

SPORTS MONDAY

Alternating QBs were somewhat successful

By SCOTT FOWLER
Assistant Sports Editor

The splitting of playing time between UNC quarterbacks Kevin Anthony and Mark Maye was as successful as it was unsuccessful Saturday.

The two combined for 243 passing yards and completed 15 of 25 passes, but four of those completions fell into the open arms of Navy defenders. Three of those interceptions were crucial to the game's outcome.

The first interception set up a Navy touchdown, the third killed a UNC drive at the Midshipmen two, and the last one ended any UNC hope of a last-minute victory.

Anthony was certainly cut a bigger piece of the playing-time pie. He played 10 of the Tar Heels' 14 offensive series and almost seven more minutes than Maye.

The twosome put on a show in the first half, completing over 90 percent of their passes. They made everyone believe that the alternating quarterback system was the answer to UNC prayers. The tandem completed its first 10 passes, and Earl Winfield almost came up with the 11th in the end zone but lost control of the ball when he hit the turf. The aerial game netted 162 yards, yielded no interceptions and produced one touchdown — a 31-yard strike from Maye to split end Eric Streater — in the first 30 minutes.

"We came out strong," Anthony said. "I completed quite a few in a row, and when Mark came in the team continued to do well. But it was a different story in the second half."

Indeed, a combined five-for-14, no touchdowns and four interceptions. What happened?

"I don't think Navy made any adjustments," head coach Dick Crum said. "We didn't have as good field position."

Anthony, who was seven-for-seven in the first half, saw things differently. "Navy made some changes in what they were doing and got into some different

coverages."

The Midshipmen did something right. On the first four UNC offensive series of the second half with Anthony at the helm, UNC punted twice and Anthony threw two interceptions.

Next Maye got two chances, with the field-position cards stacked in his favor, starting at the Navy 39 and 33 yard-lines. On the first of those drives, UNC found itself faced with a fourth-and-one from the Navy two. In the most crucial situation of his young career, Maye dropped back under heavy pressure and lofted a wobbly pass in the direction of flanker Arnold Franklin.

"I looked up and saw Arnold in the end zone," Maye said. "I don't think there was a whole lot on the ball. I don't know what happened, but then the Navy guy had it."

Maye did lead UNC to one first down the next time they had the ball and Rob Rogers kicked a 41-yard field goal.

That was it for Maye. Anthony took the controls for the rest of the game, leading the Tar Heels to one touchdown with three straight completions, including a 40-yarder to Winfield, then throwing an interception on UNC's final possession with 2:10 left in the game, and the Tar Heels trailing by three.

"We were in the hurry-up offense," Anthony said of the interception. "We were running an option where I throw to the tight end. I should've thrown the ball away, but I tried to force it."

For the game, Anthony was 12-for-18 for 197 yards, with three interceptions, and Maye was three-for-seven for 46 yards and one interception.

Quarterback coach Randy Walker said he wasn't surprised by his proteges' performances. "We scored 30 points and that's not bad, but we obviously also made some critical errors. These two guys are going to go through some growing pains."

"I hate that they had to experience losing so early. But I told them both, 'It's not important what happened today



Kevin Anthony completed his first seven passes

unless you make it important. They can grow from this and become better football players."

Despite the second-half turnovers, UNC players and coaches remained optimistic about the dual quarterback system. "We have great confidence in both of them, so it doesn't matter who's in there," Streater said.

'D' as in dilemma; Navy shoots holes in defense

Like their compatriots in the Air Force, they pierced the sky with an aerial attack that often left the opposition helpless.

Like their colleagues in the Army, they moved by land, eating up enemy territory and pushing back farther and farther their foe's front line.

The only method of warfare Navy didn't employ on Saturday was the one they had been taught. And the only reason was that such tactics were impossible. Had this game been played earlier in the week and nearer the North Carolina coast, the Midshipmen likely would have polished their Polaris missiles and submarined themselves into the UNC end zone.

had more downs than ups. When we needed to stop them, they came right down the field."

A perfect, concise synopsis of Navy's game-winning touchdown drive late in the fourth quarter.

The Midshipmen had taken over on their own 20, moved quickly to their 40, and on second and 10, Byrne fired a strike to reserve tailback Rich Clouse, who went into the end zone untouched.

Micah Moon, Brian Johnston and Dennis Barron were pressuring Byrne. But the quarterback displayed a unique dance step, jumping up and pumping the ball at the same time. It froze the defense, and seconds later, Navy officers the world over were celebrating.

"We had him, and he just threw the ball, and he threw a perfect pass," Moon said. "The fans were yelling, 'Ball,' we were yelling, 'Ball.' When he threw it, I looked up, and when he (Clouse) caught it, I just said, 'Oh, man.' I couldn't believe it."

In the past, North Carolina had at times been able to get away with poor defensive performances and still come out ahead. With this year's defense, that may not be the case.

"When we needed it, it wasn't there," Marcin said. "We almost had him sacked, and we almost did a lot of things, but it just wasn't good enough."

The fact that Saturday was the first game and that UNC's defense is plagued by inexperience might make one hesitate to be critical. The answer to that should be obvious. If the game had been against Boston College (next on the schedule) and Doug Flutie had been North Carolina's nemesis, this story probably wouldn't have to be told.

But consider the opponent. Navy won three games last year — against Lehigh (who?), Princeton (Brooke Shields could play for the Tigers) and Army (UNC beat the Cadets, 62-8, not that long ago). Byrne played his first varsity game Saturday. He had moved up from sixth on the depth chart to start this fall. Nor had Misch ever taken a snap in a varsity game before Saturday.

North Carolina's defense showed positive signs, stopping Navy in several important situations. It also yielded touchdown drives of 80, 76 and 80 yards.

"Our fundamentals beat us," linebacker Troy Simmons said, referring to a dearth of strong hitting, the inability to fend off blockers and in general, poor reading of and reacting to offensive schemes.

"We've got to fix this," Simmons said. "It's over with, and now we've got to think about Boston College and Flutie."

Boston College, ranked in the top 10 in the nation. Flutie, with almost 8,000 career passing yards. In two games this year, 41 for 69, with 584 yards and six touchdowns.

Pleasant dreams.

Kurt Rosenberg

The theme of the game took time to unfold, but when the clock finally had run out and the Tar Heels had lost their season-opening game, 33-30, it became evident. Join the Navy, and see Kenan Stadium. The Middies became well acquainted with the facility. Specifically, the 100 yards of grass between the goal lines. And the Carolina blue rectangles on either end.

While Navy did not move the ball up and down the field at will against the Tar Heels, the fact remains that Lawrence Taylor, Mike Wilcher and William Fuller would have shaken their heads and rolled their eyes in dismay had they been watching this edition of the UNC defense. Known in recent years for its strangling defensive play, North Carolina was considered suspect in that area when the annual preseason analyses came out. In their first football game of 1984, the Tar Heels lived up to their reputation.

Remember the Oklahoma game in 1980? The one everyone tried to forget? UNC hadn't allowed as many points as they did Saturday since the Sooners drilled the Tar Heels, 41-7, in Norman, Okla. It was North Carolina's only loss of the 1980 season.

Nothing should be inferred from that last fact.

For the record, Navy got 23 first downs, liberally sharing them among the run, the pass and the penalty flag. Ten came on the ground, 10 more through the air and three as a result of penalties.

The Midshipmen amassed 410 yards of offense, split almost equally between rushing and passing. They averaged more than four yards a carry, and while quarterback Bill Byrne and Bob Misch completed just 18 of 41 passes, four of them were touchdowns.

Perhaps most importantly, Navy converted on eight of 17 third-down plays.

"We had some ups and downs," defensive coordinator Denny Marcin said, "but unfortunately, we

"They throw about the same," split end Larry Griffin said. "Mark does put more velocity on his ball though."

"They (Anthony and Maye) made some good plays, and Navy made some good plays on defense," offensive coordinator John Matsko said. "I thought the switching was very positive."

Game-winning pass was ironic twist for Middies

By LEE ROBERTS
Assistant Sports Editor

Life at the Naval Academy is rigid, strict and sometimes pretty rough. That is what makes Navy's game-winning touchdown bomb with 2:24 remaining Saturday in a 33-30 win over North Carolina so ironic.

Sophomore quarterback Bill Byrne — who threw the winning toss — was not expected to start, senior tailback Rich Clouse — who caught the pass — was playing in the spot where heralded Napoleon McCallum would have been were he on the field, and the play, which covered 60 yards, about 45 in the air, was not supposed to go but about 15 to 18 yards.

Can someone please explain why this strict institution relied on such a haphazard play to win Saturday?

"I guess it wasn't that good of a play," a sweat-covered Byrne said outside Kenan Field House after the game. "I don't quite know how I did it. I dropped, then stepped up, and I don't know if they were on my back or just

blowing by. I just put a duck in the air, and all I could see was little number 23, streaking down the middle."

Well, why don't you get it right next time, Bill?

"The play was actually a mistake," Navy coach Gary Tranquill said. "It was a 9-route, and we substituted a tailback for a fullback because our fullbacks haven't been catching the ball well. The play is only designed to go 15 to 18 yards. I don't know if Bill even saw him at first, which is why I guess the play went for so long."

With about 2:30 left in the fourth quarter, Navy on its own 40, and down 30-25, the play was called. North Carolina put on a blitz, and it looked like linebacker Noel McEachern had Byrne sacked, but the sophomore who had been sixth on Navy's depth chart during the preseason pump-faked, throwing off the defense, and let loose.

"I felt the defensive pressure," Byrne said. "The pass was a wobbler, but I got it there."

Got it there is right, right into the

arms of Clouse, who was open by five yards and streaked untouched into the end zone.

The only thing about the play that wasn't a surprise was that it was a pass. Tranquill figured that the Tar Heels would be keying on Heisman candidate McCallum so much that the forward pass would be an effective weapon. So, after 41 Navy passes on the day, 28 by Byrne and 13 by Bob Misch, and four touchdowns, Tranquill's game plan seemed sound indeed.

"We knew we had to throw the ball well, come hell or high water," Tranquill said. "Our intention was to open up the defense to the pass, and then give the ball to Napoleon on the ground."

Sure enough, McCallum made the most of his uncharacteristically low 19 carries on the day, picking up 117 yards.

"Usually, I carry the ball a lot more," McCallum said. "But now I have good players around me, so I just want to do more with the fewer times I carry the ball."

One of those good players surrounding McCallum was Byrne, an unlikely hero if one had talked to coach Tranquill before the preseason drills started. Byrne was not even mentioned in Navy's press guide because, as Navy Sports Information Director Tom Bates

had said, "we wanted to go with the top 56 players."

Yeah, sure Bill. Good luck making this team.

When he came into practice this summer in the middle of a highly competitive quarterback situation, Byrne rose from the multitudes and established himself as a leading candidate for the position.

"Bill has played very well in the preseason," Tranquill said of his decision to start Byrne Saturday. "He is intelligent and shows good field leadership skills."

Saturday, Byrne switched off with Misch for most of the afternoon. In fact, when Navy took the field with 4:02 remaining and down 30-25, Byrne wasn't even sure whether he or Misch would get the call. Byrne did, and the rest of this story came down to the Bomb.

But as usual, this organized, efficient, strict Navy team was on the ball.

Clouse, answering a reporter's question after the game, said, "I'm not even sure who the primary receiver is on that play."

Another reporter filled Clouse in. "You're the primary receiver."

Just another Navy Midshipman on the ball.

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