

Tar Heel Football

'83 success depends on young players

By ANDY HODGES

Tar Heel Sports Editor

Despite significant losses on both sides of the line of scrimmage, many experts are expecting big things from the UNC football team this year.

The Tar Heels are making virtually everyone's preseason Top 20 and have been picked as national champions in some polls. After losing 10 starters from last year's team which went 8-4 overall and 3-3 in the ACC, though, Coach Dick Crum said the team's performance depends largely on the individual performances of some young players.

"We've lost some very fine players from a year ago, but I still think we can be a pretty good football team," Crum was quoted as saying in a recent ACC news release. "We're going to be very young at some key positions; how quickly those young players develop will go a long way in determining our success."

Among those missing from the 1982 team, which ended the year ranked 13th by United Press International and 18th by The Associated Press, are two-time all-American guard Dave Drechsler, two-time all-ACC guard Ron Spruill, all-ACC linebackers Mike Wilcher and Chris Ward, center Steve McGrew, quarterback Rod Elkins and three-time all-ACC tailback Kelvin Bryant, the third-leading rusher in the school's history.

Top returnees include all-American defensive tackle William Fuller, all-ACC defensive back Willie Harris, offensive tackle Brian Blados, running backs Tyrone Anthony and Ethan Horton and quarterback Scott Stankavage.

Stankavage, a 6-1, 197-pound senior from Doylestown, Pa., will run the offense this season after gaining valuable experience last year filling in for the injured Elkins. He finished the '82 season with 78 completions

out of 158 attempts for 1,124 yards and 11 touchdowns. He tied a school record with four touchdown passes in one game against N.C. State. Red-shirt freshman Kevin Anthony, from Decatur, Ga., and freshman Mark Maye, from Charlotte, will be the top reserves.

Horton and Tyrone Anthony got their share of playing time last year, too, sharing the duties at tailback with Bryant who was slowed by an ankle injury. Horton, a 6-4, 220-pound junior from Kannapolis, started three games and rushed for 576 yards and nine touchdowns during the regular season. He was named one of the most valuable players in the Tar Heels' 26-10 Sun Bowl victory over seventh-ranked Texas, in which he carried 27 times for 119 yards and one touchdown — all in the second half.

Anthony, a 6-1, 203-pound senior from Pfafftown, has been the team's second-leading rusher behind Bryant for the past two seasons. He gained 697 yards as a junior and averaged 5.9 yards per carry.

The fullbacks will again be Eddie Colson and James Jones. Colson, a 6-0, 218-pound junior from Jacksonville, saw the most playing time last year, averaging 5.2 yards per carry and providing a great deal of blocking for the other runners.

The offensive line will be anchored by returning tackles Brian Blados and Joe Conwell. Blados, a 6-6, 295-pound senior from Arlington, Va., has been selected to several preseason all-America teams. Conwell, a 6-6, 265-pound senior from Bala Cynwyd, Pa., missed much of spring practice with a shoulder injury but is expected to be 100 percent by the Sept. 3 season opener at South Carolina.

Juniors Greg Naron and Willy Austin are likely candidates for the guard positions vacated by Drechsler and Spruill.

The center position will probably go to either Harris Barton or Brian Donnalley. Barton is a red-shirt freshman from Atlanta, and Donnalley is a sophomore from Raleigh. His brother, Rick, was an all-ACC center for UNC and now plays for the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers.

Arnold Franklin, a 6-4, 236-pound sophomore from Lincoln Heights, Ohio, will start at tight end. He became a starter last year after Doug Sickles suffered an ankle injury in the seventh game of the season.

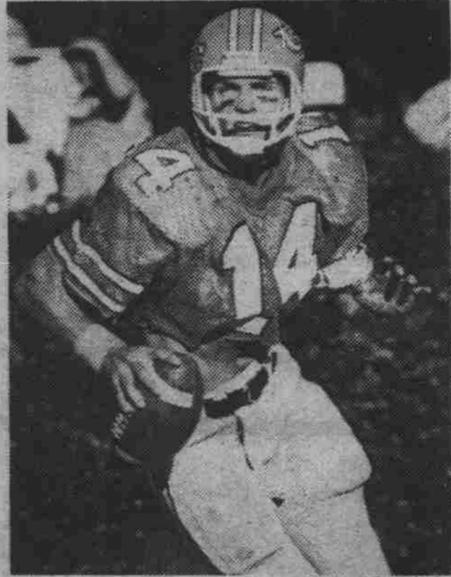
Sophomore Earl Winfield is expected to start for the second year at split end, and Fayetteville senior Mark Smith is a probable starter at flanker.

A key figure in the Tar Heels' defensive unit will be tackle William Fuller, who is expected to repeat as a first-team all-American. The 6-4, 246-pound senior from Chesapeake, Va., was one of last year's finalists for the Outland Trophy, which is awarded to the nation's top lineman. Brian Johnston, a junior from Highland, Md., will start at the other tackle position. He became last year's starting center after Steve McGrew was injured at mid-season.

Durham junior Ronnie Snipes earned the starting nose guard job with an outstanding showing in spring practice.

Micah Moon, a junior from Lynch Station, Va., also used spring drills as a stepping-stone to a starting role at inside linebacker. He will be paired with returning regular Bill Sheppard, a senior from Jacksonville, who was the team's second-leading tackler in '82. The outside linebackers will be junior Aaron Jackson and senior Butch Griffin.

Starting safeties will be all-ACC senior Willie Harris, who was third on the team in tackles last year, and junior Steve Hendrickson, who led the team in interceptions. Three-year starter Walter Black will return at



Tar Heel/File photo

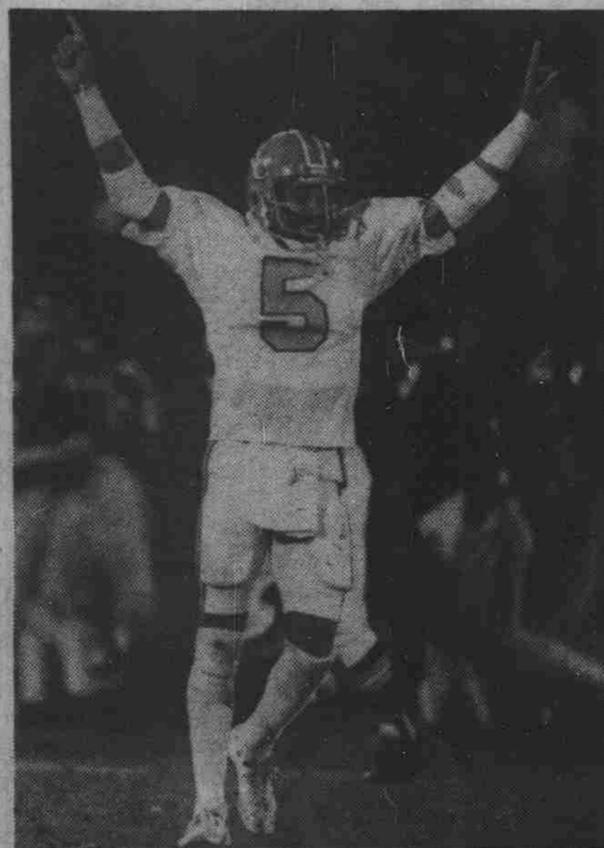
Scott Stankavage

right cornerback, while junior Larry James, who shared playing time last season with Greg Poole, is a probable starter at the left corner.

All three of the Tar Heels' kicking specialists will be back this year. Senior Brooks Barwick, from Clinton, made 20 of 23 field goal attempts in '82 and had 37 straight extra points. He was seventh in the nation in field goals and 11th in scoring with 97 total points. He also set school records for field goals in one season, field goal percentage (87), and consecutive field goals (13, which will carry into this season).

Also returning are punter David Lowe and kicker Rob Rogers, who handles kickoffs and whose 53-yard field goal in the Sun Bowl set a new school record.

Coaching is 'challenge, big plus' for Streater



Tar Heel/File photo

Carolina Pirates Coach Steve Streater

... team is newest member of semi-pro league

By MARLYNN JONES

Tar Heel Staff Writer

Former UNC football star Steve Streater has been selected to serve as head coach of the Durham-based Carolina Pirates, the newest member of the Mason-Dixon semi-pro football league.

Former teammate Billy Johnson will join Streater, whose professional playing career ended before it ever started when an automobile accident left him paralyzed in 1981, as a player-coach for the team. Johnson is listed as a probable starter at the fullback position.

Pre-season workouts have been held daily for about one month at Durham High School. The final squad consists of 40 players on the traveling roster, with five on waivers.

The players are only guaranteed expenses for a 10-game schedule, with the season running from Aug. 20 to Oct. 29. The team will have five home games and five away.

The Mason-Dixon League is the largest semi-pro league on the East Coast, with seven other teams in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

"Basically, the Pirates are a pro football team," said Dave Cook, the team's publicity director and operations manager. "Charlotte has a team like it in the Carolina Storm. Three guys from there went directly to the pros this year."

"The team will serve guys getting out of school and give area players a chance to play pro ball and have pro scouts see them play," Cook added. "The team hopes to serve as a feeder system to the USFL and the NFL, similar to the relationship between the Durham Bulls and the Atlanta Braves."

He said that punter Eric Hines has already been contacted by the NFL's New Orleans Saints.

The Pirates will employ a wishbone offense that will allow them to highlight Johnson, along with former N.C. State quarterback Kenny Pugh and former East Carolina half-back

Mike Hawkins.

Another area player for the Pirates is Victor Hunter, who holds all of N.C. Central University's rushing records.

"We don't expect those guys to be with us for long," Cook said.

Area players make up approximately 50 percent of the team, but there is also one player from the Canadian Football League, one from Stanford, two from Grambling, and one from the University of Wisconsin.

Dan Dudley, team founder and owner, is an operating room technician at N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. He started working on the team about 1½ years ago. He joined the league last November.

Cook has been working with the team's publicity for three weeks. He is a law school graduate who is a sport and entertainment consultant. He also works as an agent around the country.

Another assistant coach is Lew Edney, a former player with the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the CFL and the Pittsburgh Steelers of the NFL. Edney played college ball at Fresno State before transferring to NCCU.

Streater, who served as an assistant coach at Chapel Hill High School for one season, told WRAL News that coaching "is something I've always wanted to do. I like coaching the younger guys and I got a chance to do this." He added that "it's a big plus for me and it's a challenge for me. I'm ready to try my strategy against that other team."

He will get to do just that on Aug. 20 in the Durham County Stadium when the Pirates open their season against the Washington Stonewalls.

All home games will be played at the County Stadium and will begin at 8 p.m. Season tickets are \$33 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens and children. Regular admission will be \$7 per game with senior citizens (over 60) and children under 12 admitted for \$4.