

# Clemson 38, Carolina 35: a familiar frustration in Kenan Stadium

by Jim Thomas  
Assistant Sports Editor

For followers of the University of North Carolina football program this season it was a familiar scene: the Tar Heels in position to score the game-winning touchdown with time ticking off the clock.

In two previous games against Notre Dame and N.C. State, Carolina has appeared to be on the verge of victory only to let it slip away in the final seconds. Saturday an interception by Clemson defensive back Dennis Smith in the end zone stole victory from the Tar Heels' fingertips.

With 1:19 left on the Kenan Stadium clock and the ball on Clemson's 11-yard line, four weeks of frustration appeared to have come to an end. But Smith stepped in front of a pass intended for UNC wingback Charlie Williams from quarterback Billy Paschall to send the Tar Heels to their fifth straight defeat, 38-35.

"It was wide open," UNC Coach Bill Dooley said after the game, referring to the pass to Williams. "We hadn't thrown over there all day. Their defensive back ran underneath the pass."

"It was another tough loss," he added. "We went out there to win it. We never gave up, we never let down. We battled all the way through. It boiled down to a break here and there. That was the difference in the ball game."

From the opening kickoff to Smith's interception, the game see-sawed back and forth. It appeared whichever team had the ball last would emerge the victor as neither side was able to stop the other's offense. The Tar Heels gained 427 yards in total offense compared to the Tigers' 457.

Turnovers also played an important part in the game as three fumbles set up scores. Perhaps the most important one came after the Tar Heels had stormed to a 14-0 first quarter lead and turned back the Tigers with two goal-line stands.

With third down and two from its own 24-yard line UNC was in position to move for another first down. But Paschall mishandled a pitchout intended for Williams and Smith made his first of two fumble recoveries on the Carolina 20. Five plays later Clemson quarterback Mike O'Cain scored on a keeper from three yards out to close the gap to 14-7.

## Record now 2-7

# Carolina football team leaves final page unturned

by Grant Vosburgh  
Staff Writer

It's like that feeling you get when you know you've answered all five pages of questions correctly on a midterm and then find out you've flunked because it was a six-page exam.

With 1:26 left in Saturday's game between Carolina and Clemson, UNC's Billy Paschall called out signals with the ball only 11 yards from the goal line and a go-ahead touchdown. Rolling right, he pulled up and passed back to his left for wingback Charlie Williams crossing the left hash mark. There was nothing but endzone ahead. And then, in came the Tiger.

Defensive back Dennis Smith, playing the position known as "Tiger" in Clemson's defense (similar to a monster man), stepped in front of Williams and made the interception. With 1:19 left, Clemson had the ball on its own 36 yard line. Then came that sinking feeling described earlier, with one big difference. This test had been a final. Clemson's offense ran out the clock. The class time was over.

"I don't think the ball was underthrown," Smith said following the game. "I just didn't break for the pass until I saw Paschall release it. I could have gone on deeper with the coverage if the pass had been thrown deeper."

Clemson coach Red Parker said that he figured Carolina would run a crossing pattern on that play, so he switched to a man-to-man pass coverage, something that the Clemson defense had done rarely during the game. Smith, too, anticipated such a pass pattern by Carolina.

"I knew what was coming when I saw the play developing," Smith said. "The tight end will either go in or out. That tells me what is coming. They (UNC) had done it about five times before. We practiced coverage on it all week."

In the Carolina locker room, a quiet Billy Paschall refrained from commenting on the game. "I'm not being antisocial," he said dejectedly. "I just have nothing to say."

Williams, the intended receiver, said he didn't see Smith behind him. "I don't think Billy did either. He was getting a lot of pursuit," he said. "He looked to the tight end, but he was covered. I was a secondary receiver."

Clemson quarterback Mike O'Cain did something Saturday that he has not done in quite a while — he started. He also did something he has done only once in the Tigers' eight previous games — he played the whole game.

"I really don't know why I started," O'Cain said. "It was Coach Parker's decision. I was told about midweek that I was going to start."

"It was no reflection on (Clemson's

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Junior Tailback Mike Voight notched his second 1,000-yard season on a 60-yard run Saturday.



Staff photo by Steve Causey

A 28-yard field goal by freshman Willie Jordan enabled the Tigers to creep within 14-10. Carolina was forced to punt on its next possession after a clipping penalty had pushed the Tar Heels back to their own eight-yard line. Clemson immediately moved the ball down to UNC six on a 41-yard pass from O'Cain to flanker Craig Brantley.

The Tigers were penalized 10 yards on the next two plays for delay of game but on second down and 18 O'Cain hit a lunging Joey Walters with a 17-yard strike on the UNC one. Tar Heel tackle Duke Thompson stopped O'Cain for no gain on third down. However, Tiger tailback Ken Callicutt scored on a pitchout to the right on fourth down to put Clemson ahead for the first time 17-14 with 32 seconds left in the first half.

Carolina came back to score on its first possession of the second half on a five-yard pass from Paschall to split end Ray Stanford to go back in front 21-17. The drive covered 73 yards in just four plays. The big gainer was a 60-yard run by tailback Mike Voight which put him over the 1,000-yard mark for the second straight season. Voight rushed for 228 yards on 28 carries Saturday to up his season total to 1,111 yards with two games remaining.

On the next series wingback Mel Collins returned a punt 20 yards to the Clemson 42. But a

freshmen quarterbacks Willie (Jordan) or Steve (Fuller), they've done a great job," O'Cain said. "I just think Coach Parker might have wanted a little experience today." O'Cain shared time with Mark Fellers last season.

"A lot of people thought I was going to quit after the first couple of games," O'Cain said, referring to his inconsistent play early in the season. "But I have another year after this one and I just made up my mind that I was going to come back. I'm really fortunate to get another chance."

O'Cain responded with his best performance of the season. He completed 12 of 19 pass attempts for 243 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions. He also rushed 20 times for 47 yards, scoring touchdowns of one and three yards. For his statistics, he credited his teammates. "My receivers were great today. They made me look good several times," he said. "The whole team played great. People were saying that we had all quit, just given up this season, but I don't think anybody on this team has quit."

The Tar Heel locker room was practically empty of members of the team who had just lost their fifth straight game and their seventh in nine weeks. Mike Voight, however, was still getting dressed.

"I thought Samson lost all of his strength when he got his hair cut," someone asked him, referring to a trip Voight had made last week to a barber shop and a 228 yard trip he had made moments earlier in Kenan, upping his seasonal total to 1,111 yards.

"Yeah, I guess I got a little cut off," he said with a weak smile.

Voight has rushed for over 1,000 yards for the second straight season, but that is about the only thing the two years have had in common.

Last year, as a sophomore, Voight was sharing the tailback position with James Betterson, becoming the first two men ever to rush for over 1,000 yards in the same season playing the same position. 1974 was a year of Sun Bowls, six victories at Kenan Stadium and all-star notoriety.

This year, Voight has had a workhorse load due to Betterson's injured thigh muscle which has sidelined him for five weeks. 1975

has been a year of near-victories, team dissent and "Get rid of Dooley" talk among Tar Heel fans. For all of this, however, Voight saw some plusses in Carolina's performance Saturday against Clemson.

"It shows we still have a little fight left," he said about the Tar Heels' narrow loss. "We didn't let down. We kept coming back."

Because of his somber demeanor, Voight was asked if he was growing accustomed to losing. He quickly denied that he was getting used to it, explaining, "You want to win. That's what you go out there for. But somebody's got to lose. And while it hurts, you can't cry like a baby and give up. You've got to fight back. That's what we did."

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- Exist
- flowers
- Embryo
- Surgical thread
- Babylonian hero
- Goobar
- Metal fasteners
- Cooled lava
- Sea eagle
- Unyielding
- Makes lace
- Near
- Hypothetical force
- Sun god
- Tidier
- Break suddenly
- A continent (abbr.)
- Sallate
- Cubic meter
- Mix
- Servant
- River
- islands
- Exclamation
- Compass point
- Note of scale
- Go by water
- Bridge term
- Seasoning
- Note of scale
- Disturbance
- Bard
- Foray
- Crown
- Possessive pronoun
- Sailors (colloq.)
- Expires
- Young girl
- Spanish painter
- Parent (colloq.)
- Hebrew month
- Make ready
- Conjunction
- Calling
- Clergyman
- Mine veins
- Symbol for tin
- Suffix: like

DOWN

- Resort
- Vital organ (pl.)
- Conductors
- Cripple
- Flowering shrub
- Kettledrum
- Share
- Cause
- Conjunction
- Steamship (abbr.)
- Strikes
- Hurried
- Country of Asia
- Female ruff
- Teutonic deity
- Number
- Artificial language
- Spanish for "yes"

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holding penalty on the Tar Heels while the ball was in the air nullified Collin's return, who had earlier returned one 35 yards to set up Carolina's second score. Clemson proceeded to take advantage of the controversial ruling with O'Cain passing to Brantley again for 29 yards to the UNC 13. Fullback Harold Goggins raced around left end on the next play to put Clemson ahead 24-21 six minutes into the third quarter.

The rest of the game was a continual see-saw battle as the lead exchanged hands four times (seven for the game). Carolina drove 80 yards in 14 plays to go ahead 28-24 with Paschall completing three passes for first downs. The last one was a crucial 12-yard catch by split end Walker Lee on fourth down to set up Voight's one-yard run.

O'Cain, who complete 12 of 19 passes for 243 yards in a rare start, led the Tigers right back on an 80-yard march of their own. A 10-yard pass to flanker Stan Rome, who doubles as a starting forward for the Clemson basketball team, turned the score in favor of the Tigers, 31-28, on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Carolina was unable to move after Collins returned the ensuing kickoff 39 yards, but UNC middle guard Bunn Rhames recovered a fumble on the Clemson 14 when O'Cain bobbled the snap from center. Three plays later Paschall passed to tight end Brooks Williams for a three-yard touchdown for a 35-31 Tar Heel lead with 11 minutes remaining.

After the Tigers were forced to punt it appeared the Tar Heels were finally in front to stay when a personal foul gave them a first down on the Clemson 30. Paschall completed a swing pass to Collins but the UNC wingback fumbled the ball after a nine-yard gain. Smith recovered on the Clemson 21 to set up a 79-yard drive in 11 plays. The most critical play was a 30-yard pass to Rome which moved the Tigers out of the shadow of their own goal-line. O'Cain scored the winning touchdown on a one-yard quarterback sneak with 3:53 left.

The loss was Carolina's fifth straight and dropped the Tar Heel record to 2-7 with Tulane coming up Saturday in the Super Dome. Clemson is now 2-7.

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