

Deacons looking for experienced quarterback



Topper Clemons needs to produce for the Deacons

By MIKE SANDERS
Staff Writer

Wake Forest has at least one thing in common with Maryland and North Carolina when it comes to football — it wishes it had an experienced quarterback to begin the 1984 season.

Head coach Al Groh has a dilemma on his hands. Record-setting quarterback Gary Schofield has graduated, and Groh has no one with any real experience to take over the role.

The choices are junior Foy White, Schofield's backup last season who threw 12 passes, and sophomore Jamie Harris, a transfer from the University of Georgia.

Harris, one of the most highly recruited prep quarterbacks in the nation, was apparently dissatisfied with his lack of playing time at Georgia and transferred to Wake.

Groh is giving the nod to Harris right now.

"Jamie has made tremendous strides in terms of confidence and decision-making ability in fall practice," Groh said.

But Groh has not forgotten White, saying that both should see plenty of playing time this fall, but adding: "There can be only one set of hands under the ball at a time."

The rest of the Deacon backfield

looks to be more stable, however, with the return of two-year starters Topper Clemons (562 yards in 1983) and Michael Ramseur, the ACC Rookie of the Year in 1982 who gained 629 yards last season. Ira McKeller, a part-time starter in 1983, will give the Deacons depth at running back.

When thinking about Wake Forest football, the pass tends to enter the minds of most people, and Groh's aerial attack should be back again this year — if Harris or White can distinguish himself.

Indeed, the Deacons turned in a good offensive show in their season opener last Saturday, but failed fourth-quarter field goals kept them shy of Virginia Tech, 21-20.

The offensive line, though not spectacular, returns four starters and should work well together to give either Harris or White time to find Duane Owens, Wake's top receiver in 1983 with 46 receptions and five touchdowns. He will be joined by sophomore James Brim and freshmen Greg Scales and David Braxton.

It would be nearly impossible for the Wake defense to get any worse than it was in 1983. Opposing teams rarely even had to resort to the pass against the Deacons, running the ball over them at will. The Deacons were sixth in the ACC in total points yielded and

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

1983 Record: 4-7-0

Coach: Al Groh

Returning Starters: Offense (7)
-G Ken McAllister, OT Bobby Morrison, C Mike Nessel, WR Duane Owens, RB Michael Ramseur, TE Kevin Wieczorek.
Defense (7) - DL Gary Baldinger, DB Ronnie Burgess, LB Malcolm Hairston, DB Rory Holt, DB Donald Johnson, DL Bruce Mark, DB Reggie McCummings.

Forecast: Despite the loss of quarterback Gary Schofield, a solid core of starters is back, and Wake may be able to win more games than it loses. Prediction: Fifth in the ACC.

seventh in total yardage yielded. Their leading tackler was a defensive back, junior Reggie McCummings, who made 141 stops.

The good news (if there is any) is that the Deacon defense returns

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'The General' has no soft words for the Wolfpack



Tim Esposito leads the Wolfpack

By DAVID WELLS
Staff Writer

A strict disciplinarian, N.C. State football coach Tom Reed has always expected the best from his players. Soon after his arrival in Raleigh a year ago, he was labeled "The General."

But the Wolfpack posted a 3-8 record, and "The General" has no soft words in his commands for the Pack this year.

"We have no choice, we have to improve over last season," Reed said. "There's no question about that."

Reed said he has seen improvement in 21 of 25 positions since last year. But he pointed out that the improvements are only in a relative sense, because almost every other ACC coach claims that his team has also improved.

The Wolfpack has one win under its belt, an easy and expected 43-6 win over Ohio University last week. With Furman scheduled to come into Raleigh on Saturday, State will have to wait at least another week before being seriously tested.

One of the Pack's strongest areas is the offensive backfield, where tailback Joe McIntosh returns as one of the nation's better runners. McIntosh, an All-American candidate, has churned out 3,051 yards for the Wolfpack, second to State record-holder Ted

Brown with 4,602. The 5-10, 192-pound senior was second in the ACC in rushing last year with 1,081 yards, behind UNC's Ethan Horton.

"There's not much I can say about Joe that he doesn't show on the field," Reed said.

Complementing McIntosh's quickness and balance will be both the strong blocking of senior fullback Ricky Isom (6-0, 215), a returning starter, and good depth at tailback. Senior Vince Evans (5-11, 207), who has switched from fullback to tailback this season, and Joe Greene (6-0, 204), the Pack's No. 2 runner last season with 268 yards, will back up McIntosh. However, Isom is the only player with experience at fullback.

Quarterback Tim Esposito also returns following a solid junior season. Esposito, a transfer from Long Beach City College, established six individual school records last year. He set school marks for completions and attempts against UNC last year, connecting 31 of 48 tosses.

"Tim made some beginning

mistakes last year, but he came around and had a fine season," Reed said. "He should be able to lead us to a fine season this year."

Esposito will have a fine corps of receivers, as sophomore split end Haywood Jeffires and senior flanker Phil Brothers are back. Junior Marlon Archey, formerly a defensive back, sophomore Mack Jones and senior Chris Cook provide depth.

Tight end Jeff Brown, the Pack's top pass-catcher with 41 receptions last year, returns as the only experienced player at his position.

The offensive line will be bolstered by 6-5, 295-pound senior Joe Milinichik, a tackle who Reed believes is a potential All-American.

"Joe runs the agility course as well now as McIntosh did when (McIntosh) first got here," Reed said. "He has a vertical jump of 31 inches. That's not bad for a back. He could develop into the best at his position in the conference."

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