

No powerhouses in Carolina's football schedule

By GEOFFREY MOCK
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Those people combing North Carolina's 1981 football schedule for a potential ambush at Oklahoma will not be very successful. Last year's away games with the Sooners and Texas Tech have been replaced by home games with Boston College and South Carolina. And only five of UNC's opponents had winning records in 1980, and of those, only two — Maryland and South Carolina — won as many as eight games.

But before placing bets on an 11-0 season for Carolina, one had better consider the obstacles. The Atlantic Coast Conference continues to improve in football, and Clemson and Maryland were picked in some preseason polls above Carolina. South Carolina is the toughest opponent in a non-conference schedule that also includes East Carolina, Miami of Ohio and Boston College. Here is a brief look at each opponent:

East Carolina. It's time to say goodbye to the Pirates as the two schools end their series with a game at 1 p.m. Sept. 12 in Kenan Stadium. The Pirates have usually given the Heels a tough game, but ECU was embarrassed last year, 31-3.

The weak link in the Pirates' 4-7 team last year was defense, and coach Ed Emory may have problems there again with as many as eight sophomores starting. But eight starters return on offense, where quarterback Carlton Nelson will run the wishbone. The entire offensive line comes back and should open some holes for fullback Ron Wiley and running backs Mike Hawkins and Harold Blue.

Miami of Ohio. When Carolina Coach Dick Crum's old team last came to Kenan Stadium in 1978, it gave Crum one of the most disappointing defeats of his rookie year at UNC, a 7-3 loss. Now the Redskins, coming off a 5-6 record in 1980, return to face the Heels Sept. 19.

Coach Tom Reed has installed a new offense, the I-formation, and Miami should be putting the ball in the air more. Quarterbacks John Macke and Mark Kelly have good throwing statistics, and tailback Greg Jones (952 yards, nine touchdowns) leads a strong ground game. Don Treadwell and Keith Dummitt return as the Redskins' leading receivers.

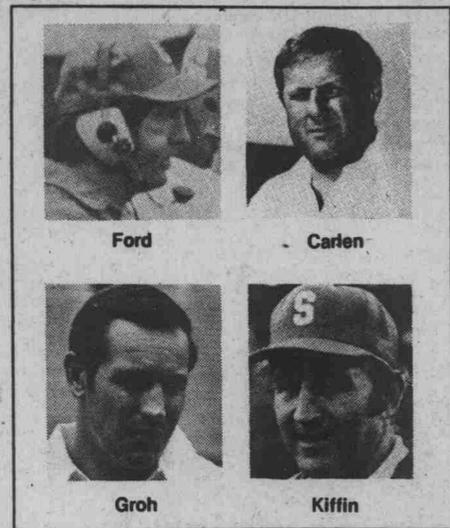
Defense was a problem in 1980 and will be in 1981. Eight starters return on defense, but the Redskins lost two important starters up the middle, middle guard John McCafferty and linebacker Kent McCormick.

Boston College. The Eagles make their first appearance ever against Carolina Sept. 26 in Kenan Stadium. First-year coach

Jack Bicknell has 15 returning starters from last year's 7-4 season that played a difficult schedule.

Linebacker Jim Budness, a preseason All-America pick, and safety Rich Dyer key a strong defense. The defensive line, with three returning starters, will trouble any opposing offensive line.

Running back Shelby Gamble can break a long run as well as any back, but an inexperienced offensive line will hinder the running game. Quarterback John Loughery has a proven arm, and receivers Rob Rickard and Jon Schoen provide excellent targets.



Georgia Tech. The good news for Tech is that 16 starters return from the 1980 team. The bad news is that the 1980 team went 1-9-1 and lost to Carolina 33-0. Still, the Jackets should continue to improve, and the team the Heels will play at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 3 in Atlanta should provide tougher competition than last year's team.

Quarterback Mike Kelley finished strong last year in a tie against Notre Dame and a close defeat to Georgia. He will throw the ball often, usually to wide receiver Kris Kenters and tight end Glenn Etheride. The running game is led by backs David Allen and Ronny Cone.

On defense, the line and the secondary are weak. But the linebacker corps is strong with all four starters returning, led by last year's leading tackler, Duane Wood.

Wake Forest. The Deacons come to town Oct. 10 under new coach Al Groh, the replacement for John Mackovic, now with the Dallas Cowboys.

Even though quarterback Jay Venuto has graduated, Groh will continue using a pass-oriented offense, replacing Venuto with either Gary Schofield or David Webber. The wide receivers, potential All-America selections Ken Duckett and Wayne Baumgardner, are good enough to make either quarterback look good.

The defense is young, but experienced with at least five sophomores in starting positions. Although all four starters return in the secondary, it still needs improvement. Linebacker Joel Triplett is considered among the best in the ACC.

N.C. State. The Heels go for their third win in a row against the Wolfpack with a 1 p.m. game Oct. 17 in Raleigh.

Coach Monte Kiffin has a defense with few weak points. All four starters return in the secondary, as do Donnie LeGrande and Eric Williams, starters in 1979 but redshirts last year. Robert Abraham anchors a strong linebacker corps.

Kiffin has switched the offense to the I-formation, although he may not have the running backs to take advantage of it. But quarterback Tol Avery returns and should connect with receiver Mike Quick to make one of the ACC's best passing combinations.

South Carolina. The Fighting Gamecocks lost Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers, but they still may be the Heels' toughest non-conference opponent this year. They play Carolina Oct. 24 in Kenan Stadium.

Rogers' replacement will be senior running back Johnny Wright, who ran for 481 yards last season. Coach Jim Carlen has six quarterbacks to choose from, but few with any experience. The offense's strong point is the line, where three starters return, including tackle Chuck Slaughter.

The defense was hurt less by graduation than the offense. The linebackers are a question mark, but the defensive line and secondary is talented and experienced.

Maryland. The Terrapins, last year's ACC runner-up to North Carolina, will entertain Carolina at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 31 in College Park, Md.

Maryland lost standout placekicker Dale Castro and lacks an experienced quarterback, but tailback Charlie Wysocki, who ran for 1,359 yards last year, is back to lead the offense. The offensive line, which has three returning starters to open the holes for Wysocki, should be strong.

The defense is young, which may pose problems because of Coach Jerry Claiborne's complex "wide-tackle six" defensive formation. But returning starters Joe Wilkins and Mike Muller provide experience at linebacker.

Clemson. Experience will not be a problem for the Tigers. Eighteen starters return, including every member of last year's offense. The Tigers play Carolina at 1 p.m. Nov. 7 in Kenan Stadium.

Homer Jordan, who broke Steve Fuller's sophomore passing records last year, returns as quarterback. The ground game will also be strong with Chuck McSwain starting at fullback. The offensive line is solid.

The defense will be just as talented with linebacker Jeff Davis, a preseason All-America pick, leading the way. Coach Danny Ford has 10 candidates for the four secondary positions, any of whom can do a fine job.

Virginia. The Cavaliers host Carolina at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 14 in Charlottesville.

The Wahoos are cheering about their defensive unit, where linebacker Stuart Anderson and safety Pat Chester will lead a unit that returns eight starters. Coach Dick Bestwick has installed a new 4-3 defense.

The offense was hurt by graduation, particularly on the line, where only tackle Dave Sullivan returns. Todd Kirtley gives Virginia a strong passing game and will have good receivers to throw to. Tailback Quentin Walker leads the Virginia ground game.

Duke. The Blue Devils have not defeated Carolina since 1973. Duke gets another chance at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in Durham in the last regular-season game.

The Blue Devils' hopes depend on the passing of quarterback Ben Bennett, last year's ACC rookie of the year. Bennett will pass to returning starters Cedric Jones, Chris Castor and Ron Frederick. The running game was weak last year, but Coach Red Wilson hopes fullback Greg Boone can help balance the offense.

The Blue Devils return a strong front line and linebacker unit headed by Jimmy Tyson and Emmett Tilley. But that team will have to do better than it did in 1980, when it held only three opponents to less than two touchdowns.

Tar Heels

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last season with a knee injury, is expected to contend for both the free safety and punting positions.

Sharpe is now taking part in contact drills for the first time since the injury, so his status as a contributor is uncertain.

Senior kicking specialist Jeff Hayes is also in the running for punter. "I have been kicking and punting well lately," Hayes said. "But Chuck (Sharpe) has been practicing too, and he is punting real well."

"Jeff is a power punter, but he is erratic," said Chuck Priefer, defensive line and speciality team coach. "The only thing that could keep him from being the starting punter is consistency. When he catches one, though, he is as good as anyone in America."

Priefer said Sharpe has been improving but that his technique still needs work.

The coaches are looking for 40-yard punts with a hang time of 4.2 seconds. "Good coverage and good hang time are so important in field position," Priefer said. "It's going to be more important this year because we are going to have a younger team. Our defense relies on a great punter and great coverage."

But the two players the defense may rely on most this year are linebacker Darrell Nicholson and outside linebacker Calvin Daniels. Both seniors have been selected as preseason All-ACC players, and Nicholson may be UNC's next All-America selection.

Nicholson, who begins his fourth season as a starter, always seems to be around the ball and is considered one of the hardest hitters in college football. Daniels had a good year last season, but was overshadowed by All-America Taylor. This year, coaches say he may be the big-play man in the Carolina defense.

The other returning defensive starters are linebacker Lee Shaffer and defensive backs Bill Jackson and Greg Poole, who will also return punts.

With 12 starters returning on offense and defense, Carolina has been picked by coaches and ACC sportswriters as the team to win the conference.

"Polls are educated guesses at best. They don't mean a thing," Crum said. "I think we have the potential to be a very good program and nationally recognized. But the balance in our own conference is excellent. We are by no means dominant."

1981 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

TV — TELEVISION N — NIGHT GAME SHADED AREAS INDICATE CONFERENCE GAMES

DATES:	CLEMSON	DUKE	GA. TECH	MARYLAND	N. CAROLINA	N.C. STATE	VIRGINIA	WAKE FOREST
Sept. 5	WOFFORD HOME					RICHMOND HOME (N)		S. CAROLINA HOME (N)
Sept. 12	TULANE AWAY (N)	OHIO STATE AWAY	ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM	VANDERBILT AWAY (N)	E. CAROLINA HOME	WAKE FOREST AWAY (N)	WEST VIRGINIA HOME	N.C. STATE HOME (N)
Sept. 19	GEORGIA HOME	S. CAROLINA AWAY (N)	FLORIDA AWAY	WEST VIRGINIA HOME	MIAMI (OHIO) HOME	E. CAROLINA HOME (N)	RUTGERS (FRIDAY NIGHT) E. RUTHERFORD, N.J.	AUBURN AWAY
Sept. 26		VIRGINIA AWAY	MEMPHIS STATE HOME	N.C. STATE AWAY (N)	BOSTON COLLEGE HOME	MARYLAND HOME (N)	DUKE HOME	VIRGINIA TECH AWAY
Oct. 3	KENTUCKY AWAY	E. CAROLINA HOME	N. CAROLINA HOME	SYRACUSE HOME	GEORGIA TECH AWAY	VIRGINIA HOME	N.C. STATE AWAY	APPALACHIAN HOME
Oct. 10	VIRGINIA HOME	VIRGINIA TECH HOME	TENNESSEE AWAY	FLORIDA AWAY	WAKE FOREST HOME		CLEMSON AWAY	N. CAROLINA AWAY
Oct. 17	DUKE AWAY	CLEMSON HOME	AUBURN HOME	WAKE FOREST AWAY	N.C. STATE AWAY	N. CAROLINA HOME	S. CAROLINA AWAY (N)	MARYLAND HOME
Oct. 24	N.C. STATE HOME	MARYLAND AWAY	TULANE AWAY (N)	DUKE HOME	S. CAROLINA HOME	CLEMSON AWAY	WAKE FOREST HOME	VIRGINIA AWAY
Oct. 31	WAKE FOREST HOME	GEORGIA TECH AWAY	DUKE HOME	N. CAROLINA HOME	MARYLAND AWAY	S. CAROLINA AWAY (N)	V.M.I. HOME	CLEMSON AWAY
Nov. 7	N. CAROLINA AWAY	WAKE FOREST AWAY	NOTRE DAME AWAY	TULANE AWAY (N)	CLEMSON HOME	PENN STATE HOME		DUKE HOME
Nov. 14	MARYLAND HOME	N.C. STATE HOME	NAVY HOME	CLEMSON AWAY	VIRGINIA AWAY	DUKE AWAY	N. CAROLINA HOME	RICHMOND AWAY
Nov. 21	S. CAROLINA AWAY	N. CAROLINA HOME		VIRGINIA HOME	DUKE AWAY	MIAMI (FLA.) HOME	MARYLAND AWAY	
Nov. 28			GEORGIA HOME				VIRGINIA TECH HOME	

Wolverines favored in polls

The University of Michigan Wolverines are favored to be the No. 1 college football team in the nation by leading football publications.

Street & Smith, Game Plan, Football Illustrated and Playboy all put Coach Bo Schembechler's squad at the top of their preseason polls.

North Carolina is picked No. 8 by Street & Smith, No. 9 by Football Illustrated, No. 10 by Playboy and No. 15 by Game Plan. Game Plan has Clemson ranked No. 19.

Last season Playboy picked UNC seventh, Street & Smith and Football Illustrated had UNC tenth, and Game Plan chose UNC No. 14. The Tar Heels were No. 9 and No. 10 in the two wire service polls at the close of the 1980 season.

Southern Cal is picked second in the Street & Smith and Playboy polls. Notre

Dame is third in polls by Street & Smith, Game Plan and Football Illustrated. Oklahoma is second and third, respectively, in Game Plan and Playboy, while Texas is the No. 2 choice of Football Illustrated.

Last year Michigan surprised pollsters, many of whom did not have the Wolverines in the top 10 or even 15. But after the team went 10-2 and finished strong with a Rose Bowl victory, Michigan has been picked first.

With 15 starters and 46 lettermen returning to play football at Michigan, it seems that Schembechler has everything going for him. The Wolverines have perhaps five All-Americans returning, including tailback Butch Woolfolk, who rushed for 1,041 yards last season, and receiver Anthony Carter, who has caught 21 touchdowns in two years.

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