

Extensive work goes into readying Kenan Stadium

By MIKE TRUELL

Long before Kenan Stadium fills up on a football Saturday, someone cleans the stands. Long before the referee flips the coin at center field, someone paints the UNC emblem for him to stand on. And long before Kelvin Bryant races down the field, someone dyes the field green.

But UNC's Kenan Stadium is not only active on football Saturdays. Instead, the area is constantly being prepared for these games by the grounds and maintenance crew.

"Anywhere from 15 to 16 people get involved at some point or another," said Bob Davenport, the supervisor of the crew. "They do everything from field maintenance to maintenance of the stadium."

Davenport, who began this position earlier

this season, outlined the jobs of his crew as painting the field, cutting the UNC-shaped hedge and cleaning the stadium among other things.

The actual work occurs days before the game.

The painting of the field, Davenport explained, is done the Tuesday before the game.

Tom James, one of the men who paints the field, said it takes approximately 165 gallons of paint for Dan Pickett, John Houk and himself to paint both end zones and the "UNC" at center field. James added that it takes about two days for the men to paint this with a double coat of Carolina blue and white paint.

Also, since the grass on the field turns brown about mid-season (after the first frost),

the crew uses another 20 gallons of green dye on the field. This process is then continued for the rest of the season.

On the day before the game, the crew does such things as setting out the pylons and putting out the mats for the football players to stand on.

With all this work being done for the field, it is probably obvious that the football team never actually practices on the field. They do, however, stretch on it on Friday afternoons for 20 to 25 minutes, yet they bring no equipment.

Along with field jobs, the crew also works on the stadium and the stands. They do such things as repairing the stadium, caring for the bathrooms, checking the plumbing, cleaning the press box, checking the electrical equipment, inspecting the concrete blocks and beams, painting the stadium and cleaning the stands.

The crew is also responsible for the maintenance of the field house. On the mornings before home games, Davenport said they clean up the Ram's club area (East End Zone).

On the whole, he added, "we try to keep the least amount of work the day of the game."

Immediately after the games, the crew is busy pulling off the various equipment from the field. The following day, if weather permits, the clean-up people clean the area.

Davenport said that the Naval ROTC or the lacrosse team usually contracts to clean the stadium. They bring about 40 to 60 people who go through the entire stadium, inside and out, and through certain parking lots, using blowers, dump trucks, and trash compactors.

The grounds and maintenance crew is not only responsible for the upkeep of Kenan Stadium, they are also responsible for all athletic facilities except for Carmichael Auditorium and Woollen Gym. They work on Ehringhaus Field, Carmichael Field, Fetzer Field and indoor track, the new fields at Finley, the baseball stadium and field and approximately 60 tennis courts.

The crew, which also includes David Burton, Andrew Calhoun, Ernest Council, Walt Council, Brodie Edwards, Jamie Ellis, Julius

Lee, Mike Leeper, Rodney Morris, John Sellers, John Thomas, Jim Vanderford, Donnie Webb and Harold Williams, work on Kenan Stadium's field for other events such as graduation, Fourth of July ceremonies and Chapel Thrill.

"The concentration," Davenport said, "is here (Kenan) during football season."

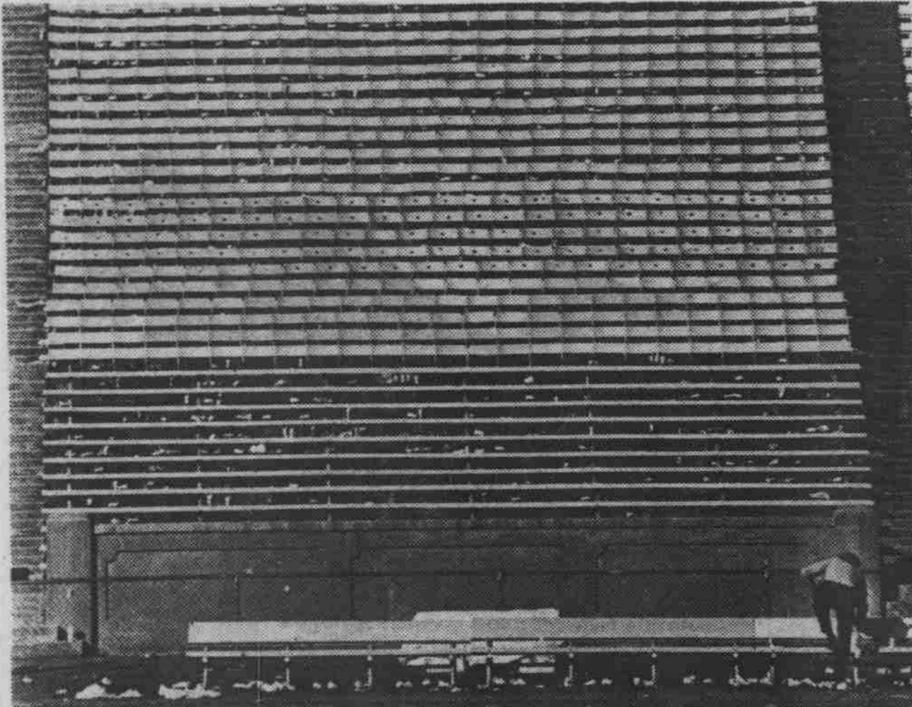
Maintenance of the field, he said, is a year-round program. It starts early in the spring when there is a soccer, lacrosse or Blue/White game. It then continues through the summer and fall.

The toughest part of the job, according to Davenport, is preparing for that first home game.

But still, someone has to do it.

Because if it was not for these people, the lives of many UNC students on Saturday afternoons would not be half as exciting.

Mike Truell is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.



Weather permitting the stadium is cleared of trash day after the game ... Naval ROTC or lacrosse team usually contract to clean the area



Crew readies time clock before game ... many advance preparations done

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