

# STANFORD



<b>LOCATION</b>	Palo Alto, CA
<b>CONFERENCE</b>	Atlantic Coast
<b>LAST SEASON</b>	21-14 (.600)
<b>CONFERENCE RECORD</b>	11-9 (7th)
<b>STARTERS RETURNING/LOST</b>	2/3
<b>NICKNAME</b>	Cardinal
<b>COLORS</b>	Cardinal Red & White
<b>HOMECOURT</b>	Maples Pavilion (7,233)
<b>OFFICIAL WEBSITE</b>	GoStanford.com
<b>COACH</b>	Kyle Smith (Hamilton College '92)
<b>RECORD AT SCHOOL</b>	21-14 (1 year)
<b>CAREER RECORD</b>	279-207 (15 years)
<b>ASSISTANTS</b>	Eric Reveno (Stanford '89) Jim Shaw (Western Oregon State '85) Wayne Hunter (Saint Mary's '10) Jeremy Harden (Arizona '12) Brett McConnell (Rutgers '08)
<b>WINS (LAST 5 YRS.)</b>	14-16-14-14-21
<b>NET RANKING (LAST 5 YRS.)</b>	56-106-96-111-80
<b>2024-25 FINISH</b>	Lost in NIT second round.

The whistle blows. Practice starts for Stanford. Four hours of layups, defensive positioning, shell drills, and sprints follow.

Kyle Smith calls it “taking your vitamins,” and for the Cardinal, it seems to be paying off. With 55 statistical categories and coaches logging every analytic to gain an edge—“nerd ball,” as the media has labeled it—has resurrected a flailing program entering its second year as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

In year one, despite a projected finish of 17th in the league, Stanford overachieved to finish seventh and post a winning record. Before Smith’s arrival, Stanford had finished over .500 just once in six years. “We got a base,” Smith says. “Year one builds culture, and usually culture wins.”

Winning seasons have become a habit for Smith throughout his entire coaching career. Since leading Columbia to the 2015 CIT title in his final season in the Ivy League, Smith’s teams at San Francisco, Washington State, and Stanford have combined to post 11 straight records at or above the .500 mark.

His culture thrives on players knowing where they are and where they need to be, thanks in part to his analytical approach. Smith thinks he picked the best place in the country for his system—a college filled with future Fortune 500 CEOs in the middle of Silicon Valley.

“It’s a great way to understand accountability within your organization,” he says. “The competitors usually rise to the top.”

With nine student-athletes recognized for the ACC’s All-Academic team, Stanford led the league. Duke and NC State were next with seven honorees each.

“These guys are ideal. It’s very much what they’ll probably be doing when they’re running their own companies,” Smith says.

Last season was the swan song of 7-1 senior Maxime Raynaud (20.2 ppg, 10.6 rpg), who wrapped up a fantastic four-year career with the Cardinal. Setting the single-season record for total rebounds (371), Raynaud was also the only player in the country to average at least 20 points and 10 boards a game. He made first-team All-ACC and the Associated Press chose Raynaud honorable mention All-American, making him the first Cardinal to earn All-American honors since 2015. He finished second nationally with 25 double-doubles, leading all major

conference players.

“Max, once he said he was staying, really embraced us,” Smith says. “He made it really easy on us. He was a good leader, too; he connected with everyone on the team and the school.”

Departed starters Jaylen Blakes (13.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.7 spg) and combo guard Oziyah Sellers (13.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.3 apg), together with Raynaud, combined for 47 of the 73 points the Cardinal averaged and anchored the starting five last season.

“I’m really leaning on some of the guys that we inherited to take that baton and make that next step,” Smith says. “We have a lot of returners coming back from last year’s squad and people who did contribute, but you are losing a lot of production on the offensive side.”

Stanford has nine returning scholarship players, most of whom saw action at some juncture during the season. Smith loves to recruit size, and this team has 10 players on the roster who stand 6-7 or taller.

“Last year, we were more five-out with Max. We were exploiting what he could do,” Smith says. “[This season] we will actually play more like Florida; we will be three out, two in.”

A 6-6 redshirt junior, **Ryan Agarwal** (7.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.1 apg, .818 FT) can be a rock for Stanford, with the ability to score and rebound. Agarwal is one of five known Division I college basketball players of Indian descent and the only one at a high-major program. Smith believes Agarwal will serve as a distributor who thrives in mismatches and effectively shoots the deep ball.

“He’s been hurt this summer, so he might be a little slow to start, but that experience he has from last year should really help us out,” Smith says. “He is what we call a six-tool guy. He can dribble, pass, drive, and shoot, so offensively he’s pretty good.”

Meanwhile, Smith thinks 6-8, 240-pound junior **Chisom Okpara** (6.5 ppg, 2.0 rpg, .503 FG, .462 3PT) can assume the role of a primary offensive producer. Okpara is a versatile forward capable of playing multiple positions and guarding anyone.

“Chism is going to take a big step forward,” Smith says. “He was a hard one to fit in last year because he’s a high-usage guy.”

Okpara was among the first undergraduates to transfer to Stanford since 2009 and came from another top academic school—Harvard. He had several moments last season that underscored his development—a season-high 15 points against Boston College, and 10 games of double-figure scoring, along with a 63.2% (12 of 19) shooting percentage from 3 in ACC play.

Also returning is injury-plagued 6-8, 220-pound sophomore **Donavin Young** (3.2 ppg, 2.5 rpg, .545 3PT), who last season started in 16 of his 19 appearances. Smith describes Young as a player who can stretch the floor impact the defensive side of the ball. Highlights included 10 points inside Cameron Indoor and a nine-point, four-rebound performance against NC State.

“He’s going to be behind a little bit,” Smith says.

“He just gives you minutes where he’s going to help you win on both sides of the ball. He’s a really good defender; he can take on a frontcourt guy or a perimeter guy; hopefully, he gets healthy.”

At 6-7, sophomore forward **Evan Stinson** (2.9 ppg, 1.3 rpg) had a strong freshman season, appearing in 17 games and scoring 10 points against NC State. But he is also dealing with an injury that occurred earlier this year.

“I would say we might have to redshirt some guys because we do have a big roster, but man,” Smith says. “If he can stay healthy, he would put a lot of

pressure on Ryan.”

Redshirt sophomore forward **Aidan Cammann** (2.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.0 apg, .514 FG) improved throughout the season. In Stanford’s NIT opener, the 6-10, 230-pound Cammann scored seven points and grabbed a career-high eight rebounds.

Potentially filling the point guard role, 6-1 senior **Benny Gealer** (6.0 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 2.0 apg, .366 3PT, .889 FT) led the team with a 3.6-1 assist-to-turnover ratio last season. A good shooter from 3, Gealer enjoys firing off the dribble and finished in double figures 10 times last season.

Rounding out the returners are 6-3 sophomore guard **Anthony Batson, Jr.** (1.0 ppg), 6-11, 240-pound sophomore forward **Tallis Toure** (1.1 ppg), and 6-8 redshirt junior forward **Jaylen Thompson** (1.4 ppg, 1.1 rpg), each of whom had limited roles last season but gained from another summer of development under Smith’s coaching regime.

“We will need Anthony, Jaylen, maybe both, but they are all athletic and they are getting better,” Smith says. “They’re emerging, that’s the best way to say it. We are pretty flat talent-wise but have good depth.”

To fill some of the talent gaps for Stanford, Smith and his staff added two graduate transfers who are expected to find instant minutes and could bolster the starting rotation.

**Jeremy Dent-Smith** (19.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.0 apg at Cal State Dominguez Hills) a solid 6-1 and 200 pounds, arrives after helping Cal State Dominguez Hills reach the Division II national championship game. Dent-Smith scored 109 points through the five-game run in the national tournament, and while the team fell short by one point in the title game, he totaled 27 points and 10 rebounds.

“He looks like a tailback or a fullback, almost. He can really shoot it,” Smith says. “He’s a really confident guy, and I’ve been trying to push him. It’s going to be a challenge, but he’s equipped to do it.”

Dent-Smith’s list of honors is impressive, including two NABC All-American awards, winning player of the year in his conference, and holding the single-season scoring record for Cal State Dominguez Hills. His role at Stanford will be versatile—capable of scoring in bursts and, more importantly, effectively handling the ball.

“He’s an end-of-the-shot-clock kind of guy; he can get baskets at this level,” Smith says. “When you are a Division II All-American, you can play at this level.”

Stanford’s second transfer is a familiar one. After starting his career as a walk-on at Washington State, 6-9, 230-pound graduate **AJ Rohosy** (21.3 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 2.1 apg, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps) reunites with his former coach. Rohosy appeared in 10 games off the bench for WSU in 2023-24.

“We had such good frontcourt players at Washington State, and he wanted to play. And I told him ‘I think you are good, but I just can’t play everybody,’” Smith says. “I tried to tell a dozen Division I programs this guy’s good enough.”

When a transfer to a D-I school did not pan out for Rohosy, he opted for Division III and earning his finance degree. He ended up claiming D-III second-team All-American honors, while obtaining that finance degree with a 3.97 grade point average. Rohosy was voted most outstanding player in his conference tournament and set the single-season program record for field goal percentage (.648).

Smith jokes there weren’t players like Rohosy on the floor when he was a D-III player.

“He’s really, really athletic,” Smith says, “no doubt our quickest and most explosive frontcourt player.”

Other newcomers include 6-2 freshman **Ebuka Okorie** (13.1 ppg, .545 FG, .385 3PT, Brewster Academy/Wolfboro, N.H.); 6-10 freshman forward **Kristers Skindra** from Latvia; and 6-10 freshman forward/center **Oskar Giltay** from Belgium.

A recent trend in basketball is the rise of European forwards and centers who can play at a high level. Skindra and Giltay logged significant minutes for their countries at the FIBA U18 Eurobasket. Skindra nearly led the event in double-doubles, ranked 10th in scoring, and second in rebounding. This earned him a four-star ranking and a spot among the top 100 prospects, according to On3.

“They don’t really have a good system in Europe for the guys who are really good and are interested in academics,” Smith says.

Okorie arrives as the New Hampshire Gatorade Player of the Year and with high expectations. Regarded as the 12th-ranked point guard in the nation by On3 and a consensus four-star recruit, Okorie is one of the highest-rated recruits Smith has brought to Stanford.

“He’s oozing with potential; he is a guy that could emerge,” Smith says. “I don’t want to put too much pressure on him, but as a freshman, I know he will be able to defend out there, he will be able to rebound, he’s a good ball handler, and he’s quick.

“I think all three of those freshmen we brought in have a chance to be starters down the road.”

## BLUE RIBBON ANALYSIS

BACKCOURT	C+	BENCH/DEPTH	B
FRONTCOURT	C	INTANGIBLES	B

Smith has the task of following up Stanford’s highest win total since 2015, a record-tying 17 victories at Maples Pavilion, and setting single-season school records for 3-pointers, free throw percentage, and fewest turnovers per game.

“I’ve coached this team before,” Smith says. “There were some Columbia teams that were this way, where you really couldn’t say, ‘OK, we’re going to play through this guy tonight; he’s gonna get 20.’ I’ve had teams that are pretty flat across the board but are pretty good.”

Smith is committed to transforming Stanford back into the program that was once No. 1 in the country in 2004.

“We’ll get good depth, we will be able to play really hard because we have good depth up front,” he says. “There are no bad players on our team.”

With the ACC coming off a particularly weak year and several of the league’s programs starting from scratch. Stanford could play itself into the NCAA Tournament bubble conversation if it capitalizes on winnable, yet valuable non-conference contests against Colorado, Minnesota, and UNLV. On top of that, the home conference schedule is favorable; the Cardinal will host, among others, Duke, North Carolina, and Clemson.

“It’s easier to repeat history than create history,” Smith says. “It’s a big bar to jump, but it’s been done. If we can just keep taking steps in that direction, it’d be amazing how much momentum we can build.”

History tends to repeat itself, and Smith has been a proven caretaker of any program he’s coached.

*Alex Carpenter*