

SPORTS

Football

Former UNC stars find bad luck, bad breaks in pre-season camps

By STEPHANIE GRAHAM

After finishing 11-1 and defeating Texas in the Blue Bonnet Bowl, many Tar Heel seniors hoped for successful NFL careers. But, despite high expectations, some of Carolina's recent graduates have been faced with big problems in the league's summer training camps.

Injuries have proved to be the biggest stumbling block. The Baltimore Colts had barely opened their rookie camp when first round draft pick Donnell Thompson suffered a pulled hamstring.

Thompson, an all-ACC defensive tackle from Lumberton, had been counted on to step right into the team's starting lineup to help shore up what has lately been a shaky Colt defense. Indeed, only days before the injury occurred, the team had traded away the player who formerly started at Thompson's position. The Colts are playing the waiting game for now, however, because hamstring pulls are not only painful but very hard to heal.

Harry Stanback, another mainstay of UNC's powerful defensive line last year, has met with similar problems in Atlanta. Stanback, a native of Rockingham, joined his old teammate and NFL 1980 defensive rookie of the year, Buddy Curry, at the Falcon's training camp.

Shortly after his arrival, Stanback injured his knee in practice and has since undergone surgery. He will be out of action for several weeks.

The third Tar Heel disabled in the pre-season workouts was Raleigh native Rick Donnalley. The former all-ACC center was trying out with Pittsburgh after being drafted in the early rounds. He has since broken his hand, however, and will miss most of the summer practice.

Though such early injuries hurt a rookie's chances to make his team's regular season squad, preseason cuts are much more deva-

stating to aspiring players. Unfortunately, some of last year's ACC champions have already been dropped from their team's rosters.

Mike Chatham, former all-ACC tight end from Elkin, was released by the Cleveland Browns on Sunday. Chatham, never known for his speed or blocking ability but respected for his exceptional hands, had signed with the Browns as a free agent.

He was one of six free agents cut by Coach Sam Rutigliano after a scrimmage on Saturday between the Brown's rookies and the newcomers on the Buffalo Bills.

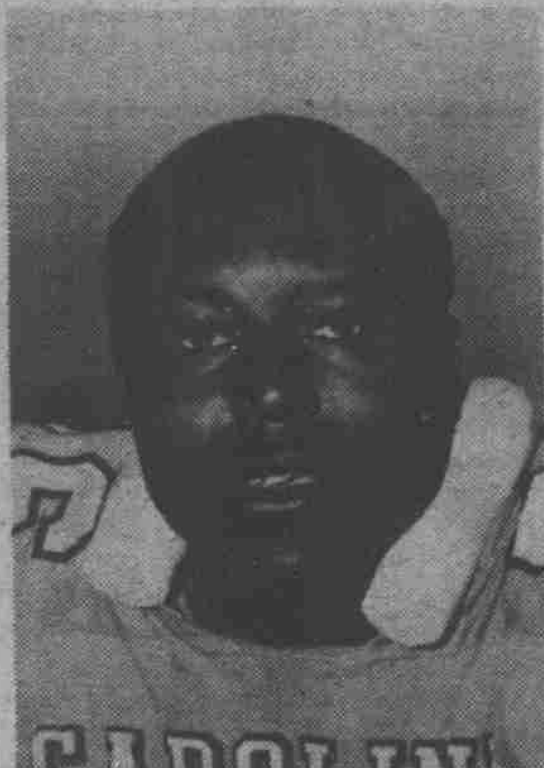
A similar game between the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Colts Saturday brought about the release of wide-receiver Delbert Powell. The Elizabeth City native who earned all-ACC honors his freshman season as a kick-returner, was cut along with fellow free-agent and receiver Marvin Brown of Duke.

Also playing in that game which the Colts lost, 12-7, was two-time all-ACC quarterback Jay Venuto of Wake Forest. Venuto, who completed 10 of 22 passes and threw two interceptions, survived the cut which reduced the Baltimore roster to 78.

Steve Junkmann, a 1980 graduate, failed to win a spot on a pro team last year and was disappointed again last week. The former UNC offensive tackle was released by the New Orleans Saints.

Although several of his ex-teammates are no longer playing, one of UNC's brightest stars is pretty certain to survive the pre-season cuts and hopes to bypass the injuries.

Lawrence Taylor, the Player of the Year in the ACC last fall was featured in *The Sporting News* this week. Taylor, chosen second in the draft by the New York Giants, is now reportedly the highest paid player on the team. Expected to start right away, he is called "the Giant's best pick ever." It looks like at least one Tar Heel will make his mark this year in the NFL.



Donnell Thompson



Rick Donnalley



Harry Stanback



Mike Chatham

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Reto From page 1

ana University basketball player Landon Turner, was paralyzed Saturday in a car accident.

State Highway Patrol trooper Barry LeBlanc said the accident occurred about 2:50 a.m. just south of Chapel Hill on N.C. 15-501. A 1971 Volkswagen driven by UNC student Cory Carson Tucker of Durham went around a curve too fast and lost control of the car. It ran off the road on the right side. LeBlanc said Tucker then swerved left and ran off the road on the other side and hit a telephone pole.

Hospital officials said Tucker was treated and released. He was charged with careless and reckless driving, LeBlanc said.

DeWalt said Reto was in the back seat of the car and was not wearing a seat belt. He said Tucker remembers nothing of what happened after leaving the road.

Reto, a junior at UNC, was a first-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection as a designated hitter last spring. He was a second-team selection at first base and was the Tar Heels' leading hitter with a .392 average, the fourth best single-season figure in school history. He also hit 13 home runs and drove in 46 runs. His 13 homers were the second highest total ever at UNC.

UNC has suffered its fair share of auto accidents involving athletes. In 1975, football lineman David Barrett was paralyzed from the waist down in a traffic accident in West Virginia.

Another Tar Heel football player, wingback Jimmy Jerome, was killed in late 1975 in a California traffic accident.

Tailback Mike Voight had graduated from UNC when he was seriously injured in a 1977 accident while on his way to Norfolk, Va. Voight's car hit a slick spot, crossed a median and collided with a truck. Although Voight recovered after four months in a hospital, he never returned to the NFL's Houston Oilers.

UNC basketball star Jimmy Black underwent surgery last summer to repair vertebra damaged in a traffic accident near Chapel Hill. He returned to the team in time for the start of the 1980-81 season.

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