

Years of UNC glory

1948 squad one of Carolina's best teams ever

By NORMAN CANNADA
Staff Writer

North Carolina's rise to national prominence in football this year has fans and the news media hinting at the possibility of a major bowl bid for the Tar Heels for the first time in many years. But it hasn't been that long ago that the Tar Heels were consistently considered for the big bowl games.

"We went to the Sugar Bowl twice and the Cotton Bowl once while I was playing," said Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice, who played with UNC from 1946-1949. "And the other year, we had an invitation to the Orange Bowl and turned it down." Justice, an All-America tailback in 1948 and 1949, recalled the 1948 Tar Heel team vividly.

"We beat Texas early in the year and were No. 1 in the country for most of the season. Then we tied William & Mary late in the season and went down a little in the rankings."

The Tar Heels ended the 1948 regular season 9-0-1 and could have had a legitimate claim to the national title had they beaten Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl. The Sooners defeated the Heels 14-6, however, and UNC had to settle for a third-place national finish.

"We really should have won because we outplayed them the whole game," Justice said. "I made some mistakes and they intercepted a bad pass."

In addition to the 1948 bowl appearance, the Tar Heels went to the Sugar Bowl in 1946 and the Cotton Bowl in 1949. But Justice said, the best Carolina football team during those years was the 1947 team—the one that didn't go to a bowl game.

"We got beat two times early in the season, but we came on and won the rest of our games," Justice said. We had an invitation to the Orange Bowl, but we had also been invited to play Notre Dame in a war bonds game on Dec. 9. The University wouldn't let us go to the war bonds game because it interfered with exams, so we turned down the Orange Bowl, too."

After the 1949 season, the Carolina football program skidded swiftly downhill.

"I don't really understand what happened," Justice said. "I know that the coaches didn't look to the future. Maybe they were just too content with what they had."

Art Weiner, an All-America wide receiver for the Tar Heels at the same time as Justice, had different ideas about the decline in the program.

"That was around the time that the single-wing offense was going out and the split-T formation was coming in," he said. "I just don't think the personnel was there to make the change."

Weiner and Justice both said they have watched the progress of UNC football throughout the years and have noticed many differences between the 1948 team and the 1980 squad.

"By comparison, I'll bet every man on this team would outweigh every man on our team by 30-40 pounds," Justice said. "And even the big guys are fast. You have guys running the 40 in 4.7 seconds. I couldn't have run one in half an hour. We weren't fast, but then, nobody else was either. Today you need that speed."

Weiner said there was one major similarity between the 1948 and 1980 UNC squads.

"We were a very close-knit group and I think this team is very close too," he said. "You have to almost be like a family and play for each other, before you can be successful."

Both former players predicted a Tar Heel victory when Carolina takes on 16th-ranked Oklahoma in Norman, Saturday.

"They're physical enough to play with anybody and that includes Oklahoma," Weiner said. "I think (UNC quarterback Rod) Elkins is the key to the team. He started out slow, but since he's gained more experience, it's made the whole team better."

Justice said he saw the Carolina defense as the key in the Saturday game.

"This is the best team that I've seen at Chapel Hill since I graduated," he said. "The defense is stronger than any other team in the past, even the team that had that great defense a few years ago. The defense is bigger and quicker and they play so well together."



Linebacker Lawrence Taylor

Quarterback J.C. Watts

Don't forget Carolina's offense, Sooners' defense

"I think we'll pass the ball on them," says Carolina sophomore wide receiver Victor Harrison, who caught two touchdown passes against N.C. State. "I think we'll pass more because the man-to-man coverage is easy to beat in some ways."

Oklahoma's defense has something in common with the Sooners' offense: lots of points. The 4-2 Sooners have allowed 21 points a game, including 42 against Colorado. In that game, though, the offense almost doubled the score with 82 of its own.

Last week against Iowa State, the Sooner defense yielded only a touchdown in a 42-7 OU victory. Senior defensive end Richard Turner, who earned All-Big Eight honors for his play, made 20 tackles, 15 of those unassisted.

Sooner defensive back Byron Paul says, "They have real good people. Their quarterback is good. They probably will try to pass on us because he is so good. Right now, we are playing better than we have all year. It would help us a lot if we could win. We need to knock them off."

Carolina enters the game a six-point underdog, with the 75,000 spectators in Norman's Memorial Stadium worth something to the Sooners.

Someone once called Atlantic Coast Conference football nothing more than a filler between basketball seasons. That person, who is probably mixing cement today, could say the same about the Big Eight or Oklahoma. Just flip-flop the sports.

The football mania of the Sooner state will be hard to miss Saturday afternoon. So will the defense of North Carolina and the offense of Oklahoma.

The outcome of the game, though, might rest with those other 22 players. Don't be surprised if it does.

- The numbers speak for themselves.
- OKLAHOMA:**
- third in the country in total offense at 475 yards a game.
 - second in rushing offense at 371 yards a game.
 - fourth in scoring at 35.8 points a contest.
- NORTH CAROLINA:**
- fourth in the nation in total defense, allowing just 216 yards a game.
 - third in rushing defense, giving up only 77 yards a game.
 - first in scoring defense, with opponents averaging just 5.6 points a game.
- Or do they?

Bill Fields

While the statistics indicate that Saturday's Oklahoma-North Carolina game is a test of a great offense against a great defense—which it is—the other units of the Sooners and the Tar Heels might decide the outcome.

For North Carolina, it is an offense averaging 25 points a game that could be averaging six and still would be undefeated.

The Tar Heels, with sophomore quarterback Rod Elkins improving every game, have proven they can score points, but in all except the Texas Tech game (a 9-3 Carolina win) the defense has stopped the opposition so well the offense could have sputtered and UNC still would have won.

Elkins, who has connected on 53 percent of his passes and thrown 11 touchdown passes, says he believes the offense would be able to rally if Oklahoma took an early lead. If Carolina does fall behind, it will be a new experience for everyone on the offense.

Lady Tar Heel features strong field

By GARY MANGUM
Staff Writer

Though this year's field is stronger, members of the North Carolina women's golf team believe they have an excellent chance to defend their title in the Lady Tar Heel Invitational which begins Saturday.

The 54-hole tournament will be played at Finley Golf Course and runs through Monday.

"Last year we won with a (54-hole total of) 961," said coach Dot Gunnells. "This year it will take a 930 to win it." Gunnells believes her players are up to that task.

Gunnells has repeatedly called this her best team at UNC. The team has set several team and individual scoring records in tournaments this year, including Jill Nesbitt's 69 at Finley earlier this year, which set a new women's course record.

The stiff competition between teammates has caused positive results in tournaments as the team is probably off to its best start ever.

The Tar Heels won their first tournament of the year, the Penn State Invitational, and had a second-place finish in the Blue Ridge Mountain Invitational in Boone. The Tar Heels also took a fifth-place finish in the Georgia Invitational. Several individuals also have recorded top 10 finishes, with Cathy Reynolds winning the individual title at Penn State.

"We're playing very well this year—by far the best golf of any other Carolina team since I've been here," Gunnells said. She said there was very little difference in the abilities of her top four golfers (Reynolds, Carla Daniel, Nesbitt and Linda Mescan) and that any one of them could start play in the No. 1 spot any given week.

"I could throw the top four or five players' names in a hat and draw their positions from that hat and still come up with a very strong team," Gunnells said.

Gunnells has picked Mescan, Daniel and Reynolds along with freshman Lucy Lofarid and Kathy Ayers to play on Carolina's No. 1 (or white) team. The other five members will play on the blue squad.

The Heels will have to beat some top-flight competition if they are to successfully defend their title. Five of the 28 teams entered are nationally ranked, with seven qualifying for the national tournament last year. The field includes perennial powers Georgia, Ohio State and Furman as well as last year's second- and third-place teams, Florida International and Miami Day.

To win, Gunnells said her team would have to "be sharp and keep the ball in play—we've got to stay out of the rough."

Reynolds said that the players would do all right if they just played the course the same way they have all year in practice. "I'm going to play the course like I have ever since I got here—the only difference is I have to turn the score in at the end of the round."

Reynolds said the team was very excited about playing at home. "This is the tournament we've been pointing for," she said. "It's always special to play on your home course."

"We've got a good feeling—we're not uptight or nervous. We're just excited!" Reynolds thinks the Lady Tar Heel will be a good tournament. "The course is in great shape and there should be some low scores."

Gunnells also believes it will be a good tournament. "This is the fifth Lady Tar Heel and in the first one, we only had six teams entered."

"I'm really pleased with the size and quality of this year's field."

Gunnells and her players are confident and are taking dead aim at the 930 goal Gunnells has set. Reynolds believes the Tar Heels will do very well if they reach that total.

"If we shoot 310 or under every day for three days, we'll win it," she said.

Student Tickets are still available for the 1st Blue-White Basketball Game on Fri. Nite, November 7

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Sports

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"WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"

Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

Sometime ago in this column we gave the historical facts of three women whose "Chastity was impregnable" and chose death rather than permit it to be violated.

We are quoting in full a testimony received on a post card: "Thank you for the article on chastity. It was written for me. After serving the Lord all my life I was about to depart from the way of Life and give myself to a man who is sweet and nice to me. For 25 years my husband has cursed and abused me and I felt an affair might help me stand it. Thank goodness you stopped me!"

It was not me, Lady, that stopped you, it was the Word of God, though I thank God for using this column as sort of a "messenger boy." It was the Word of God that stopped you, His Word lived out and shining forth from the lives of two ladies and a man that lived seventeen hundred and sixteen years ago, and the act of a young woman who lived in our land about forty years ago—"THEIR CHASTITY WAS IMPREGNABLE." As said of one of them, Agatha, "she well knew that virtue alone could procure true happiness."

He was "sweet and nice to me" said the lady of the wretch who tried to seduce and debase her! "For 25 years my husband has cursed me!"

Thinking about these, and other such devils, there came to mind what a mighty good man, a school teacher, said to a dirty boy, to try and make him ashamed of himself: "Boy, you have fallen so low you would need a ladder to climb up high enough to look a rattlesnake in the face!"

It was the false prophet Balaam, the man who loved the wages of unrighteousness and was rebuked for his madness by a dumb ass speaking with man's voice, it was this man who said after being given a vision of the blessings in store for the people of God: "LET ME DIE THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS, AND LET MY LAST END BE LIKE HIS!" Numbers 23:10. However, in spite of his wonderful vision and his expressed desire to "die the death of the righteous," his greed and disregard of chastity and morality and God's Commands for the home and marriage, caused him to remain and die with the wicked!

It was Jesus Christ who said, recorded at least three times in the Gospels: "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." He also said: "When ye pray, say... DELIVER US FROM EVIL!"

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