

DeMelfi lauds linebackers

'Can't say enough about Bunting'

by Mark Whicker
Sports Editor

"It's impossible to say enough about John Bunting," comments Carolina's outside linebacker coach Ron DeMelfi. Unfortunately, most people around the conference haven't even tried.

Bunting was overlooked last year when the awards went to the McCauleys, the

Harts, the Chessons. Yet his play was consistently sensational, or sensationally consistent, and he is the main reason why the Tar Heel coaches aren't worried too much about outside linebackers.

His partner on the weak side, Jim Webster, has shown the same kind of potential. However, a broken leg his sophomore year caused him to miss spring practice in '70. Then a knee

knocked him out of the last four games last fall.

And behind these two are a two-year reserve, a big sophomore, and a fast refugee from the secondary.

To begin with, there's Bunting, the personification of what a good linebacker should be. The coaches saw all these attributes in the first quarter at Clemson last year, and enjoyed the film as much as a good hematologist might enjoy "MASH."

"On the first play of the game," recalls DeMelfi, "he sprinted 35 yards with their fastest back to deflect a pass."

"Three plays later, they ran a draw play straight up the gut and Bunting stopped it."

"On the next play, they tried a quarterback option to the weak side and Bunting came all the way across the field to make the play."

Outside linebacker demands good one-to-one speed to keep up with sprinting backs going out for passes. It demands strength to stop the run and agility to blitz effectively.

Bunting, a 210-pound rising senior from Silver Spring, Md., is outstanding in all departments. "He played 12 fabulous ball games last season," praises DeMelfi.

Yet he didn't receive All-Conference honors, probably because his responsibilities didn't involve eye-catching heroics. "He made those three plays at Clemson that were

spectacular," says DeMelfi, "and the average fan didn't notice."

Webster was spectacular in his first four games as a sophomore, and then suffered the broken leg at Florida, an injury so severe that pain-killers were administered on the field.

He was just coming into his own again when the knee was injured against Virginia. Now he has been moved to the outside and according to DeMelfi "he has the speed to be very good there."

Mel Riddle will back up Bunting on the strong side. He is one of the strongest players on the team, but needs more open field ability.

Sophomore Sammy Johnson, originally a quarterback, will be Webster's backup man.

"He is one of our finest rising sophomores," says DeMelfi, "and although this will be a new position to him, I think he'll come along well."

Mike Lemmons has been brought up from the secondary and his speed should help him in reserve roles. Lemmons, a junior, joins Johnson in trying to learn the vagaries of a new position during spring practice.

"Outside linebacker should be one of our finest positions," DeMelfi sums up. "Bunting is truly one of the best linebackers in the country, and Webster has all the possibilities of being the same when whole."

Deac record poor, but Rabb is wary as Tar Heels travel

by Dan Collins
Sports Writer

"The ball bounces good for them when they play us. We have to anticipate a close game."

These are the words spoken about Wake Forest by Carolina's veteran coach Walter Rabb. Despite the facts the Demon Deacons are currently struggling through a disappointing 3-7 season Rabb is very wary of the conference foe in today's game in Winston-Salem.

The team, 0-5 in conference play and batting a dismal .169 team average, has certainly not been burning up the league with outstanding play. However, college baseball is a hard game to predict and when two conference rivals meet anything could happen.

"I see where they have been in some close games, as has Duke," commented Rabb. "As far as we're concerned we're expecting a tough game."

The only Deacon with a batting average worth writing home about is Dave Evans with .278, and it would rate only a third class delivery. None of the other players have been able to pass the mediocre .250 mark.

Coach Rabb hasn't named a definite starter for today's game but he has mentioned righthander Dave Bullard as a possibility. "Dave has suffered a little stiffness in his right arm but I think he will be able to go," stated Rabb.

The conference game will be a big one for the Tar Heels after dropping the 11-7

heartbreaker to State. They will be looking to recover some of the valuable momentum they had built up prior to the loss.

Despite the fact the defeat was Carolina's second conference loss Coach Rabb feels his team is still in the race.

"We've not even begun to think we're out of it yet," said Rabb. "We're expecting a close race and if things go right we could easily be a factor."

The game was successful in that it marked the return to form of reliefer Rusty Prindle. After being a mainstay in Carolina's bullpen last season the curveball specialist was bombed in his first appearance this season against Yale.

After Rabb had tried three different pitchers without success he inserted the lefthander and all of a sudden the Wolfpack couldn't buy a hit. For the first time of the year Prindle's breaking pitches were working and after facing twelve batters he had allowed only two hits and had struck out three.

After today's game at Wake Forest the Heels will continue their road trip by traveling to Blacksburg, Va. to take on a strong Va. Tech. Team. The team, who finished 15-11 last year, have picked up three top junior college players and look to be tougher than ever.

Although the game will be non-conference, a win at Blacksburg coupled with a conference victory over Wake today could push the Tar Heels season record back up to a .500 percentage with 10 wins against 10 losses.



The Towson State goalie makes a goal-saving stab at the ball in Thursday afternoon's lacrosse match at Fetzer Field. Towson State beat the Tar Heels, 11-6. (Staff photo by Cliff Kolovson)

Towson beats stickmen 11-6 in league game

by Howie Carr
Sports Writer

A fired-up Towson State squad dealt the Carolina lacrosse team its third straight defeat, 11-6, Thursday afternoon on Navy Field.

The loss, which left the Tar Heels with a 1-1 record in the South Atlantic Conference race, gave Carolina a 1-4-1 mark overall for the season.

"We can't afford to lose any more in the conference," said Coach Fred Mueller after the game. "From now on every game is a 'must' win."

"Every time we came back they'd get another chance," said Mueller, shaking his head.

Towson's record is now 2-0 in the conference, and 5-1 overall.

The Tar Heels jumped off to a quick 1-0 lead with 7:53 gone in the first period when freshman midfielder Glenn McKenzie slammed a Bruce Ledwith pass past the Towson goalie.

The visitors from Maryland tied the score, however, with 7:10 gone in the second period when star attackman Tim Mahoney fed Dennis Schreiber for a goal.

Towson reeled off three more second period goals before Carolina's Rob Malm scored on a Ray Seipp pass with only 21 seconds left in the half.

Towson struck first after the halftime break when Don Wells got a shot past Carolina goalie Dave Schreiner. Seipp got the goal back for the Tar Heels with 7:07 left in the period, but Towson scored the last three goals of the quarter to grab an 8-3 lead.

Carolina's Ledwith cut the visitors' margin with a goal at 1:30 of the final period, and after another Towson score Phil Sasser and Ledwith recorded a pair of scores to trim the margin to 9-6 with almost nine minutes to go in the game.

Towson could not be denied, though, as their flashy midfielder Ron Cadarette got the last two tallies of the game to give Towson its final 11-6 advantage.

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