

sports

New coach wants national title

By David Thompson

"The ACC championship should be our intermediate goal. Let's go for the national title," said Mel Foels, Carolina's new assistant football coach, who will be in charge of linebackers.

"There are some teams we should beat," the optimistic Foels said. "If we stay healthy, this season could be excellent."

Foels came to Carolina in February after three years at Tulsa University, where he was the defensive coordinator.

After graduating from Bowling Green University in Ohio with a degree in biology and master's in physical education, Foels was the head football and wrestling coach at Iowa Wesleyan from 1966-1973, during which he was named conference coach of the year in football three times. He was an assistant coach at Iowa University in 1973, and at Eastern Kentucky from 1974-1976.

"Dick Crum was one of the reasons I joined the staff here," Foels said. "He is one of a line of excellent Ohio high school coaches, and has a sound and good reputation as a football coach." Foels also played football against present assistant coach Denny Marcini in college.

Foels' aim, eventually, is to be a head coach at a major college. "I'd leave for a good head job," he said. "But I'd also be happy to stay here. I have philosophies I want to implement."

Recent scandals in some athletic programs have suggested that there is interest only in the student's performance on the field and not in the classroom.

"In some places it happens, and I don't agree with it," Foels said. "We want a winning program, but the problem we run into is that the athletes are not sure where they want to be."

"Some athletes come to play football first and get an education second. It should be education, first; football, second; and anything else, third. It can take two years to straighten their priorities out. Some never change."

"The education is there—it just depends on how much they work at it. As coaches we're pressured to try and get them eligible. But it (a recruiting scandal) will never happen here. In the ACC, academics is in a better perspective."

"This league puts as much emphasis on academics as any league," Foels said.

Many people still think of the ACC as a basketball league. "Clemson beating Ohio State in the 1978 Gator Bowl was the turning point," Foels said. "In the Southwest, people regarded the ACC as an easy-touch in football. Not any more."

Eyebrows were raised last season when Carolina, sporting a 7-3-1 record, was invited to the Gator Bowl to face Michigan. They were raised even higher when Carolina came away victorious. "If we can line up with Michigan, we can line up with anybody," Foels said. "Michigan has one of the top programs in the country."

Off the field, Foels believes a coach should control his players to a degree. "Beer's not that bad for you, and you've got to have females. Alcohol is bigger than drugs now."

Since Crum came to Carolina, he has spread the football players over campus; Bill Dooley, Crum's predecessor, required all football players to stay in Ehringhaus Dorm. "If I was coach, I'd have all the athletes living in one dorm. You can control them more this way."

At this time of the year, recruiting rising high school seniors is the staff's main priority. Coaches stay on the road all week and return to Chapel Hill on Friday afternoons.

A typical day on the recruiting trail for Foels now starts at 6 a.m. He jogs three to four miles, eats breakfast and is at a school by 8 a.m.

On the recruiting trail Foels gets films from coaches of four or five high schools and spends most of the night examining the prospects on film.

"The individual developing to the optimum is the kind of guy I want to be involved with."

Foels does have interests other than football. Religion is



Staff photo by Jack Mohr

Mel Foels

one of them. "It's the basic foundation for life," he said. He has been involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and now attends the Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Durham.

"I believe if the good Lord was on the earth, he'd be an athlete. Look at education—it's too easy to cheat. But go out on the field—it's tough to cheat. You usually get caught."

Sports Notes

Scott teams with former UNC star Seixas

UNC tennis player Margaret Scott teamed with Grand Masters professional Vic Seixas over the weekend to defeat N.C. State's Susan Sadri and Grand Masters partner Whitney Reid 8-6 in an exhibition match played in Pinehurst at The Country Club of North Carolina.

The match was part of the Grand Masters Tour which consists of older professionals.

Seixas competed for Carolina in the late '40s. At the height of his career he was the top-ranked player in the United States. The former Davis Cup star also won the two most prestigious tournaments on the circuit, Forest Hills and Wimbledon.

Scott and Seixas fell behind in the match 5-1 but outscored their opponents 7-1 to take the win.

"I thought we were doomed when it was 5-1, but we came back," Scott said. "It was fun and a good experience. I got to meet a lot of the old pros."

Tennis coach Kitty Harrison found out Tuesday that her request for an at-large bid into the AIAW tournament had been denied.

"Naturally it's a disappointment for us,"

Harrison said. "It is especially bad because we have beaten some of the teams that made the nationals."

The Tar Heels beat AIAW qualifiers Indiana and LSU, who is hosting the national competition in Baton Rouge, La.

Forward Al Wood of UNC joins Maryland's Buck Williams as the only Atlantic Coast Conference players on the U.S. Olympic team. Such notables as Gene Banks and Vince Taylor of Duke and Frank Johnson of Wake Forest did not make the squad.

The team will travel across the nation playing professional teams. There will also be one contest between the 1980 squad and the 1976 gold medal winners which include former UNC players Phil Ford, Walter Davis, Tommy LaGarde and Mitch Kupchak. UNC coach Dean Smith will coach the 1976 squad in the game scheduled to be played June 29 in Greensboro.

Former Carolina fullback James "Boom-Boom" Betterson is on 13 months probation as a possible prelude to

dismissing two charges of cocaine possession pending from a 1979 arrest.

If Betterson is not arrested or indicted during the probation, the possession charges will be dropped.

Betterson, who gained 1,000 yards at UNC in 1974, was released by the Philadelphia Eagles after the arrest but he has re-signed with the club. He is now participating in tryouts for the 1980 season.

The Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner Bob James announced recently that the league will no longer sponsor fencing and indoor track championships. The ACC has added women's volleyball championships for fall.

The elimination of the two championship events reduces to 11 the number of men's championships in order to help comply with Title IX rulings. There will be five championships in women's sports for the 1980-81 school year.

Title IX requires that Universities supply equal support for women's programs.

New assistant football coach Mel Foels

thinks that Title IX is wrong. "It causes some programs to go down," Foels said. "Southern Methodist has now dropped wrestling, and could drop baseball. There's an athletic activity for every man and woman who wants to compete."

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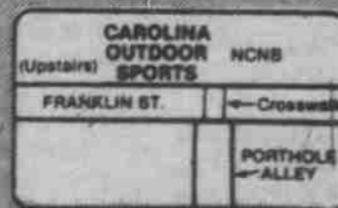
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