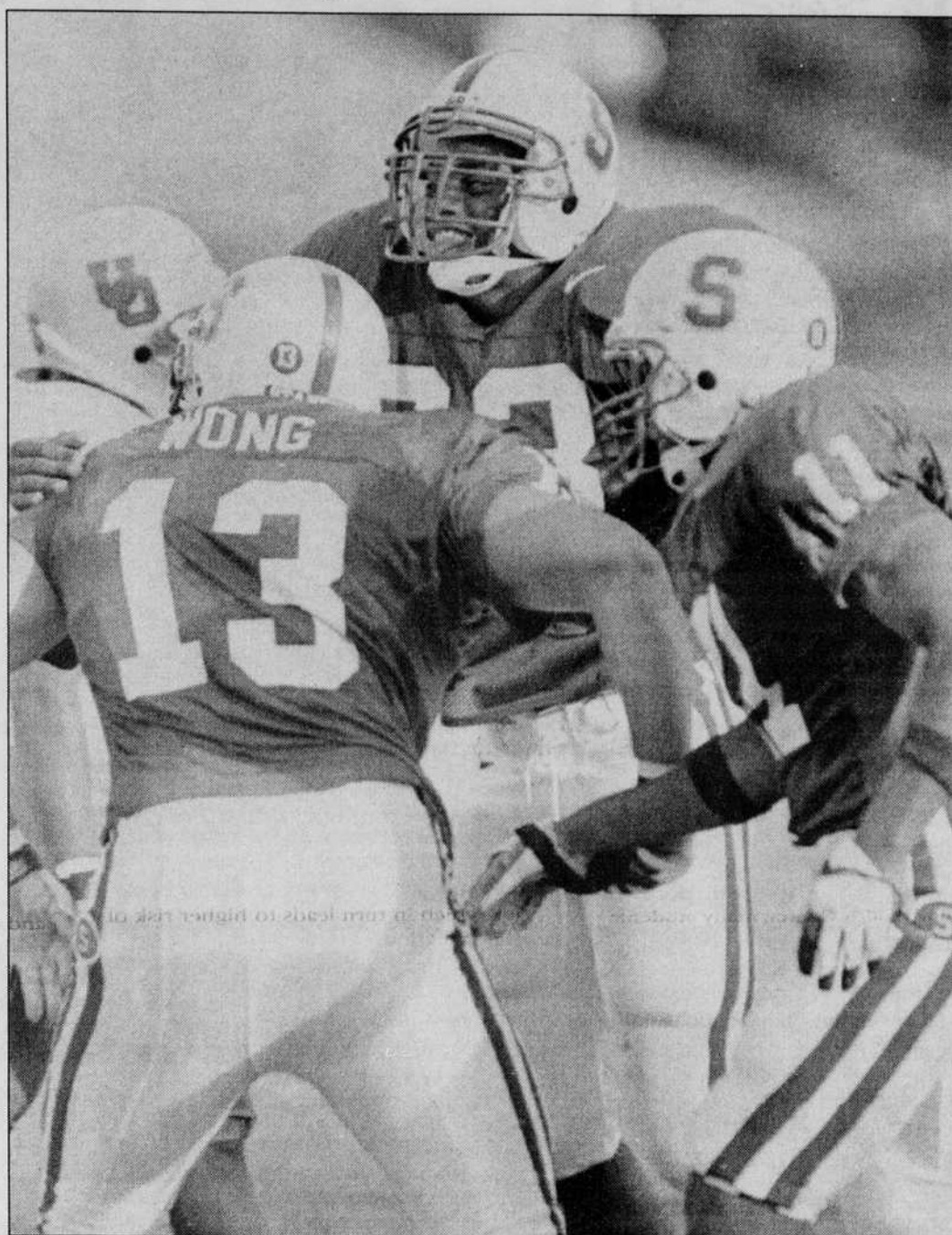
"I dodged out left and I knew I had to put it up pretty far and [Kirwan] had great position and he made a great play," Hutchinson said. "It was a tremendous catch."

Despite his success against Oregon, Hutchinson didn't take all the credit.

"The key today was definitely my offensive line and my backs for how they blocked," Hutchinson said. "My offensive line held up real well and gave me time to pick and choose my receivers."

His ability to pick and choose his receivers loomed large on Hutchinson's late pass to Kirwan.

"I was looking all over the place, and the play wasn't even going to him," Hutchinson said of the pass.



Defensive end Kailee Wong, linebacker Chris Draft (33) and cornerback Leroy Pruitt celebrate Stanford's fumble recovery on Oregon's only possession of overtime.

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Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

PALO ALTO — The situation couldn't have been more perfect for Oregon.

On top of Stanford 24-21 with 1:33 left on the game clock, the Ducks' defense had stopped a Cardinal drive in three plays, putting Stanford in a fourth-and-12 from its own 35-yard line.

All that Oregon [3-4 overall, 0-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference] needed to do was stop one more play for its first conference victory of the season.

Stanford [2-3, 1-1] quarterback Chad Hutchinson took the snap, rolled to his left, stepped up to avoid the Ducks' pass rush and launched a 49-yard prayer down the sideline in the direction of flanker Andre Kirwan. Oregon cornerback Kenny Wheaton was running stride-for-stride with Kirwan when the ball arrived, and as they both leaped up it appeared as though Kirwan pulled Wheaton down by the back of his jersey and made the catch on the Oregon 16-yard line. But no flag was thrown.

Three plays later, Stanford tied the game on a Kevin Miller field goal.

"He had a hold of the back of my jersey and was pulling me down," Wheaton said. "But on the football field there are no excuses — I should have made the play. The ball was in the air and either he makes the play or I make the play."

The game went into overtime after Oregon, with three timeouts remaining, curiously ran out the

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