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Hartley

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He's 15th on the Pacific-10 Conference's all-time receiving lists. He's missed just two games in his career a suspension kept him out of the Aloha Bowl last season and a wrist injury caused him to miss the season finale as a freshman.

And when the ball goes in his direction, he's almost always going to get it.

His speed and hops are good. His hands are phenomenal.

'That's what I was blessed with," Hartley said. "That's the one thing that stands out about me and what I do.

Even when I was young, I had a special knack for that. I could always catch the ball.

That ability stayed with him through high school in Southern

It was there that Hartley decided that he would like nothing more than to make football a career. And that would require tremendous dedication and effort.

So he continued to hone his skills, to learn commitment, and in so doing, he helped vault Los Alamitos High School into a regional powerhouse, as the

A tale of two (great) receivers Tony Hartley (1996-present) (1992-95)Crisitin McLemore Receptions 139 162 Receiving Yards 2,466 Yards per Catch 17.7 Touchdown Receptions

Griffins lost a mere three games in Hartley's four seasons of play. The program has since produced 19 collegiate players, including the Ducks' other starting receiver, freshman Keenan Howry.

They taught me how to win," Hartley said. "And how to keep my priorities in order.'

Soon, the 6-foot receiver was receiving accolades by the handful. He broke county records for yards receiving and receptions. He was named the Los Angeles Times' Orange County player of the year, complete with a gushing write-up describing the 17-year-old as looking "every inch the athlete - all sleek and sinew on a 6foot, 190-pound frame with hands that could juggle fire hydrants."

Not surprisingly, Hartley was

wooed by colleges around the nation, from Michigan to UCLA to Oregon. After a trip to Eugene, the Ducks it was.

"He's always been a great play-er," said tailback Reuben Droughns, Hartley's roommate on that trip. "He's awesome the best hands on the team."

Now, four years later, the Times' description stands, although certain Oregon receiving records might not.

And Hartley's still aspires to play in the NFL.

'I'm not there yet," Hartley said. "But the closer I get, the older I get, the more that becomes a reality.'

But first, the records.

"They're right there now," Hartley said. "I'm ready to go ahead and get them."





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Secondary **Continued from Page 8B**

cornerback Wilcox. He was held out of practice early but participated toward the end of the week and is expected to play against Washington State.

"If he cannot go, then that slack



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will have to be picked up by Brian John-Steve son. Smith and Jermaine Hanspard,' head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Justin Wilcox has played a great season for us,

and obviously I can't afford to lose him. He's the kind of young man that probably is going to find his way on the field on Saturday night."

Wilcox was the one who saved Oregon's dramatic 44-41 victory at Arizona with his spectacular knock-down on a pass intended for Northcutt in the end zone.

"There has been a little bit of a myth that everybody's picking on him," Gregory said. "He has yet to give up a touchdown pass, and that is amazing in the Pac-10. He uses very good technique and knows what he can and can't do.

"I think he's one of the best cor-

ners in the league."

The Ducks' mind set doesn't change from week to week, and they are primed to pick on Cougar quarterback Steve Birnbaum, who has been intercepted only twice in 217 attempts.

"We're an aggressive secondary and feel like we can play with any-body," Johnson said. "When somebody goes down, the next guy in line just steps it up and makes the plays."

"We feel like whoever is in there can get the job done," Fletcher said. "When we get everything under control and play calm, then we can play pretty good together... and that was exhibited last Saturday."

The defense looks to continue its strong effort against the Cougars, and no matter who is in there at cornerback, they will be playing anything but a secondary role.

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