

sports



A healthy Lawrence key to success

By Clifton Barnes

"If we can keep Amos healthy, that will be the whole thing," UNC coach Dick Crum said Monday.

"Famous" Amos Lawrence (5-foot-11, 180 pounds) has a chance to become only the second player in NCAA history to go over 1,000 yards in four straight years.

Of the 16 games that Lawrence has gone over 100 yards the Tar Heels are 14-1-1.

Crum said he hopes to keep Lawrence healthier by alternating him with sophomore Kelvin Bryant. That's the same plan he had last year but Bryant was

injured in the third game of the season and sat out the rest of the year.

"We're most concerned about injuries," Crum said. "If we can stay healthy we'll be competitive."

The Tar Heels are preseason picks to win the ACC, something they haven't done in three years. But for Carolina to win they must settle on a quarterback... or must they?

"I have no qualms about going the way of two quarterbacks," Crum said. "It all depends on the personality of the ball club but I think the players feel good about Rod (Elkins) or Chuck (Sharpe)."

Elkins, a sophomore, is coming off successful knee surgery and should be able to fight Sharpe, a junior, for the starting job.

Crum said Sharpe has the edge because of experience. Sharpe filled in some for Matt Kupec last season but most of his playing time came two years ago as a freshman when he started in half of the season's games.

"If we had a game tomorrow Chuck would start," Crum said.

But Elkins showed poise and ability in the annual Blue-White scrimmage and if Crum wants to pass he may go with the sophomore. Sharpe is considered more of a running quarterback.

Five-year senior Billy Johnson should do a good job replacing Doug Paschal at fullback if he can stay healthy, Crum said.

The offensive line is big, strong and considered one of the better blocking corps in the country. All-America candidates guard Ron Wooten (6-foot-4, 260 pounds) and center Rick Donnally (6-2, 250) will anchor the line.

The defense returns eight starters including junior linebacker Darrell Nicholson who made 101 solo tackles last season.

Senior Lawrence Taylor returns to fill one outside linebacker post. Taylor had 95 stops and caused seven fumbles last year.

Donnell Thompson (6-5, 270) comes back for his senior season as the defensive line leader.

Steve Streater, who averaged over 40 yards punting last year, returns at free safety where he intercepted five passes last season.

Heels top freshmen recruits have home flavor

By Clifton Barnes

The 1980 Carolina freshman football class is one of the nation's top ten, and recruiting director Charlie Carr didn't need to get but one player north of the Mason-Dixon line for that distinction.

"We achieved our goals in recruiting," Carr said. "We got a representative group from North Carolina and Virginia."

Carr said the emphasis is on getting the best North Carolina players. "North Carolina is where we get our exposure and spend most of our time," he said. "We work on the locals first then go north."

The Tar Heels didn't really need to travel north because the home grown crop was so good. Most of the ones Carr went after signed with Carolina, including high school All-Americans Tyrone Anthony of Pfafftown, Al Young of Hickory and Clifford Powell of Rocky Mount.

One of the bright spots of the freshman class is the lone Northerner-Scott Stankavage. The 6-foot-2 Stankavage is an all-state quarterback from Furlong, Pa.

"We're looking for some help from him," Carr said. "We need a strong back-up for Chuck (Sharpe) and Rod (Elkins)."

Stankavage was impressive in an all-star game in Pennsylvania this summer, Carr said.

But there are no freshmen stand-outs, Carr said. "We've got good players across the board," he said. "It's a very deep class. They're all very good."

Carr said Carolina doesn't like to rely on the freshman class but some will get playing time. "I don't think they'll be any freshmen starting but we're going to take a good look at them, especially the linebackers," he said.

Carr mentioned linebackers T.J. Murray of Springfield, Va; Dwight Parrish of

Danville, Va; Clifton Griffin of Williamston, N.C; and Bill Sheppard of Tarawa Terrace, N.C. as good prospects.

The freshmen who will see the most time this year will be the receivers and backs who play on the return teams and other specialty units, Carr said.

They include Anthony, Young, Powell and quarterback Stanley Pugh of Bertie High School. Although Pugh will be given a chance at quarterback, he will probably be switched to defensive back, Carr said.

Powell, a 6-foot-5 230 pounder, started his high school career as a defensive tackle but became a tight end.

"Clifford is a big kid with a lot of ability," Carr said. "We'll try to leave him at tight end."

The 27 new 1980 recruits form a solid nucleus for the future, Carr said.

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