

Big plays spark Tulane to victory



Tulane cornerback Dave Hebert breaks up a pass intended for UNC tailback Ted Leverenz. Close plays like this one made the difference as UNC lost its first game of the season. (Staff photo by Cliff Kolovson)

by Mark Whicker
Sports Editor

If Mike Walker and Steve Barrios played against Carolina every week, they'd be All-Americans.

Most of the 39,000 fans who watched Tulane beat the Tar Heels 37-29 Saturday afternoon didn't get to see the Walker-Barrios tandem in action last year at New Orleans.

To refresh the memories of Coach Bill Dooley and the embattled defensive backfield, Walker three four touchdown passes in the first half, and Barrios caught two of them, including one as the second period ended.

Then, after that instant replay ran out, Tulane borrowed some tape from the South Carolina game last year.

The Tar Heels, rallying furiously behind quarterback Paul Miller, came within five points at 28-23 with 11 minutes to go.

You may remember that Carolina had tied South Carolina last year, at 21-21, only to have Dick Harris return a punt for a touchdown.

This time it was Coleman DuPre with a 100-yard kickoff return, popping from a cluster of blue jerseys to score what

proved to be the killer.

Tulane's defense found it much easier going without Don McCauley to worry about, but should have been quite thankful that Ike Oglesby's leg cramps kept him out of action.

Twice in the first half and once in the third period, Carolina made it inside the Tulane 20 with first downs. A Ken Craven field goal was all the reward the Heels got, since the Wave's slanting defense threw the running game off balance.

Still, the Heels rolled up 217 rushing yards, mostly in the second-half comeback from a 28-11 deficit at intermission.

On Tulane's second offensive play of the game, Walker floated a pass to fullback Don Marshall breaking over the middle - and without a Carolina defender near him. It was a 65-yard touchdown play.

Craven's field goal followed, but Tulane struck back in the wild second quarter when Walker fired a 26-yard touchdown pass to Maxie LeBlanc. This followed a fumble by Miller.

Then Paul Ellis intercepted a Miller pass that glanced off John Cowell's shoulders. Walker rolled right and

uncorked a long lob to Barrios on the sideline for a 56-yard touchdown.

Lou Angelo had slipped on the coverage.

Miller moved the offense to a quick touchdown, diving for a six-yard score after completing three passes, but then UNC tried a squib kickoff and Virgil Vaughan circled the Carolina flank to the Heels' 30.

Walker, as casual as you please, found Barrios almost absurdly open on the left corner for Tulane's fourth bomb. It was 28-11, and Walker had completed four passes for 185 yards.

Carolina's defense circled its wagons in the second half, holding Tulane to the kickoff return and Gene Gibson's late field goal, and Miller brazenly led the counterattack.

After the aforementioned stall on Tulane's five, Miller got the ball on the enemy 42 and wriggled away for 14 yards. Two plays later, a 20-yard TD pass to Lew Jolley made it 28-17.

Carolina opened the fourth quarter with the guns blazing again. Miller scrambled for 27 yards to the Tulane 30, and Ted Levrenz dashed through to the 12.

After Miller's right side dash, Geoff Hamlin popped through for a five-yard score. It was 28-22 - 11:43 to play.

Then came DuPre's return, and the Heels were back where they started, on their own 20.

John Klise relieved Miller, shaken up on the last drive, and moved the Heels for the score in ten plays and three minutes. Hamlin scored from the three, after Klise had run well to the outside and hit Earl Bethea (his first catch of the year) and John Cowell with important passes.

With eight minutes to go, Walker went back to the big plays, although they didn't cause a touchdown. Big plays like a third-down 17-yard pass to Barrios, a third-down, 28-yard pass to Marshall, and a fortunate out-of-bounds fumble.

Gibson booted the field goal from 22 yards out, and that was the game.

Despite the defensive breakdowns, Carolina would have had a much better chance with the explosive Oglesby in the lineup. Pressed to produce, Miller did almost everything he could, and came very close to pulling it out.

But the Walker arm, misfiring for a 32 percent completion average before Saturday, did the Tar Heels in.

With TD passes

Walker, Barrios beat Heels

by Mark Whicker
Sports Editor

How could a team that lost to Rice and William & Mary defeat Carolina?

Although the Tulane players did not kneel and contemplate questions such as these in their locker room after the 37-29 victory Saturday in Kenan Stadium, there were two players who held the answers.

One of them was lean, blond-haired, and talked with the drawl you might expect from somebody who hails from Houma, Louisiana.

Mike Walker, the quarterback who bombed the Tar Heels' defensive backfield four times, answered questions coolly, nonchalantly, with an assured air that probably brought him the epithet of

"cocky" in his high school days.

The other one was stockier, not all the archetype wide receiver. He had burned Carolina with two long catches last year, and today he caught two TDs and a crucial third-down pass in the fourth period.

Steve Barrios, sidelined for the first four games with a fractured shoulder blade, was clearly glad to be back.

"I don't think Carolina's secondary really broke down all that badly," Barrios said. "It's just that they were playing man-to-man on me most of the time, and that's just ideal for me."

"Mike Walker made some perfect passes to me and the other receivers today."

Barrios could offer no tangible

explanation for the two-game Tulane tailspin.

"I don't know what happened, but I think we were in some kind of mental slump. As a team, maybe you could say that we took William & Mary lightly."

Tulane lost to William & Mary 14-3. Walker also didn't know about the team's attitude beforehand.

"We knew we were a better team than what we showed earlier, especially on defense," said Walker, whose receivers had dropped 11 passes in the William & Mary game.

"Carolina's got a pretty good defense - the quarterback continued. For us, it was just a matter of getting the big play when we needed it."

For Coach Bernie Ellender, who may be the only first-year college football coach in the country with a shaved head, it was all a relief.

"We knew that nobody shuts out Carolina on the ground, Ellender said, "and I'm proud of our defense for the job they did in the second half."

"It seemed to be our best game of the season - I'm extremely gratified to beat such a well-coached team."

"We finally got the big plays today," Ellender continued, stating the obvious fact that Tulane was psyched - "we really felt we could win this one. Our attitude was great all week."

With Steve Barrios coming back in to hold more of Walker's passes, that was understandable.

Culbreth: 'gave them too much'

by Howie Carr
Assistant Sports Editor

"I'm not a psychoanalyst so I don't know if we were ready or not," said Carolina defensive back Rusty Culbreth after the Tar Heels' 37-29 loss to Tulane Saturday. "We just played lousy on those five big plays."

The five big plays were, of course, Tulane quarterback Mike Walker's four touchdown passes of 26, 38, 56 and 64 yards, and Coleman DuPre's 101 yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter.

"We didn't make any adjustments at halftime, it was just that we played the way we can in the second half," explained Culbreth of the second half when Carolina outscored Tulane 18-9. "We had just given them too much in the first half."

"I think we could have scored four or five more touchdowns," said Tar Heel quarterback Paul Miller, who had a good game personally despite the loss, completing 10 or 22 passes for 143 yards and running for 62 more yards, including a touchdown and a two-point conversion.

The Carolina offense lost the edge off its running attack as tailback Ike Oglesby sat out the game with a mysterious leg ailment, but Miller had nothing but praise

for his replacements, Billy Hite and Ted Leverenz.

"They're not as fast as Oglesby, but when the hole opens, they can go," Miller said.

Leverenz finished as the Tar Heels' second leading rusher with 59 yards on 12 carries, while Hite picked up 31 yards with 9 rushes.

Miller suffered a slight injury in the fourth quarter when "some guy caught me in the back of my ribs," and missed most of the series that resulted in Carolina's final touchdown.

"It's probably the strangest game I've ever played in," summed up Miller.

"Everytime we got one - bam - Tulane would get another one," said head coach Billy Dooley after the defeat. "It appeared they got a lot of easy ones and we had to work for ours."

Speaking of the Green Wave's final touchdown of the first half, when Walker hit Steve Barrios for a 38-yard score with five seconds left, Dooley said that "we had things set up like we wanted but we didn't contain him." Barrios shook both linebacker Mike Mansfield and defensive back Culbreth to make the catch.

Dooley said that the final decision not to play Oglesby was made Saturday morning. "It's normal for your legs to be tired for three or four days, so we didn't

use him in practice until Friday, but he didn't come around too well then," Dooley explained. Oglesby had also sat out the second half of Carolina's 27-7 victory over State last week.

Have any of your teams ever been bombed so badly, someone asked?

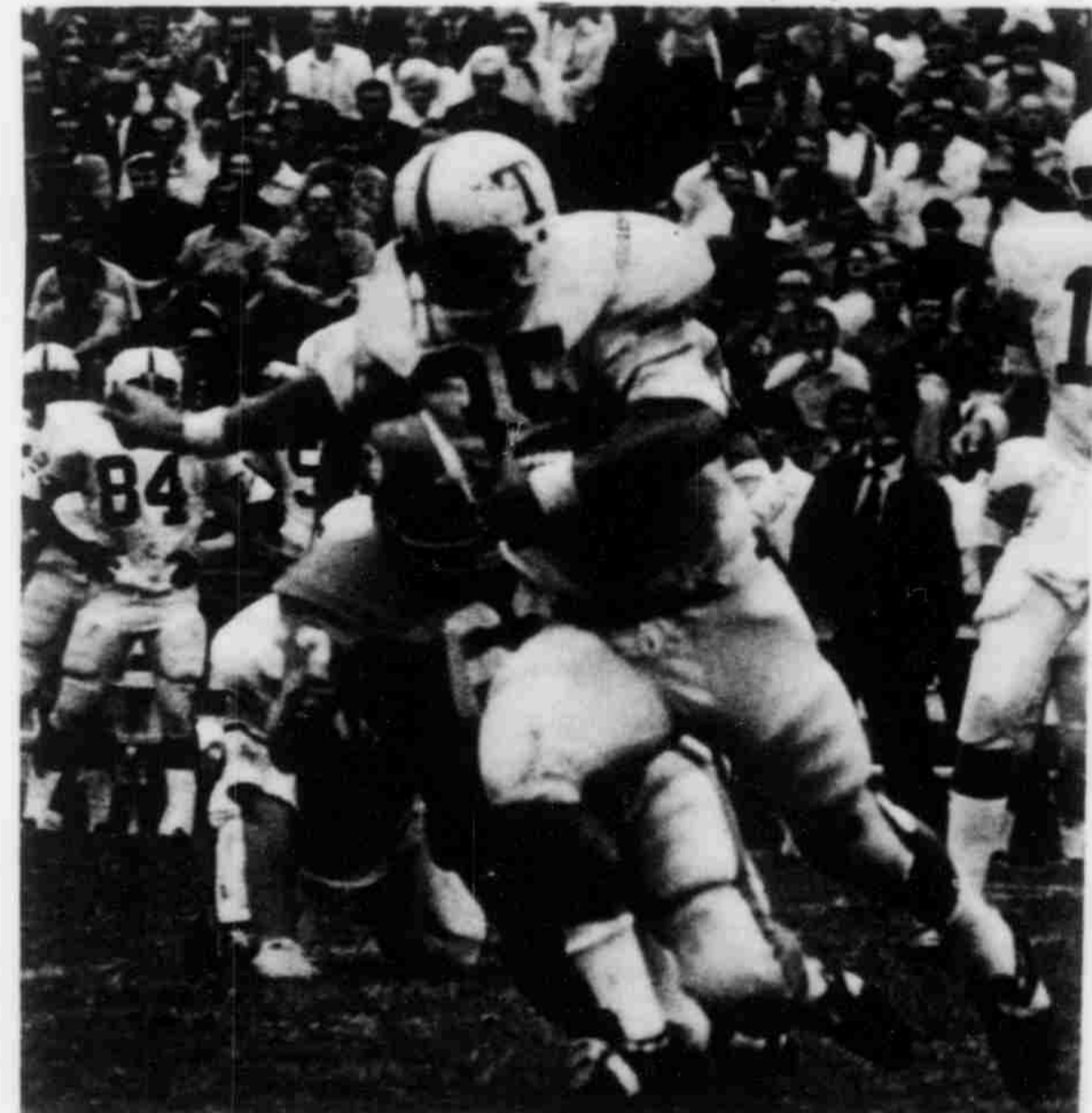
"Yeah, Tulane last year," Dooley replied. "We didn't get beat," Dooley concluded. "The clock ran out on us."

Dooley also discussed the press conference that Bill Richardson, the 1970 co-captain of the Tar Heels, and other ex-football players held yesterday concerning the death of Bill Arnold.

"A study - I don't want to use the work investigation - was made of the whole thing," Dooley said. "I welcomed that study. As far as I'm concerned, it's a closed issue - although Bill Arnold will always be remembered. I'm only sorry that someone else would start it up again."

Dooley also commented on the upcoming Notre Dame game.

"One thing we won't have any trouble with is convincing the players how good Notre Dame is," he said.



Tulane fullback Don Marshall eludes UNC's Robbi Vandebroek on his way to a big gain. Marshall caught a 65-yard touchdown pass for Tulane's first score. (Staff photo by Cliff Kolovson)

UNC heads conference as State tops Deacs

by Al Thomas
Sports Writer

RALEIGH - The football season had been long and dry here until Saturday night.

The Wolfpack, despite preseason optimism, was saddled with a disappointing 0-4 record. The prospects for a win against strong Wake Forest were dim, and there was talk that maybe the Wolfpack would simply fold and not win a game all year.

Despite the talk, State head coach Al Michaels never quit trying to win, never quit hoping and Saturday night it paid off. He and his team were finally winners.

Almost a hundred people excitedly waited outside the State dressing room after the Wolfpack's startling 21-14 win over the Deacons, and each time a State player walked out a cheer would arise.

The rain was pouring, but it didn't seem to matter.

"We needed this one," Michaels said in his usual understatement. "I'm sure happy for the boys. We got some fine breaks, but you might say - and I will - this is the first time we have gotten them for a while."

State had bolted into a 15-0 lead, only to have Wake move within seven at the first of the fourth quarter.

The Deacons continued to grab the momentum, and with 1:39 left to play quarterback Larry Russell carried the ball into the end-zone. The score was then 15-14, and the Deacons were going for two.

"Russell tried to run the second two-pointer in," Michaels recounted, "but our end Brian Krueger did an excellent job. He was our fourth end when we started, but because of injuries he's a starter now."

The Wolfpack led 15-14 with just over a minute left and was in possession of the ball. State fans began screaming with joy and hugging each other, but it was still just a little premature.

The Wolfpack could not move the ball and with 30 seconds left was forced to punt. Kicker Mark Cassidy bobbled the low snap, however, and it was suddenly Deacon ball, on the State 37.

After a 15-yard penalty against the Deacons and a 20 yard run by halfback Ken Garrett, the Deacons had the ball on the State 32 with time running out.

Chuck Ramsey quickly came in to try

a desperation field goal, but the ball squibbed off his foot.

State cornerback Bill Miller picked the ball up and began running toward the Deacon's goal, but suddenly Russell darted off the Wake Forest bench and tackled him.

Time had run out, Miller was awarded a touchdown, and State was on top 21-14.

Deacon coach Cal Stoll was visibly disappointed, saying, "They took advantage of our mistakes and cashed in on them. You just can't make the mistakes we made and expect to win."

"The season isn't over yet," Stoll added, "There's still a long way to go."

The Deacon loss, coupled with Duke's 3-0 upset defeat at the hands of Clemson, left Carolina in the top spot in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The Tar Heels lost 37-29 to Tulane, but in conference play they remain undefeated.

The two other ACC teams, Virginia and Maryland, both lost to outside opponents Saturday. South Carolina whipped the Cavaliers 34-14 while Syracuse rallied for a 21-13 victory over Maryland.



The UNC marching band cheers the Heels on to another score. There was a lot to cheer about for Carolina fans

Saturday, but, unfortunately, Tulane fans had just a couple of extra cheers. (Staff photo by Leslie Todd)