

# Streater says experience, work will help Tar Heel gridgers

By NORMAN CANNADA

**E**XPERIENCE is essential to any good football program. Just ask Steve Streater.

"We've got a lot of good people in our senior class, and I'm not saying that just because I'm a senior," Streater says. "We all have experience and I think that will be a big plus for the team."

Streater, a defensive back and punter, was one of the leaders of last year's Gator Bowl Champion Tar Heels. He is the first to admit, however, that the team's most vulnerable spot in 1979 was the defensive backfield.

"We were beaten by some long passes last year and I think a lot of the reason for that was that we didn't have much

experience back there. This year, everybody has a whole year of experience and we've all been working hard."

Although the Heels return a host of starters and top reserves, there are still voids to fill. The most noticeable ones are on defense, where Buddy Curry and Ricky Barden were lost via graduation.

"That's going to hurt us, but we are going to have some people who'll be able to come in and fill the gaps."

In fact, Streater believes that communication, rather than graduation, could be the Heels' biggest defensive problem.

"We need to talk more on the field—especially when we're checking to a certain defense," he says. It could cause a big problem if part of the team is

playing one kind of defense and the other part is playing another defense."

Streater spent most of his summer in Chapel Hill preparing for the coming season.

"I've been working out pretty hard this summer. I spent a lot of time working on improving my quickness on defense. I think I'll be quicker and smarter than I was on defense last year."

Punting, though, is Streater's specialty. But that hasn't kept him from trying to improve.

"Last year I was getting the distance that I wanted, but not the height. I've been trying to improve my hang time so the team will have more time to get under the ball."

Being a senior, Streater says he expects the younger players will be looking to him and the other seniors for leadership. But he adds, there isn't any added pressure.

"Sure, I think that some of the guys look up to me, but I don't feel any pressure from it. I really kind of enjoy it," Streater says.

Although the Tar Heels are favored to win the Atlantic Coast Conference, Streater says it will not be a one-team race.

"The ACC gets stronger every year. I



Steve Streater punts for Carolina

don't think any one team is better than the others. We can't look over any team.

"We got some teams to pay back for last year—especially Maryland and Clemson," Streater says, referring to two of Carolina's three defeats last season.

Streater knows exactly what he wants out of the 1980 season both for himself and for the team.

"First and foremost I want to win the ACC. But, I've also set goals for myself of a 43-yard punting average and eight interceptions. These are not out of reach and if I reach them, I'll be helping out the team. I also want to go to a bowl game again—any bowl."

Norman Cannada is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel

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