

Hood: Despite our hatred, Stanford has owned the Ducks recently

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toward Stanford is simply that they garner the same kind of respect that we have always wanted for ourselves. Respect as a university and respect as a national powerhouse in nearly every sport except football.

"Come to think of it, our hatred has very little to do with the university itself. It's all centered around that damn football team. A football team that, despite having its school nicknamed 'the Harvard of the West,' can't produce a top-level recruiting class to rival UCLAs or Washingtons.

A football team that has not won a Pac-10 title since 1972. A football team that, while it has produced a slew of NFL talent over the years, seems content to just hang around — never seriously competing for a national title, never seriously competing for anything. They have no identi-

ty."
"And yet they own us. Stanford embarrassed us last season. The Cardinal beat us at home the year we went to the Cotton Bowl — arguably our best team in the last six seasons."
He choked his last word, and we sat at the table in a milky haze

of smoke and dust.
"The air in here is thick, my friend," Buck growled.
"It sure is," I said.
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