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Stanford's Svitek tackles offense

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By Larry Weisman, USA TODAY

In the countdown to the NFL draft, a look at individual players.

Draft gem: Will Svitek (6-7, 305), Stanford (senior).

College highlights: The practices leading up to the East-West Shrine game convinced NFL types that Svitek, a defensive end, could play offensive tackle at the next level. They liked his combativeness and nasty streak. He ran a 4.93 40-yard dash at Stanford's Pro Day on a wet field. He has quickness and power.

NFL appeal: With his athleticism and size, he's a better fit on the offensive side of the ball. Smart, strong, hungry (the family left the Czech Republic in 1984), Svitek shows a willingness to learn. He will have no bad habits as a rookie offensive lineman. He has never played there other than some short stints at tight end. Possible late-round choice.

What they're saying: "If you compare him to most offensive linemen in the NFL, he's more athletic — he has speed, agility and quickness. He's very, very raw because he doesn't have any experience playing the position. From a potential standpoint, he's an excellent prospect." — Ron Forbes, director of strength and conditioning at Stanford.

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