



UNC head-eye coordination

Staff photo by Steve Causey

Booters take Duke, ACC 2nd

by Mike Egan and Doug Clark
Staff Writers

Playing perhaps its best soccer of the season, the UNC soccer team defeated a strong Duke team 3-0 on wet Fetzer Field Friday afternoon. The win raised the Heels' final record to 7-4 and elevated them past the Blue Devils into the ACC runner-up spot behind champion Clemson.

A consistent Carolina attack pressured Duke throughout the game, taking 26 shots. The first shot to penetrate the Duke goal came less than 10 minutes into the first half. The Blue Devil goalie failed to hang on to an Olaf Kampschmidt penalty kick and Eric Cook pounced on the rebound, driving it into the net from two yards out.

The score remained 1-0 the rest of the half because of a leaping save of a Duke free kick.

But less than two minutes into the final period the Heels struck again. Zoltan Berkly lofted a pass from 40 yards that was headed in by senior fullback John Rhodes.

For the rest of the game, Duke tried in vain to penetrate the Carolina defense. But with less than a minute to go, Steve Skolsky kicked the Blue Devils with his third goal in as many games.

QB Stratton: 'I want a chance to prove myself'

by Grant Vosburgh
Staff Writer

Room 205 in Ehringhaus Dorm was quiet and empty at 7:30, set time for the interview. Suddenly, a burst of laughter came from the room across the hall. In the center of the floor stood Johnny Stratton, juggling a pair of apples and oranges with a suitemate. The

smiling Stratton seemed a sharp contrast to the second-string quarterback who just a few minutes later, would describe this season as the longest in his career.

"I've been wanting a chance. ...I've been waiting for an opportunity," said Stratton. "I feel that I can do the job, but I haven't played enough to prove myself."

Stratton has played sparingly this season, except for his role as extra point holder. Against Carolina's first two opponents, William and Mary and Maryland, he was inserted into the Tar Heel offense late in each game for a limited number of plays.

In recent weeks, his only appearances have been seven plays against East Carolina in the fourth quarter and three plays against Wake Forest after first-string quarterback Billy Paschall was shaken up. Paschall returned on the next Tar Heel possession.

Stratton has no complaints about his situation, but he does feel that he hasn't yet gotten the real chance he has wanted.

"Against East Carolina, I went in when we were behind by 18 points. Everybody knew that we were going to pass. So then I threw an interception," said Stratton. "I guess I feel like I have to throw a touchdown pass or perform a miracle. What I'm looking for is the chance to get in when it's still a close



Quarterback Johnny Stratton

ballgame."

Stratton has never had an uneven career since his senior year at Boyden High in Salisbury when he was selected quarterback of the Parade Magazine Prep All-America team. Stratton led the UNC freshman team in 1973, completing 39 of 51 passes. Last fall, although dressing out for each varsity game, Stratton did not play in a single game, thus qualifying as a red-shirt and earning an extra year of eligibility.

"I figured out that I was going to be red-shirted after a few games," he said. "But I really didn't mind. Chris (Kuepec) was having a great year and Billy (Paschall) had done a great job the year before. I learned a lot just

being on the sidelines and going to the quarterback meetings.

"Anyway, after what happened the year before (injuries to Nick Vidnovic and Kuepec pushed third-stringer Paschall into action), I knew we had to carry three quarterbacks. And while I wanted to get in while it was happening, now I see that it would have been a waste of a year to go out and, say, hold for a couple of extra points."

With Kuepec battling in the courts for an extra year of eligibility (which he eventually lost) and Paschall playing baseball, Stratton inherited first-team responsibilities during last spring's practice. He felt hopeful that he would see action this fall after a good spring showing.

So far, he has viewed most of the action from the sidelines. With three games remaining this season, Stratton still hopes to get the experience he needs for the future. As for spring practice, Stratton feels he will have a slight edge over the other young quarterbacks, if, for no other reason, because he's been around for three years.

Should Stratton's opportunity never materialize, however, he insists that he will not transfer from UNC to another football program. "Before I'd transfer from Carolina, I'd give up football altogether," the Morehead Scholar said.

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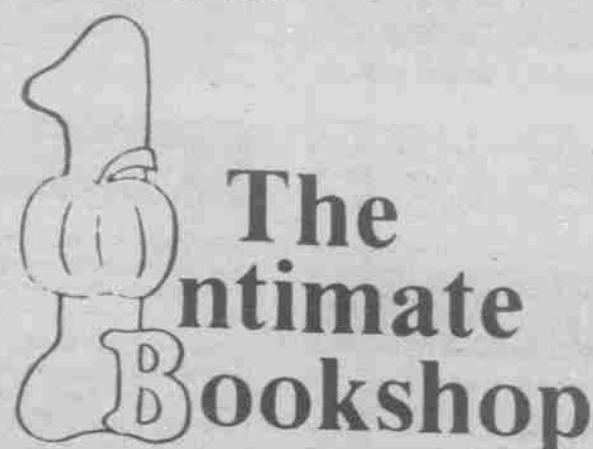
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