

New Faces Light Up UNC's Spring Game

Jarwarski Pollock grabbed six passes for 100 yards, including a touchdown, at UNC's spring scrimmage.

By IAN GORDON
Sports Editor

Take a look at the score of North Carolina's spring football game, and then totally erase it from your mind.

Forget about an upcoming fall filled with 66-point games. Forget about a 2002 season of 33-point victories — or 33-point defeats.

No, the 66-33 "Carolina" win against the "Tar Heels" didn't mean anything, not with the essentially nonsensical scoring system used Saturday at Kenan Stadium.

But the Spring Game isn't about keeping score. It's about giving the coaches one last look at their players before the break heading into summer. It's about giving the fans an idea of what's been happening down on the practice field.

"I think overall this game showed the progress we've made in some areas," said UNC coach John Bunting. "We've got a lot of work to do, but we're on our way."

Saturday, the dual mission of the intrasquad scrimmage was accomplished. Not only did Bunting and his staff get to evaluate his players in a pseudo-game environment, but it allowed UNC fans the chance to see the new names they'd heard all spring.

C.J. Stephens. Isaac Mooring. Jarwarski Pollock.

Jarwarski Pollock? The 5-foot-8 sophomore wideout, who

sat out last season as an academic partial qualifier, put on a show of speed en route to a six-reception, 100-yard day.

On one play, Pollock snagged a pass from reserve quarterback Jared Hall at the 30-yard line, turned quickly, lost his shoe and still scampered for a 42-yard score.

"He is, literally, one of the quickest people I've ever seen," said Stephens, a junior quarterback who transferred from Florida. "I don't know how many people could run out of their shoes and still run for a touchdown. I know I couldn't."

Pollock, who said he runs the 40-yard dash in 4.41 seconds, had difficulty with his shoes all day. He is battling turf toe, and he wore a shoe with a metal sole in it that didn't cover his entire foot.

Regardless, Pollock impressed both his teammates and the coaches, who alternately call him "Watt" and "Jaws."

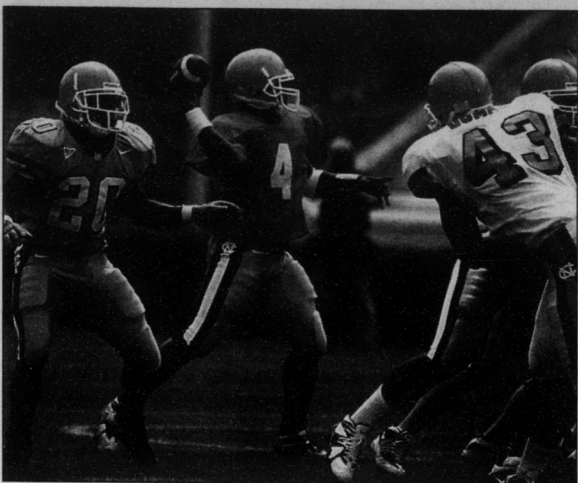
"He's a really shifty, quick, very competitive young man," Bunting said. "He's a great playmaker because he has a great feel for where everybody is."

In a game in which the teams combined for 99 points but scored only five touchdowns, the points had to come from somewhere else. The modified scoring allowed for the defensive team to earn points for good defensive plays.

Saturday, Mooring was at the center of that defensive effort. The projected start-



UNC defensive end Isaac Mooring had three tackles, including two sacks, in Saturday's spring scrimmage.



DITH/SARA ABRONS

UNC quarterback Darian Durant (center) throws a screen pass in the Tar Heels' spring scrimmage Saturday. Durant finished 3-for-7 on the day.

ing defensive end had three tackles — including two sacks — and was impressive at the spot vacated by Julius Peppers.

"It's basically impossible to fill shoes like that," he said. "I think that we, as a group, will definitely be able to take over."

Entering the Spring Game, the quarterback matchup between Stephens and Darian Durant was much anticipated. But Bunting put a red jersey on Durant to keep him from getting hit after the quarterback missed some of spring practice while deciding whether to transfer. Durant, who said he understood why

Bunting wanted him to avoid contact, played only three series, completing 3 of 7 passes for 33 yards. Stephens finished 6-for-10 for 103 yards, including a 41-yard touchdown pass to Sam Aiken.

But Bunting downplayed Durant's short outing.

"It's obvious that Darian hasn't thrown the ball as much as the others," Bunting said. "I'm sure he's going to compete to be number one."

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BASEBALL

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LaMura ended the day with these numbers: two innings pitched, five earned runs, three hit-by-pitches, one wild pitch and one balk.

At least he got someone out. His replacement, Ryan Childs, faced three batters and failed to retire any of them, not that it was entirely his fault.

After allowing a double and a single, Childs faced UNC first baseman Ryan Blake with runners on first and third and the Tar Heels up 5-0. Blake hit a double-play ground ball to short, but Russell Triplett muffed the play, and the Tar Heels scored two more runs in the inning.

"Today we played our worst game of the year," said Clemson coach Jack Leggett, whose team dropped to 30-4, 7-2. "We were sloppy on the mound, we were sloppy on defense, we were sloppy behind the plate. So we got what we deserved today."

But Leggett's Tigers didn't fold. They chased UNC starter Daniel Moore in the fourth shortly after Jeff Baker crushed a Moore delivery for a grand slam, his

13th homer of the year. All of a sudden, it was 7-4.

Harrell (6-3), though, slammed the door shut on the rally. His fastball, which he said he didn't think he had while warming up in the bullpen, was dominating. He pitched 5 2/3 innings, struck out six and allowed just one run.

"We've started him, we've closed him, we've used him every way you can, and he's responded every single time," Fox said.

And the Tar Heels, which are now fourth in the conference, used that performance to avoid getting swept a week after going 1-2 at No. 7 Wake Forest.

"We've still got to keep going," Fox said. "We're not there yet. We've still got to keep going."

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UNC left fielder Sean Farrell went 2-for-4 with three RBIs as UNC won Game 3 against Clemson.

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