



COURTESY

Stanford's Dave Davis separates himself from North Carolina's corner.

Stanford: Willingham hopes his defense can contain Akili Smith

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Allen combined for 18 catches for 304 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore tailback Coy Wire also got into the offensive groove, gaining a career-best 77 yards on 24 carries, including his first-ever touchdown.

"At this point I would label them one of the most improved programs that I've seen from game 1 to game 3," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "And I think the improvement has been in all aspects of their game. Certainly, they're a very high-powered offense."

Just how potent the Cardinal offense will be on Saturday probably will not be determined until game time — Walters is still listed as day-to-day. Last season, Walters terrorized the Oregon de-

fense for 13 receptions, 169 yards and two touchdowns.

"Certainly, if Troy Walters is playing, we will do some things with our secondary to give help to whoever's on him," Bellotti said.

Defensively, Stanford has struggled this season. Willingham said he is aware of the problems that could arise for his defense against the high-scoring Ducks and singles out Oregon quarterback Akili Smith as the player the Cardinal must contain.

"I don't know if we have the ability to shut him down," Willingham said. "But I think you have to do a good job limiting the output of the quarterback because he is the trigger man; he starts everything. Right now, he's playing as well as any quarterback in the con-

ference."

If Stanford is able to get to Smith, 6-foot-4, 290-pound defensive tackle Willie Howard will probably be providing most of the pressure.

In order for the Cardinal to continue its domination of the Ducks, Willingham knows his team must win the basic battles that often decide a football game.

"I think when you look at a football game, you look for the ability to run the football at least to a certain degree, controlling the line of scrimmage, controlling the tempo of the game and controlling the time of possession," Willingham said. "Then, I think you also flip it over and look at the turnover ratio and whoever is able to win that battle."

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