

# Defense returns with strong line

By R.L. BYNUM  
Staff Writer

With the nucleus of a torrid defensive line returning — one that yielded an average of just 12.2 points and 110.3 yards rushing in 1981 — the UNC football team sends a seasoned line against teams that may encounter more pressure on their quarterbacks this season.

One of the strongest and the quickest members of the line is 6-foot-2, 240-pound Steve Fortson, a returning starter at nose guard. Fortson aspires for ACC honors at one of the toughest but least publicized positions.

Academically a senior, but in his junior season of athletic eligibility, Fortson is in talented company on the defensive front. Flanking his spot opposite the center at one tackle is a 1981 All-ACC pick, junior William Fuller (6-3, 245), with steady senior Jack Parry (6-1, 256) at the other tackle.

In other defensive positions, Senior Mike Wilcher (6-3, 235) returns at one outside linebacking position. Sophomore Aaron Jackson (6-3, 235) is expected to replace graduated Calvin Daniels at the other outside spot.

Fortson, who had 40 solo tackles (11 for losses) and 23 assists last year, was sidelined by a shoulder injury in his freshman season, and thus has an extra season of eligibility.

"It got hurt in high school," said Fortson, "but it didn't bother me until I had a summer job with a lot of manual labor and my shoulder popped. I dislocated it three times."

An impressive 1981 spring practice put him in the lineup last fall, and coaches say Fortson was outstanding in the last three

weeks of 1982's spring drills. He says the practices may prove to be a catalyst for the whole defense.

"In spring practice, the defense began to gel and become more together. It was there last year, but not the same personality," he said, adding that without Daniels and All-ACC selections William Fuller, Lee Shaffer and Greg Poole, "It's really like a no-name defense with 11 people going to the ball and no real star."

In Carolina's 5-2 defensive alignment, he is over the center only half the time. On other plays, Fortson slips in front on one guard, with Fuller fronting the other, "depending on the defensive package."

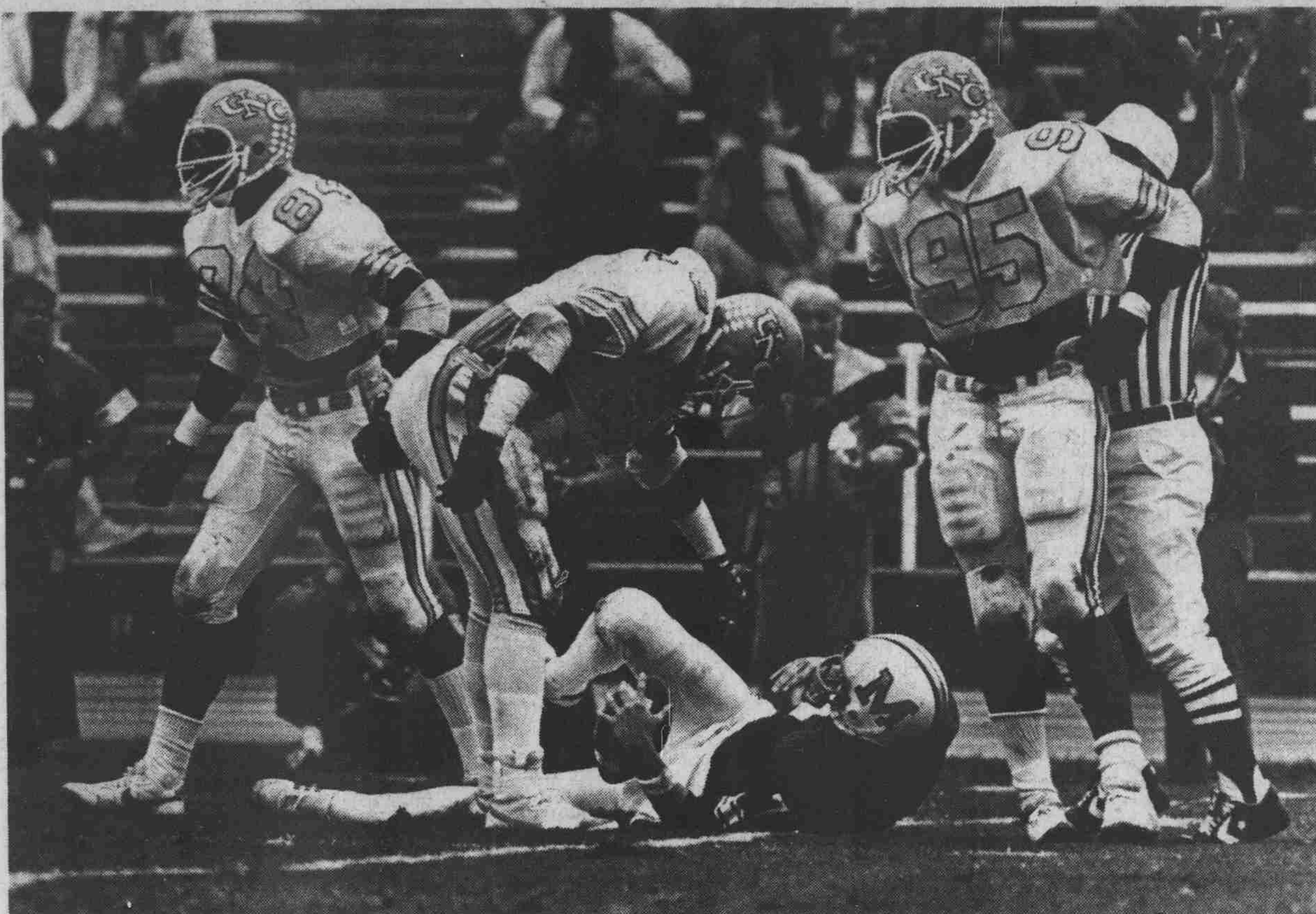
The Tar Heel pass rush produced about 3.5 sacks per game last year, which helps explain the 187.7 yards passing opponents collected per game. Carolina's offense had a 141.3 average per game from the air.

Fortson believes those statistics had something to do with their stingy defense against the rush. "I think the reason we were giving up so much pass yardage was because the other teams knew that they were not going to run against us."

Coach Dick Crum says that the experienced defensive front line will "have the ability to change the complexion of a game. I think our pass rush will be improved over a year ago."

Fortson agreed, adding that "the pass rush will be a key against Pittsburgh (UNC's first opponent). They've got one of the best quarterbacks in the country (Heisman Trophy candidate Dan Marino). I think they are gonna have to put the ball in the air."

Although Fortson is excited about having such a powerful opponent to open with, he warns that the team will have to keep on an even keel and keep the following 10 games in perspective.



Former Tar Heel Calvin Daniels exhibits little sympathy after sacking Maryland quarterback ... UNC's imposing defensive line should provide a strong pass rush again this year.

## Graduation rates low

RALEIGH (AP) — A June survey conducted by a Raleigh newspaper revealed that only 25 percent of the football and basketball players attending the three Triangle members of the Atlantic Coast Conference received their diplomas last May.

The Raleigh Times revealed that only three of the 15 football seniors at North Carolina State received degrees and none of the four basketball seniors graduated on time.

At the University of North Carolina, senior basketball player Chris Brust received his diploma May 16. The other two seniors, Jeb Barlow and Jimmy Black, were scheduled to graduate after summer school.

Five of the 18 football seniors at Chapel Hill received their diplomas on time, the story said.

Duke fared better, according to the report. Thirteen of the 25 football seniors there graduated, said Harry Demik of the Duke Registrar's office.

The question of athletes as students was raised by Atlantic Coast Conference coaches and athletic directors, who backed a resolution favoring National Col-

legiate Athletic Association admissions standards for freshman athletes. Currently, it's up to individual schools to decide which athletes they will admit.

The College Football Association has also discussed admissions standards. It has proposed a minimum score of 750 on the College Entrance Examination Board and a high school graduating average of 2.5.

The Wolfpack team had a GPA of 1.63 and the basketball team 1.66.

Demik said the undergraduate GPA at Duke was 3.04. The football team's GPA was 2.5 while the basketball team earned a 2.72.

North Carolina's overall GPA was a 2.69, but neither Chancellor Christopher Fordham nor Athletic Director John Swofford released average GPA for the football or basketball teams.

Swofford did say that both teams had "over a 2.0."

"It borders on the unethical in our view to release grade point averages of students," Fordham said. "Small groups of students should be protected just like individual students, so I defend Athletic Director Swofford's policy of protecting student records."

## Honor Roll athletes excel on and off the field

From Wire Reports

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Many of the Atlantic Coast Conference's outstanding performers are included on the list of 387 student athletes named to the 26th annual ACC Honor Roll for the 1981-82 school year.

The Honor Roll, according to Commissioner Bob James, is comprised of those student athletes who participated in at least one of the 11 official conference sports and posted an accumulated grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better for the full school year or for his college career. The number this year is an increase of 67 over the previous year.

Among those included are two members of the all-conference football team, three from the lacrosse all-star club, three from the soccer selection and seven from the All-ACC baseball team along with a host of others who claimed all-star honors.

A total of 150 of those on the list have been selected in past years. Eighteen of those named are on the list for the fourth time while 40 have been named for a third time and 92 are on for the second time.

Seven posted a perfect 4.0 GPA, including basketballer Chris Dobbs of Clemson and N.C. State punter Calvin Warren. Others are Maryland outfielder Tony Larioni, who was the lone 4.0 achiever on last year's list; Mark Sobel, a Maryland defensive lineman; North Carolina tennis player Robert Bach; Virginia swimmer Scott Williams and Cavalier soccer player Kenneth Najder. Larioni, the ACC's fourth leading hitter this spring, was named to the All-American Academic baseball team for the second straight year.

Duke placed the most athletes on the list with 101 while Virginia had 84. North Carolina was third with 53 and was followed in order by Maryland with 35, Wake

Forest 33, N.C. State 30, Clemson 29 and Georgia Tech 22.

Track and Cross Country, which are combined for the Honor Roll listing, had the most performers with 81. Football was next with 68 while swimming contributed 46, soccer and wrestling 42 each, baseball 38, lacrosse 30, tennis 19, golf 14 and basketball seven.

NORTH CAROLINA (53 athletes): Benjamin Abell, soccer; Douglas Andracka (4), swimming; Bruce Ashley, baseball; Robert Bach, tennis; Darren Biehler, track; Robert Bingham (2), swimming; Andrew Brannin (3), football; Joseph Carroll, tennis; James Conis, football; David Cooke (2), wrestling; Kenneth Crawford, track; Thomas Daily (2), baseball; Raymond Disco (2), tennis; Geoffrey Drayton, soccer; Daniel Fisher (2), wrestling; John Grigg (3), tennis; Kevin Griswold, lacrosse; John Hauser, cross country; Steven Hendrickson, football; John

Howard, lacrosse; Russel Johnson, golf; Davis Jones (4), swimming; Stuart Jump, baseball; Chris Justice (3), track & cross country; Jeffrey Keyser (3), swimming; Peter Kumiega, baseball; Richard Larson (2), cross country; Steven Lloyd, football; Christopher Mand (3), track; Dirk Marshall, swimming; John Marshall, baseball; Richard Marvin (2), soccer; Todd McCallister (4), track & cross country; Thomas Millsbaugh (3), lacrosse; C.D. Mock (2), wrestling; Charles Monroe (2), football; David Moose, football; Chris Pittaro, baseball; Randall Roberts, wrestling; Joseph Rocklein, baseball; Gordon Rutherford, track; Joshua Sarnier, tennis; Jeffrey Schenk, swimming; James Sheridan (2), tennis; Gary Sherrill, soccer; Scott Stankavage (2), football; Steven Stasheff (3), track; Steven Stensersen, lacrosse; Robert Vredevelde (2), swimming; Britt Weaver (2), swimming; Mark Whitney (3), track & cross country; Robert Wilson (2), track; Timothy Wilson, track.

## Cheerleader tryouts start

From Staff Reports

Junior varsity cheerleader tryouts will be held Aug. 23-26 in Carmichael Auditorium. All interested freshman and sophomore men and women are welcome. The teaching sessions start Monday and

Tuesday at 6 p.m. The first cut will be made Wednesday and the final cut Thursday night. Participants should wear casual workout clothes.

Mikeman tryouts will be held Thursday night before final cheerleader cuts.

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