

MEDIA CLIPPINGS



KURT ROGERS / The Chronicle

A jubilant Jeff Tedford gets corralled by his players before a Gatorade dousing as the Bears enjoy their fourth straight Big Game victory.

STANFORD: Leaky line yields 9 sacks, bum's rush

By Michelle Smith
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Gerren Crochet stood atop of the Stanford bench in the moments before the fourth quarter, addressing his teammates with obvious intensity, pounding his chest as he spoke. The fifth-year senior wide receiver was exhorting them to look at the 13-3 Cal lead and see the opportunity that was just 10 points away.

Crochet didn't need to spell it out. The stakes had been firmly and frequently established all week — bowl eligibility, the end of a 3-game losing streak to the rival Bears, and the chance to define this season by accomplishment and progress and not a loss to a certain provisional Division I-AA team.

But Crochet's words, as passionate as they were, couldn't undo the damage already done.

The Stanford offense turned in its worst performance on the worst possible day, struggling for production in both the running and passing games behind a painfully overmatched offensive line.

Quarterback Trent Edwards, who spent all week nursing a left hand injury in order to make his first Big Game start, was knocked out of this game for the second time in three years with a stinger in his neck and left shoulder, incurred on what turned out to be the last in a series of body-jarring hits.

And the defense was on the field too long to keep the Bears within reach.

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More Big Game

- Cal notebook C8
- Stanford notebook C9
- Cal defense steps up in a big way, sacks Stanford offense C10



In other 'big games'

- Reggie Bush piles up more than 500 yards; USC outlasts Fresno St.
- Georgia Tech tops No. 3 Miami
- Penn State clinches BCS berth

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CAL: Cool new QB, hot defense rule day

By Bruce Adams
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

If a single game can change a team, it's appropriate that it's called the Big Game.

Cal beat Stanford 27-3 Saturday evening at Stanford Stadium. For the Bears, it was a golden payday. It was a turning point — late, yes, but in plenty of time for the bowl game that's now guaranteed.

Jeff Tedford's team, after losing two games in a row and four of its last five, regained its winning swagger. The victory featured one of the Bears' best defensive efforts of the year, marked by the emergence of a powerful pass rush. The running game continued to thrive, with tailback Marshawn Lynch cresting the 1,000-yard sea-

son mark. The effort was nearly mistake-free, with just one penalty and a single turnover. And, most significantly, the Bears found their quarterback.

Tedford, claiming his fourth consecutive Axe, said he was appreciating the rivalry game more each year. He talked about attending different functions during the week, such as a Bohemian Club dinner on Thursday night where he was regaled with Big Game lore.

"Now Steve will go down in history as one of those stories," Tedford said.

He was of course referring to quarterback Steve Levy, who made his first career start. Levy completed 10 passes in 18 attempts for 125 yards and one

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108TH BIG GAME

Cal 27, Stanford 3



BEAR MAXIMUM

Bears regain their winning swagger

► **CAL**

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touchdown. He made just one mistake, a no-harm interception. He was steady and in control of the offense. And the redshirt junior emerged as a team leader, after four years buried on the depth chart, including one year at fullback.

"I had to do what I had to do," said Cal's latest Big Game hero, who was named the starter Thursday in place of the struggling Joe Ayoub. "I couldn't do it without everybody else on this team."

And that was the truth. This was a team win.

On defense, the Bears kept Stanford out of the end zone, held the Cardinal to 16 yards rushing and sacked quarterbacks Trent Edwards and T.C. Ostrander nine times.

"At the beginning of the week we were a little sluggish," linebacker Ryan Foltz said. "By Thursday we were prepared and amped up for this game."

Tedford acknowledged that the whole team came into the week with an "emotional hangover" after back-to-back losses to Oregon and USC. And there was the distraction of who would start at quarterback, Ayoub or Levy.

"I was really concerned about the psyche of the team," Tedford

said. "By the end of the week they finally rebounded emotionally."

Not quite six minutes into the game, Levy marked his arrival with a 50-yard touchdown pass to DeSean Jackson — the first scoring throw for the Bears in their last nine periods of play. But by the end of the first half, Cal's lead was just 6-3.

The Bears finally began to get some distance from the Cardinal in the third quarter, going up 13-3 on Justin Forsett's 21-yard touchdown run — capping a drive in which Levy twice, with his receivers covered, pulled down the ball and ran, the first time for 21 yards and then for a 10-yard gainer.

"Running makes me feel comfortable," Levy said. "Running has always been part of my game."

The Bears (7-4, 4-4 Pac-10) wrapped up the game in the fourth quarter: Lynch running in from the 3-yard line and tailback Terrell Williams and tight end Craig Stevens hooking up on a trick 14-yard halfback pass — a Tedford favorite.

And the Cardinal (5-5, 4-4) came away with a lone score — a 37-yard field goal by Michael Sgroi.

"In order to have championship-type games, you have to matchup physically," Stanford

coach Walt Harris said. "We got beat up front. They were more physical and that was the game."

This is the first Cal team to win the Axe four years in a row since the teams of 1936-39.

The bowl picture is far from settled, but Cal is probably going to one of three postseason destinations — the Insight Bowl in Phoenix, the Las Vegas Bowl or the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Tex.

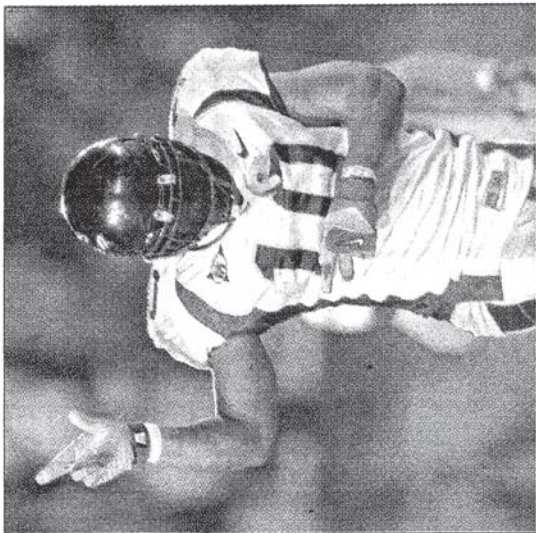
Tedford, saying he wasn't surprised by Levy's performance, said Levy would start in the bowl game, where ever it may be.

"I expected him to compete because that's what he's all about," Tedford said.

And Tedford said he was never concerned about his team's fall-off in the second half of the season, after opening with a 5-0 winning streak.

"I've always had great confidence that we'll find a way to win," he said.

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KURT ROGERS/The Chronicle

Marshawn Lynch basks in Big Game success after his fourth-quarter rushing touchdown put Stanford away.

Cal 100-yard rushers vs. Stanford

Name	Year	Carries	Yards
Joe Igber, 2002		26	226
Tyrone Edwards, 1994		24	205
Jim Monachino, 1949		20	189
Russell White, 1990		18	177
Jack Jensen, 1948		19	170
J.J. Arrington, 2004		27	169
Chuck Muncie, 1975		30	166
Lindsey Chapman, 1993		28	141
Chuck Muncie, 1973		22	129
Marshawn Lynch, 2005		24	123
John Olaszewski, 1952		25	122
Marshawn Lynch, 2004		9	122
Jerry Drew, 1954		13	119
John Olaszewski, 1950		18	118
Reynard Rutherford, 1995		28	114
Rick Bennett, 1966		30	111
John Tuggle, 1980		27	110
Gary Fowler, 1969		15	106
Joe Kapp, 1956		18	106

Cal 27, Stanford 3

Cal	6	0	7	14	—	27
Stanford	0	3	0	0	—	3

SCORING

First Quarter
Cal, Jackson 56 pass from Levy (kick blocked), 9:05, 88 yards, 5 plays. Key plays: Lynch two 9-yard runs, Cal 6, Stanford 0.

Second Quarter
Stanford, Sgroi 37 FG, 8:54, 28 yards, 9 plays. Key plays: Danahy 11 pass from Edwards on 3rd down to Cal 31, Cal 6, Stanford 3.

Third Quarter
Cal, Forsett 31 run (kick blocked), 8:33, 21 yards, 7 plays. Key play: Levy 21 run, Cal 13, Stanford 3.

Fourth Quarter
Cal, Lynch 3 run (Schneider kick), 7:14, 77 yards, 6 plays. Key plays: Forsett 29 run and 15-yard facemask penalty, Cal 20, Stanford 3; Lynch 22 run to Stanford 17, Cal 27, Stanford 3.

Cal, Stevens 14 pass from Williams (Schneider kick), 3:31, 43 yards, 5 plays. Key play: Lynch 22 run to Stanford 17, Cal 27, Stanford 3.

A—7/143.

TEAM STATISTICS

	Cal	Stan
First downs	18	15
Passing yards	43	37
Passing	139	228
Comp.-Att. Int.	11-19-1	24-37-0
Return yards	10	10
Return TDs	0	0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	1-5	2-30
Time of Possession	27:47	32:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — California, Lynch 24-123, Forsett 7-50, Levy 8-36, T. Williams 2-9, Storer 1-6, DeJekson 1-2, Stanford, Lemen 8-22, N. Frank 4-16, Evans 5-15, Kumble 3-2, McCalister 1-10.
PASSING — California, Levy 10-18-1-25, T. Williams 1-1-0-14, Stanford, Ostrander 15-23-0-152, Edwards 9-14-0-76.
RECEIVING — California, Jackson 3-28, DeJekson 2-65, Stanford, Lemen 2-40, Hawkins 2-25, Lemen 2-11, Stanford, Ostrander 7-86, Lemen 5-minus 11, T. Williams 4-55, Bradford 3-54, McCalister 2-27, Danahy 1-10, N. Frank 1-minus 11, Evans 1-minus 2.

Levy's presence a gift for Cal, dad

Fate destined Steve Levy for special things, from the moment he was named Jewish Athlete of the Year as the star quarterback and linebacker at Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey.

This was an especially proud honor for him, considering that he is not Jewish.

Then again, he's been many things, just since he's come to Cal ... special teamer ... fullback ... backup backup quarterback ... and now, in his greatest stretch since that magical day four years ago when he became both Jewish and Italian Catholic, Big Game hero.

"Yeah, this is pretty amazing," Levy said with a luminous Mediterranean smile. "I could never have dreamed of something like this."

And yet, dreaming had nothing to do with his performance in Cal's 27-3 pounding of Stanford Saturday. Levy's game was guts and guile, presence and poise, and above all, doing nothing silly to make Jeff Tedford think he might have backed the wrong horse early Thursday morning by choosing Levy to start.

"Honestly, I had a hard time sleeping Wednesday night," Tedford said, "but in the morning, we just talked about it in the staff meeting and decided to go with him."

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Longest Big Game winning streaks

Games	Winner	Years
7	Stanford	'95-01
6	Stanford	'61-66
5	Cal	'19-23
4	Cal	'02-05
4	Stanford	'89-92
4	Cal	'36-39

Composed Levy delivers for dad, proves he really is a Bears QB

► RATT0
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And now they will go with him to a bowl game worth going to — "Yeah, I think we'll go with him again," Tedford said with that flat-line look he has when he has been assaulted with a question that doesn't need answering.

Levy's tale, notwithstanding the way he fell into Saturday's start and turned it into a shining moment in the history of this rivalry, is the classic story — hard-nosed kid leads with his face and heart, becomes a big deal in Jersey, goes to Cal and gets everything but his spirit buried beneath the weight of numbers and non-opportunities. He got stuck behind Aaron Rodgers, wanted to become a linebacker and was told there were too many of those in front of him (plus at not quite the 6-1, 215 he is listed at, he probably wasn't imposing enough), then told Tedford he couldn't stand watching and became a special teams player.

Then, when Rodgers left to seek his fortune in Green Bay, Levy gave quarterbacking another try, but ended up third behind Nate Longshore and Joe Ayoub, then second behind Ayoub, and finally, on his father Mark's 49th birthday, first.

"I asked him two months ago

what he wanted for his birthday, and he said, 'Start in the Big Game,'" Levy said, laughing at the improbability of such a request. "So when I called him Thursday and told him I was starting, he started bawling right there on the phone. I told him I'd give him an even bigger present Saturday."

And because every once in a while life actually becomes a made-for-TV movie, he did. He hit DeSean Jackson with a 56-yard touchdown pass on the second possession of the game to give Cal a lead it never relinquished. He held his own through a fateful first half, then broke open the game with successive scrambles of 21 and 10 yards to set up Justin Forsett's 21-yard score, and controlled himself, the huddle, and the Stanford defense the entire way.

His numbers (10-for-18, 125, one TD, one pick) won't make you see the grandeur of his day, but Tedford saw it almost immediately.

"It was the way he took command of the huddle," Tedford said. "The way they broke the huddle, the way he ran the play clock, the way everyone went to the right places in the formation and nobody was looking around confused. That's the thing that impressed me most, that and he didn't make many mistakes for a

guy who hadn't been out there."

Well, there was that one interception in the third quarter, but by then the tone of the day had already shifted irrevocably. Because Cal owned the line of scrimmage and blitzed Cardinal quarterback Trent Edwards and backup T.C. Ostrander into submission, Stanford would not score, or even threaten much beyond the one Michael Sgroi field goal.

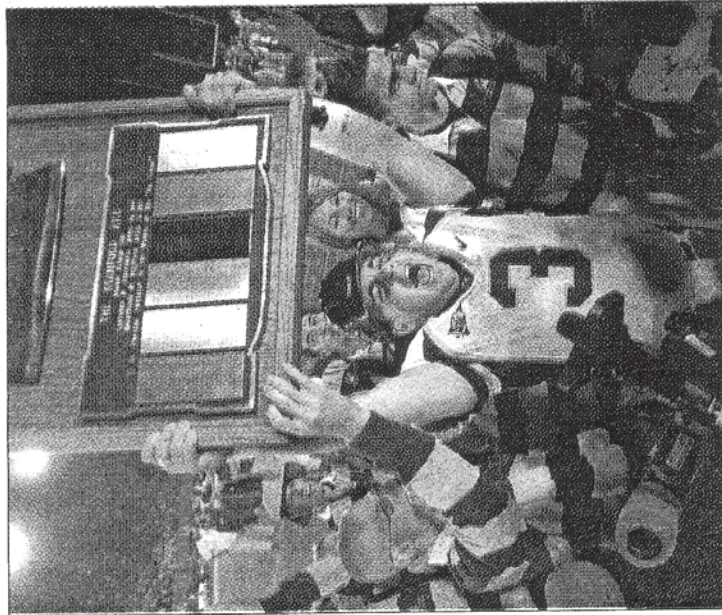
Thus, while South Florida, Navy, Central Michigan, Colorado State and Utah all became bowl-eligible Saturday, the Cardinal became bowl very improbable, with Notre Dame standing between them and a 12th game. Indeed, this must surely have been their worst showing of the year against a non-Division I-AA opponent.

And Steve Levy had finally gotten the chance he doubted would ever come his way — to prove to those who thought he had washed out at Cal that all he really had done was wait for his moment.

"Just some people who thought I came out here and didn't do anything," he said, declining to identify his detractors. "It's no big deal."

Well, it is a big deal to him, otherwise he wouldn't have brought it up. Besides, now it's safe to bring it up, because he's got bragging rights that will never end.

I mean, nobody else in his



KIM KOMENICH/The Chronicle

Steve Levy's quarterbacking helped Cal keep the Stanford Axe, a fitting birthday present for his father, Mark.

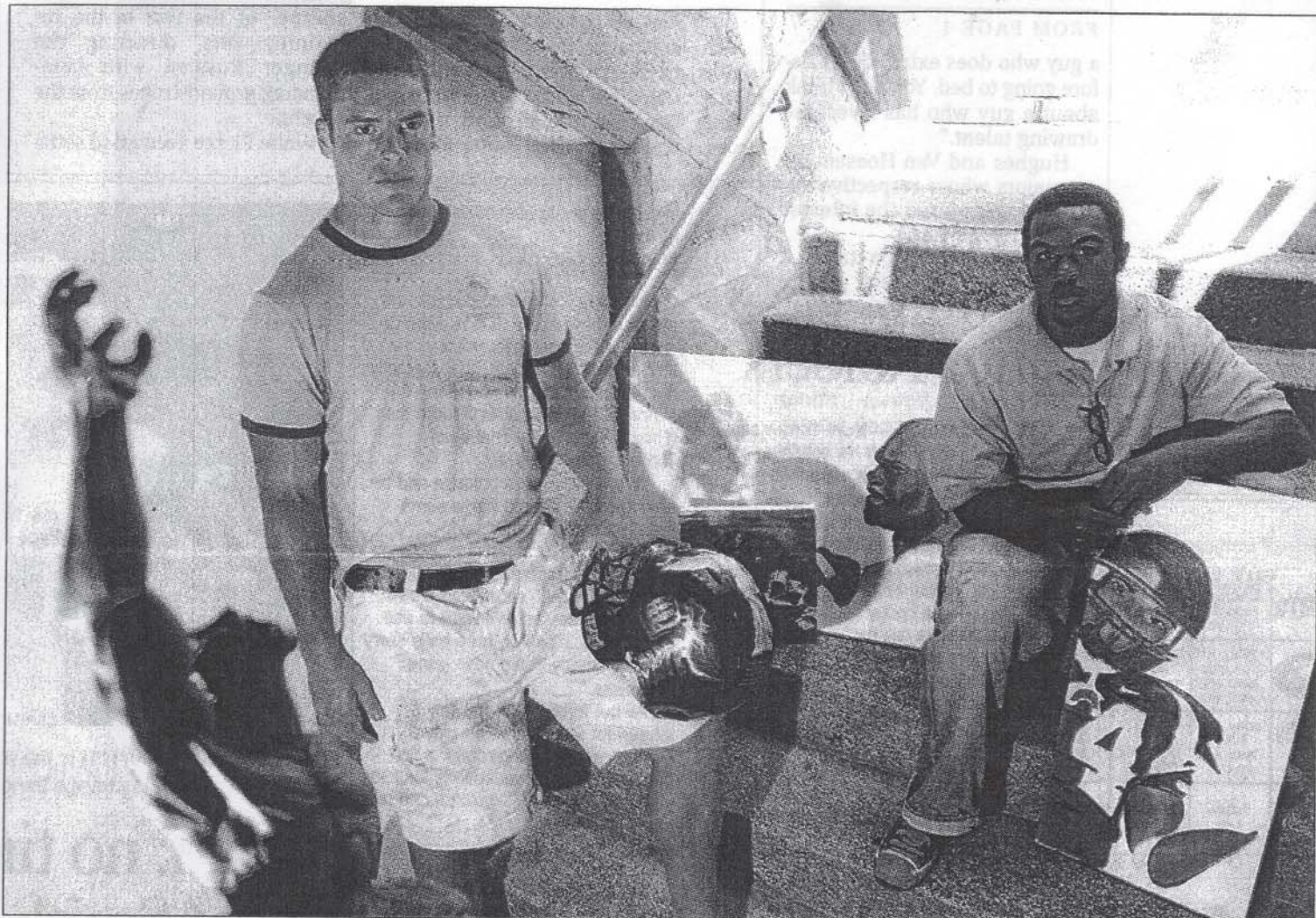
neighborhood in Jersey ever had Keith Jackson look at him the night before a big game and say, "Well, ain't you somethin'?"

And nobody ever got to answer him the next day by saying, "Well yes, I'm a fullback and a wedge-buster and almost got to be a line-backer and now I'm officially Big

Game lore, plus I'm Jewish and Italian Catholic, and I have the papers to prove it. So, yeah, I guess I am somethin' after all."

Sounds like more than plenty for anyone.

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KRISTOPHER SKINNER/TIMES

CAL FOOTBALL PLAYERS and art majors Greg Van Hoesen, left, and Daymeion Hughes pose with some of their work at Memorial Stadium.

Artistic minds, creative tendencies

■ Endeavors of Cal's Hughes, Van Hoesen show a depth few see from most football players

By Jay Heater
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The face was larger than life. It was the face of Cal tailback Marshawn Lynch, as painted by teammate Daymeion Hughes, almost bursting from a helmet that usually conceals a player's personality and passion.

Unlike baseball or basketball, where the athletes can be easily studied, football is a faceless game where players are hidden from view by protective equipment.

TODAY: at Washington, 12:30 p.m.
TV: Chs. 7, 10.
Radio: 810-AM

Cal

Players such as Hughes, a cornerback, and linebacker Greg Van Hoesen, who both will start today against Washington at Husky Stadium in Seattle, are known as No. 13 and No. 55. They are recognized by their body frame and athletic ability, and not much more.

"I know that Greg comes across as a total meathead," said senior defensive end Tosh Lupoi. "When you look at him, you see

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KRISTOPHER SKINNER/TIMES

GREG VAN HOESEN says creating pieces of art like the one above provides balance to an otherwise exhausting existence as an athlete.

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a guy who does extra squats before going to bed. You don't think about a guy who has awesome drawing talent."

Hughes and Van Hoesen are art majors whose respective talents have captured the interest of their teammates.

"I know of Greg's talent," Lupoi said. "Guys keep asking him, 'Come on over and paint my wall.' He used to be a hidden jewel, but everyone knows about him now."

Everybody knows about Hughes as well. Lynch knows about the shoes that Hughes painted — a tribute to rappers past and present — with leather dye for teammate Bernard Hicks. Now Lynch and Robert Jordan are standing in line waiting for their own specialty shoes, athletic shoes that will be painted in honor of deceased rapper Mac Dre.

"I'm about to kick my shoe thing off really hard," Hughes said. "I'm not really into abstract art. I don't deal with the fantasy world. Because I don't have a vivid imagination, I deal with realism. I'm into product design."

Standing nearby while Hughes was talking about his artistic endeavors, Van Hoesen was holding a small sculpture of a muscular figure rising from a sandy base. An outstretched arm pointed up at the sky. The figure's face, looking skyward, was in complete anguish.

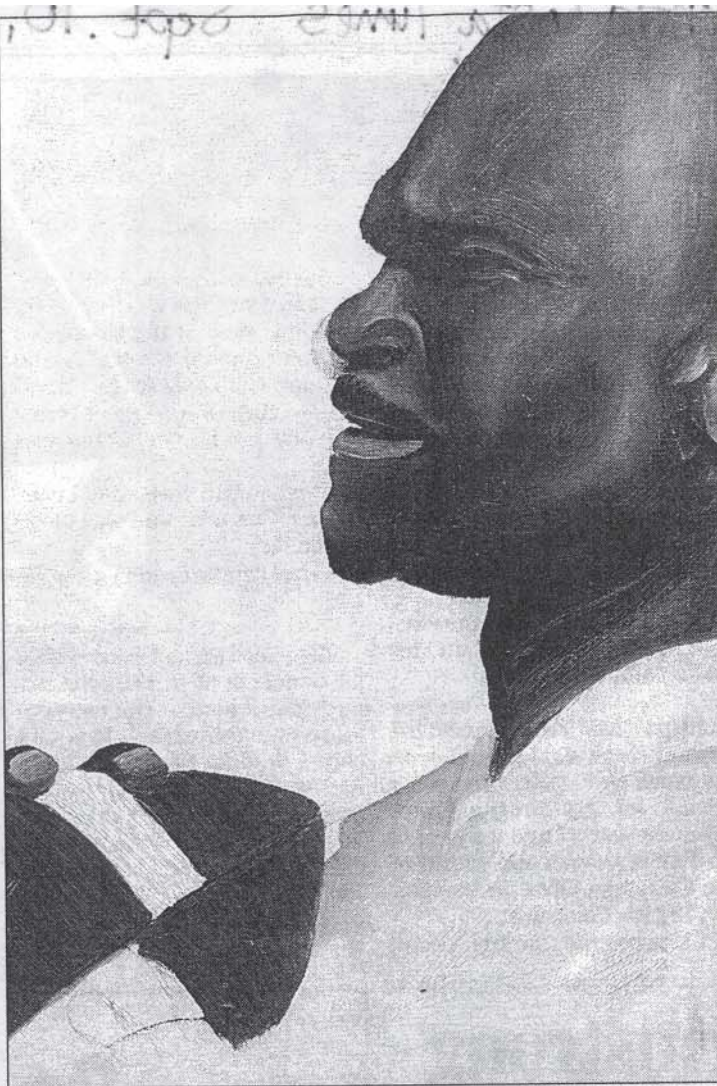
"It seems like the harder you fight sometimes, the more you sink into quicksand," Van Hoesen said. "Sometimes you can feel so powerful on the football field, but you still are struggling."

The detail on Van Hoesen's sculpture is impressive.

"I've seen Greg's sculptures," said Cal offensive tackle Ryan O'Callaghan. "He's pretty talented. But that's not really a surprise to me. You have to remember that (former Cal offensive line coach) Ed White was an artist. And when you have 100 guys on a team, you figure that one guy can draw."

Cal coach Jeff Tedford said he knows that his players have hidden talents. "With (Hughes), I understand him being an artist, but I was surprised to hear that about Van Hoesen. I don't know ... just the way he looks out there."

While Van Hoesen and Hughes have the grit to fit into the violent world of football, they also fit nicely into the artistic world.



KRISTOPHER SKINNER/TIMES

DAYMEION HUGHES, a cornerback for the Bears, prefers a touch of realism to his pieces of work, acknowledging that he is more of a designer than someone with a vivid imagination.

CAL REPORT

■ **ESSENTIALS:** Cal at Washington, Husky Stadium, Seattle

■ **KICKOFF:** 12:30 p.m.

■ **TV/RADIO:** Chs. 7, 10; 810-AM

■ **RECORDS:** Cal 1-0 after a 41-3 home win over Sacramento State on Saturday; Washington 0-1 after a 20-17 loss to Air Force on Saturday at Qwest Field in Seattle

■ **INJURIES:** Cal — QB Nate Longshore (broken leg), WR Noah Smith (broken leg), OG Brian De La Puente (ankle) are out; LB Worrell Williams (ankle) is questionable. **Washington** — OT Joe Toledo (ankle) and DE Brandon Ala (knee) are out; S C.J. Wallace (eye) is questionable.

"Art gives me some balance," Van Hoesen said. "Football is so physically exhausting. With art, you just let it flow."

Said Hughes: "I see art as the opposite of football. It's my time

to relax and get away from the field. It's therapy for me. And the classes I take here challenge my creative ability."

Both Hughes and Van Hoesen said they aren't anything special among their teammates.

"Sid Slater (a Cal senior line-backer last season) was amazing on the guitar," Van Hoesen said. "A lot of people on the team can sing."

Hughes rattled off Worrell Williams, Wale Forrester and Justin Forsett as players who can entertain teammates with their voices.

Lupoi, who says he draws at an "an advanced fourth-grade level," said Cal fans would be surprised to find out about many of the players' hidden talents.

"Anyone you have with extra talent is a positive thing," Lupoi said. "And talents here at Cal are celebrated. You are not just dealing with football players."

Well, in most cases anyway. O'Callaghan was asked about his hidden talent. "I can't do anything but play football," he said.