

Kupec signs with Canadian Football League

by John Hopkins
Staff Writer

Chris Kupec, who led the nation in pass completion percentage last year as Carolina's quarterback, said Tuesday he has signed to play for the Calgary Stampede of the Canadian Football League (CFL). He would not disclose the terms of the pact, saying only, "It's a contract."

Kupec said he signed on Oct. 29, exactly one week after the World Football League (WFL) folded.

Kupec had been a member of the WFL's Charlotte Hornets since July 15 when he lost a court battle to gain another year of eligibility at UNC.

"They (the Stampede) had been talking to me while I was at Charlotte," Kupec said. "But I had a contract there, and there was not much I could do. But when the league folded, they flew me up there. I saw them play at Montreal. Then we went back to Calgary and I signed."

Kupec, from Syosset, N.Y., is looking forward to joining Calgary, where he will be in the same backfield with former N.C. State running back Willie Burden, who set an all-time CFL rushing record this season. "They play on a bigger field, and it's really a wide open game," Kupec said in a recent interview in Chapel Hill. "There are only three downs, so there's a lot of emphasis on the quarterback."

Calgary is in the province of Alberta, which has about a half million residents. "But I think I'll like it, though. It's a nice town, deep in the Canadian Rockies," said Kupec. "It's kind of an oil and cattle town. It's gonna be cold up there. In fact, there was snow on the ground when I was up there two weeks ago."

The league looks promising. Kupec said that most teams in the nine-team circuit draw 25,000-30,000 fans a game.

"And it's a good league, too. Talent-wise I mean. AD (Anthony Davis from Southern California) and Johnny Rogers (from Nebraska) are in the league."

Another plus for Kupec is that he feels that he will see considerable action. "They only carry two quarterbacks, so if you make the team, they have plans for you," he said.

Seeing action was a problem for Kupec at Charlotte.

Kupec was bypassed until the 16th round in the draft by the National Football League (NFL) clubs that were interested in him because they assumed he would be playing at Chapel Hill again this year. Only two clubs stayed after him. "It was between Buffalo and Charlotte," he said. "And Buffalo was loaded, so there I was."

He signed with Charlotte on July 15 of this year. "It was the worst situation I've ever been in," he said



Former UNC quarterback Chris Kupec

"I don't even know why they signed me."

"I went to camp, and the coach told me, 'Learn all you can, and we'll give you a shot next year.' He never spoke to me after that."

"I would have thought that they might want a local in the lineup to try to boost the crowds. That's really

Carolina country down there, you know."

"I don't know. I'm just glad to be out of there." "The league as a whole tried to move too fast," Kupec said. "You can't come up to NFL standards in one year."

"We (the league) had good talent, but last year, it was really bad administratively. It was better this year, but with all that bad press last year, the fans just didn't come out."

Kupec pointed out several other factors in the WFL's demise. "They didn't have the millionaires that the old AFL (American Football League) had when it started. A lot of money was poured in, but not like that AFL."

"Then Namath didn't sign with Chicago (WFL Winds, as rumored), and they lost their TV contract. They (investors) decided to quit before they lost even more money."

Not everything in the league was bad, though. "Something valuable did come from the league's brief existence, something known as the Hemmeter plan."

Named after this season's league president, Chuck Hemmeter, that plan is a profit sharing plan where every player is paid a base fee for each game his team plays, and then he signs a contract which specifies that he also receives a percentage of the gate receipts.

"Profit-sharing is the way of the future in sports," Kupec said. "There aren't too many pro sports teams

that make money now. I think they'll all go to that eventually."

Just as he was able to find some good in the Charlotte experience, he found some good in his college career which, with the exception of one great year, was a little disappointing for him.

He was recruited by the Carolina football program, but decided to come here upon graduating from Syosset High School, but partly because he would also be allowed to play baseball. He did in fact spend two years at first base in the UNC infield.

During his first year here he alternated at the quarterback slot with Charles Baggett on the freshman team. Baggett was red-shirted the next year, and decided to transfer to Michigan State.

But Kupec stayed around and found himself watching from the bench as Nick Vidnovick handled the quarterbacking duties.

Then came 1973 when a broken collarbone forced Kupec out of action after playing only 11 downs in two games.

His luck changed in 1974 when he took over the signal-calling and led the nation in percentage of pass completions. The Tar Heels went to the Sun Bowl that year, largely on the strength of Kupec's passing and the record-breaking running of James Betterson and Mike Voight, who rushed for over 1,000 yards each.

National caliber swimmer leads Carolina

by Dave Kirk
Staff Writer

Ann Marshall has a scholarship to swim. That in itself is noteworthy. Women's athletic scholarships are so scarce that a person must accumulate impressive credentials even for consideration. She is one of three women athletes at UNC to receive a scholarship.

On a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. high school team, Marshall won the state championship in the 100, 200 and 400-meter freestyle, as well as the 100 and 200-meter backstroke. She also won each of these events in Russia during an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) meet last February.

With these victories, Marshall had a choice of colleges. "I was interested in Stanford, Alabama, Arizona State and Arizona, but I decided on North Carolina mainly for the education — I can't swim all my life. I also think the campus is beautiful," she said.

"Now that I'm here, I really like it. Sometimes I get a little homesick, but I'm getting used to it. Besides, Thanksgiving is coming up and I'll get to go home for a while. Other than that I'm really happy here."

Marshall's transition from high school to college competition hasn't been too difficult. "My high school season began in December and lasted until May and we traveled a lot, so I competed against some pretty tough swimmers around Florida. AAU meets coincided with my high school season as well. My high school coach also coached my



Ann Marshall

Ft. Lauderdale AAU team and he worked me pretty hard," Marshall said.

"Here at Carolina, Woody (coach Jim Wood) has made the adjustment much easier, so the transition hasn't been that rough."

Marshall swam against top-level competition during the Nationals at Kansas City this past summer. She said she did "fairly well." She placed seventh in the 200-meter backstroke, fourth in the 200-meter freestyle, and 10th in the 100-meter freestyle.

Marshall is optimistic about this year's swim team.

"We have a really strong team," she said. "We ought to wipe out everybody this year. Our squad is super. At the Duke meet last Friday everybody did great. Some even had

their best times. At this point of the season, that's a good sign."

Marshall was one of those who had a personal best. She swam her fastest time ever in the 300-meter butterfly, an event she rarely enters. As for the team finish, Marshall said, "The second-place finish (behind N.C. State) was really good."

"Usually during a relay meet, you put your best swimmers according to their best times. We went there with the idea of having a good time and letting everybody swim. We divided the team up real well and let everybody show what they could do. I think we did just great."

The fact that State won the Duke relay meet doesn't bother her. "Some of State's swimmers swam in as many as five events. I'll bet some of State's swimmers didn't even get a chance to swim. I think we ought to beat State next time. Besides, that meet didn't mean much. We'll be ready for the

dual meets and those are the ones that count," Marshall said.

North Carolina's first dual meet at home is against East Carolina at 11 a.m. Saturday. "We ought to beat ECU. After all, we out-swam them at the Duke meet," said Ann. "I'm sure we'll win."

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Sports briefs
Russian game
Television coverage of the UNC-Soviet National basketball game Saturday will be blacked out in the Triangle area unless the game is a sellout. The game is scheduled to be shown in Charlotte, Greensboro and Greenville stations. It will be shown locally on WTVD if the remaining 1000 tickets are sold.
Tickets for the game are available at Carmichael Auditorium. Students may pick their tickets up with their identification card and athletic pass. Tickets for the general public are \$5.00 each.
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15 Anger 24 Sun god
16 Preservation from destruction 25 Baseball team
17 Conjunction 26 Short jacket
18 Leather 27 Free ticket
19 Compass 28 Wolfhound
20 For fear that 29 Shallow vessel
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29 Shallow vessel 38 One behind another
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