

Top-10 list of coaches to replace Bunting

With head football coach John Bunting assuming lame-duck status and five games remaining, UNC needs to start wooing possible replacements before other teams fire their coaches at the end of the season and start looking.

To help out Athletic Director Dick Baddour, here's a list of the top 10 candidates to replace Bunting.



SAM ROSENTHAL
SON, I'M CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW. SAVVY?

Chuck Norris' players don't break tackles. They break tacklers.

10. Mia Hamm.
"Bend it Like Beckham" meets "Blitz 'Em Like Belichick." Hamm might have played the other species of football, but she's a Tar Heel who scores like Austin Powers, signs major endorsement deals and wins World Cups.

9. Al Pacino and Denzel Washington

"Any given Sunday, you'll remember the Tar Heels." Pacino would inspire his players while battling alcoholism a la Bob Huggins, and Denzel would teach the team to build chemistry through the magic of Motown.

Franklin Street merchandising profits would skyrocket when they started selling "Scarface" action figures in Carolina-blue suits.

8. Mr. T.

"I pity the fool who lines up against us." By reinventing himself as Mr. T.D., he would mold the UNC program into a real grade A-Team.

7. Willie Parker

"Fast Willie Parker, Clinton High School." The Pittsburgh Steelers' star tailback would most likely love replacing the coach who never played him. All he has to do first is end a blossoming NFL career by entering retirement with Tiki Barber and accept the job. It's not like he's defending a Super Bowl Title or anything.

6. Larry Coker

"Men, for inspiration tonight, we're watching a highlight tape of Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson." Once Coker loses his job at Miami, he can turn the Tar Heels into the best combination of violence and football since the XFL or NFL Blitz.

5. Chuck Norris

"Personal foul, on the defense, for upsetting Chuck Norris. All the distance to the goal. Touchdown, North Carolina."

4. Stuart Scott

"I'm Stuart Scott, and welcome to Smith Center. Whoops, Kenan Stadium. My bad y'all."

Chapel Hill's own, Scott would be a great coach. He'd use his ESPN connections to ensure that every UNC game is nationally televised, and all of his trademark lines would appear daily in some stellar campus publication.

3. Colin Powell

"This is Operation Desert Storm the Field and Rip Down the Uprights." From national security adviser to secretary of state to head football coach is actually a very logical progression: Army bigwigs excel at bolstering the defenses and boosting recruiting. If he can beat Saddam, he can beat State.

2. Gary the Pit Preacher

"And on the eighth day, the Lord helped the Tar Heels cover the spread." The Pit Preacher would be a great option for UNC, as his oratory skills would certainly fire the team up. Although he'd only start white, upstanding Christian players, Gary's secret weapon — "The play-Book" — features seven versions of the Hail Mary, a Christ-Cross pattern and a run blitz called Judgment Day.

1. Roy Williams

"Salvation" is spelled "R-O-Y." Sure, Williams might be just one man, but that won't stop him from coaching two teams to NCAA Championships.

And there could be a second Late Night. Imagine the offensive line loosening up your buttons and bringing sexy back.

Roy cleaned up Matt Doherty's mess like a Swiffer WetJet, and he'll go five-star hotel maid on the pigsty of a situation that Bunting's leaving behind.

As always, Roy's No. 1.

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at schwaggles@aol.com.

"We're going to finish as hard as we possibly can. That's what I'm about. That's the way I was raised. That's what Carolina taught me." JOHN BUNTING AT MONDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

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