

Season in Review

Gridders' Record Poorest Since 1944

Weaknesses Evident In Retrospect

By Bill Peacock

The Carolina football team won two and lost eight during 1951 in what was a puzzling and disappointing season, but as we look back on the season several things become evident and explain the lack of success.

Firstly, the players were over-rated by most of the Carolina following and secondly, they didn't always play the ball they were capable of. Everyone knew that Carolina was badly over-scheduled at the start of the season, but it was expected that the Tar Heels would give a good account of themselves and turn in an upset or two.

There were other troubles. Injuries cropped up in position after position just as soon as the problems there seemed to be solved. Like many other schools, Carolina was forced to depend heavily on sophomores and freshmen, but Carolina's new men could not play two good games in succession. And the effect of a too-tough schedule was more than most people had counted on, with the terrible beatings inflicted on the Tar Heels being more than they could stand.

The statistics give ample evidence as to the reason Coach Carl Snavelly's boys had the worst season since 1944 and were the first Carolina athletic team in history to lose eight games. The Tar Heels made 120 points as compared to the 224 points of the opposition, the third straight year in which they were out-scored. Worse yet, Carolina made only six scores in the last six games, while the opponents were scoring 20 times.

Tar Heels Are Out Rushed

The Tar Heels were out rushed 2176 yards to 1257 and out-passed, 1113 yards to 957. Carolina's opponents made 94 first downs rushing and 51 passing to 88 rushing and 43 passing for Carolina. The Tar Heels outdid the enemy on first downs by penalties, 13 to 2, and this is indicative of who was the more aggressive, Carolina or the opponent.

Carolina had a slightly better passing average than its opponents, completing 83 of 185 for an average of 45 percent while the opponents completed 77 of 169 for an average of 44 percent.

There were some bright spots in the Carolina picture. Defensive end George Norris played a consistently good game as did center Andy Miketa. Guard Joe Dudeck did well despite a shoulder that gave him trouble all year. Dick Wiess played a steady game

and led all backs in rushing with 323 yards and wingback Bob Gantt had a fine average gain of 4.8 yards to lead in this department. And Bud Wallace punted superbly finishing with a 40.2 average, second in the conference and tied Wiess for high scorer on the team with 24 points, and Abie Williams reached 16 of 17 placements.

An encouraging note was the flashes of brilliance shown by the freshmen and sophomores and it was a pity that they could not maintain the pace.

Offensive End A Problem

Carolina had certain glaring weaknesses all year. Offensive end was a problem which was improved late in the season by playing backs Wallace and Tom Adler there. Blockingback never recovered from the loss of Bull Davidson, who had academic problems, although Allen Mueller showed promise against Notre Dame.

Tailback, the position that requires a good runner-passer, was a terrible headache, with the tailbacks losing ground in four of the games. But freshman Connie Gravitte has indicated that he is going to be ready soon. The right linebacker position was handled adequately by sophomore Doug Bruton, but after he was injured, an acceptable replacement could not be found.

And the defensive backfield was probably the worst headache of all. Bud Carson and Chal Port, who were counted on to give most of the strength here both had physical trouble. Port never regaining form after an apendectomy and Carson troubled by his ankle.

Let's take a run down of the games:

Carolina took State easily in

the opener, 21-0, and preseason predictions of Carolina strength seemed vindicated. Bud Carson made the play of the day, a 74-yard punt return for a touchdown and Bob Gantt carried 13 times for 80 yards, almost a one-third of his total for the year.

The Line Stops the Bulldogs

Against Georgia, the Carolina defensive line bore out its reputation by holding the Bulldogs to 69 yards, but that old bugaboo, pass defense gave way and Georgia tossed for three touchdowns passes and a 28-16 victory. Quarterback Zeke Bratowski had his best game of the year, passing for 215 yards. End Jeff Newton and Gantt scored for Carolina and Wiess was the leading rusher with 109 yards in 22 carries.

Texas ran over Carolina, 45-20, in the third game of the year with Gib Dawson leading the way with two scores and 144 yards gained in nine carries. Frank Wissman seemed to show the

stuff he had promised in early practices by completing 10 of 17 passes for 151 yards and two scores, both to Wallace.

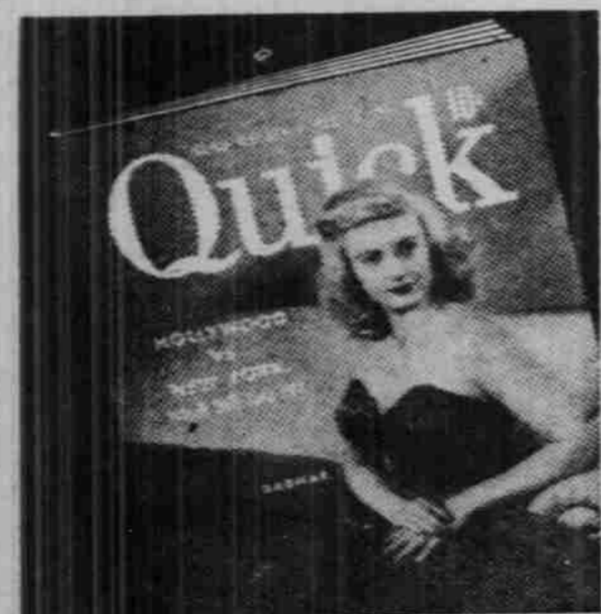
It was against South Carolina that freshman Larry Parker, who received a tremendous pre-season build-up, "arrived"—but he never quite reached that peak again. He set up one score with a 61-yard kickoff return and passed to end Bill Baker for another as Carolina won, 21-6. The Gamecocks gave Carolina little trouble and their All-American, Steve Wadiak, got only 22 yards in 11 carries.

The Maryland game marked the high-point of the season, but Carolina's inability to score pointed out its glaring weakness. The highly-ranked Terps squeezed by Carolina, 14-7, and the Tar Heels had five fine chances to score in the second half when they nearly ran Jim Tatum's boys out of the stadium. Bob Gantt scored for Carolina.

The Wolves Howl for Snavelly

The Wake Forest game was the poorest game of the season for Carolina and the wolves started to howl for Snavelly following the humiliating, 39-7, defeat. Ed Kissell and Dickie Davis completed nine of the first 12 passes to start the rout, while Carolina did nothing right. Davis was the individual star with a 83-yard touchdown run.

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