Duffy: second shot at greatness

by Grant Vosburgh Staff Writer

It's the kind of story you read a cour in the grade school sports books. The starspangled kid wins all the honors, leads his team to a successful season and signs a scholarship with the college of his choice. He's a regular golden boy.

Then his dream world comes crashing down. After a mediocre freshman year, he is moved from running back to linebacker, where the team's talent is greatest. He is played sparingly. Adversity sets in. Along with it comes discouragement. He starts questioning his place and his future. Then, decision made, he quits.

After a short time, he has second thoughts. He returns to college and becomes a star. Although Carolina linebacker Mike Duffy is still a few tackles away from the "star" category, his career is almost a Boy's Life story come true.

As a heralded fullback out of Massapequa, N.Y. Duffy chose UNC over a number of schools, including Michigan and Michigan State. He said that his decision was influenced by a teacher at his high school whose nephew, Peter Talty, was a tackle for the Tar Heels at the time. Being recruited by New York native Don McCauley, Carolina's concensus All-America, had a little to do with it, too.

"I didn't rush much as a fullback," Duffy said. "We ran the same system that Carolina does, so I was primarily a blocker. I think I carried the ball something like 62 times my senior year."

Seeing a possible advantage at UNC because of his experience with the wing-I formation, Duffy was looking for the notoriety he had gained in Massapequa.

But a grueling work load, a lack of quickness for a fullback, and finally, a twisted knee made Duffy's freshman season dismal. He was switched to linebacker during the spring practice. For a brief time, his hopes lifted.

He found himself playing behind All-Atlantic Coast Conference performer, Terry Taylor. Other linebackers included Mark DiCarlo, Jimmy DeRatt, Gary Cowan and Steve Earley. In 1973, his sophomore season, Duffy played a reserve role. He made his decision to quit.

"I got kinda sick of the whole thing,"
Duffy said. "When you're not playing, you
look around and see all these guys who are as
good as you are and ask yourself, 'What am I
doing here?' I went four months without
playing much. It didn't seem worth it."

During last year's 7-4 season, Duffy roamed around the East Coast — loafing in Florida, helping construct a shopping mall in Chapel Hill and relaxing at his home in New York.

He began reevaluating the importance of football and actually felt a longing to play again. He talked to some of the assistant coaches at Carolina and decided to come back this fall.

It took Duffy a while to get accustomed to Carolina's new defense and to get back into football. But he found he hadn't lost any ability during his layoff. He received the

UNC linebacker Mike Duffy

Defensive Player of the Week, awarded by the Notre Dame television network for his play against the Fighting Irish. He had a similar game against N.C. State the following week. Because of "a sorry game against East Carolina," Duffy has been moved back behind starter Bobby Gay, but this time he has not thought about leaving.

"I think leaving for a year did me some good," Duffy said. "It got me to miss football. You've got to have something to get your hostilities out. But it's good to be back."

With this week's change in the defensive personnel and Carolina's overall slumping performance, Mike Duffy is not quite ready to enter the Boy's Life sports book Hall of Fame. But his storybook career has another year to go before we can close the book on him. And if he continues the progress he has made since his return to Chapel Hill, Mike Duffy may well become a best seller.

Finish season 8-2 Wahoo! Netters win 7-2

Carolina's women netters finished their fall season on a positive note with a 7-2 thrashing of Virginia in Chapel Hill Friday.

The Tar Heels took four of the six singles, then swept the three doubles matches from the Wahoos, who are considered to be one of the toughest teams in the Southeast.

The Wahoos' only victories came on the first two singles courts where Cindy Brinker and Barbara Goldman, both freshmen, won. Brinker handed freshman Susie Black her first loss in nine matches, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, while Goldman beat Camey Timberlake 6-2, 6-2.

Carolina had a relatively easy time in the rest of the singles. Suzanne Bowron, Rebecca Garcia, Lisa Dodson and Jean Scott all posted victories for the Tar Heels. Dodson and Scott finished the season undefeated in singles.

Leading 4-2 going into the doubles, UNC needed only one win to wrap up the match.

Scott and Linda Matthews insured the outcome with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Cheri O'Donnell and Diane Lee on the third court. Garcia and Nina Cloaninger then won a three-set match on the no. 2 court, and Timberlake and Jane Preyer completed the rout with a straight-set win on court one.

The scores in singles were: Cindy Brinker (V) d. Susie Black 6-2, 5-7, 6-1; Barbara Goldman (V) d. Camey Timberlake 6-2, 6-2; Suzanne Bowron (C) d. Cheri O'Donnell 6-3, 6-4; Rebecca Garcia (C) d. Keri O'Donnell 6-1, 6-1; Lisa Dodson (C) d. Kerri Moritz 6-3, 6-2; and Jean Scott (C) d. Diane Lee 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles: Timberlake-Preyer (C) d. Brinker-Goldman 6-4, 6-2; Cloaninger-Garcia (C) d. K. O'Donnell-Moritz 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; and Matthews-Scott (C) d. O'Donnell-Lee 6-0, 7-5.

- Kevin Barris

Gridders leave school

Carolina linebackers Billy Murphy and Van Lippencott withdrew from UNC Thursday after quitting the football team last week.

Murphy, a 6-1, 215-pound junior from Lincolnton, N.C. had been a starter the first half of the Tar Heels' season, being cited for an outstanding game against Maryland, in the second game of the year. He also started seven games in 1974 before suffering a neck injury against South Carolina. He said he

would not elaborate on his withdrawal, citing only "unfair treatment" as the reason.

Lippencott, a 6-0, 209-pound Brownsville, Pa. native, had seen limited action the first half of the year as a kickoff specialist for the varsity. Extra point specialist Tom Biddle has been kicking off the last several games, Lippencott told the Daily Tar Heel his decision was because of "academic reasons."

- Grant Vosburgh

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BEEMER ON TOWN AND GOWN

UNC students make a sizeable, daily contribution to Chapel Hill's social and economic activity. It's time UNC students have a responsible voice in our town's political and governmental machinery.

Since graduating from high school, I have spent 13 of 17½ years on the college campus as a student and an instructor. I know some of your expectations and exasperations as both relate to our community. I believe student ought to have the chance to express either or both through proper channels. The recent controversy, to mention just one example, on fraternity-sorority rezoning was highlighted the need to have such a responsible voice from the campus to the town.

If possible, then I will seek a resolution from the Board authorizing the student body government to elect as student as a permanent representative to the town government. The Town

Charter would make it impossible for such a representative to vote on matters: nevertheless, the student representative should sit and discuss with the Board all matters pending before it. In addition, such a representative should also be an official, and in this case, voting, member of any appropriate committee appointed by the Board.

BACK BEEMER FOR ALDERMAN - Sue Mattern, Treasurer

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