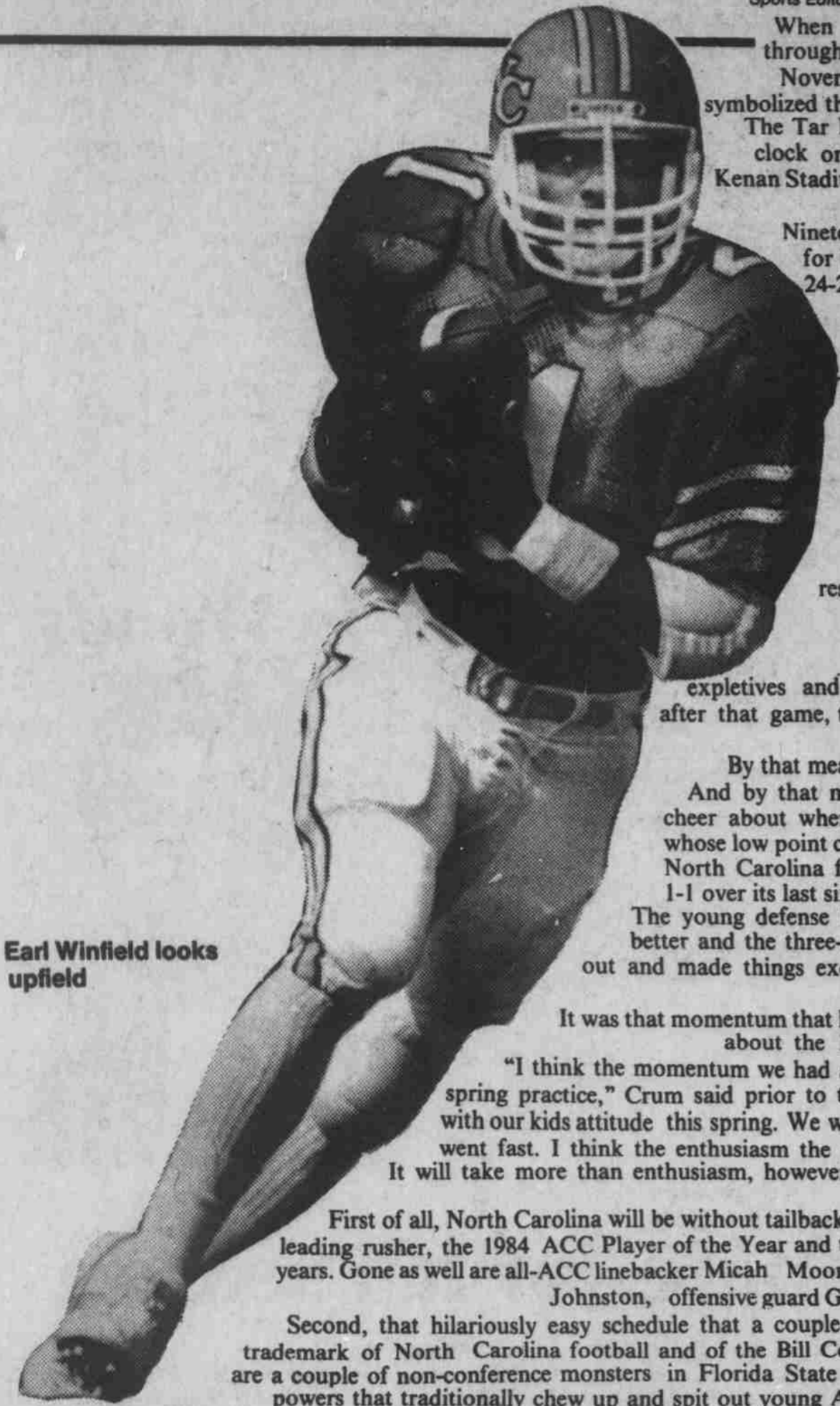


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North Carolina heading into . . .

FOOTBALL '85

By LEE ROBERTS
Sports Editor



Earl Winfield looks upfield

When Kenny Miller's 25-yard field goal sailed through the uprights on a cool football day last November against the University of Virginia, it symbolized the North Carolina Tar Heels' 1984 season. The Tar Heels had gone for a tie with 0:07 on the clock on a fourth down in a lost season, and 50,000 Kenan Stadium fans either booed coach Dick Crum's decision or remained bitterly silent.

Nineteen-eighty four was a bitter pill to swallow for UNC football fans and players alike. That 24-24 tie would precede a blunder-filled win over Duke, capping an un-North Carolina-like 5-5-1 final record.

The game was a microcosm of the season. The Tar Heels led early, blew the lead and fell behind, then staged a furious late comeback behind the aerial attack of one Kevin Anthony, a sophomore quarterback who wasn't even supposed to start.

And then they went for the tie. In the last chance to salvage a vestige of respect for their (by North Carolina terms) horrendous season, they wiped out.

Or did they? While Virginia players were throwing expletives and football helmets across the locker room after that game, the North Carolina players were high-fiving and smiling from ear-to-ear.

By that measure, then North Carolina was the winner.

And by that measure, the Tar Heels had something to cheer about when the season was over. After a 1-4 start whose low point came in a hideous 14-3 loss at Wake Forest, North Carolina finished the campaign strong by going 4-1-1 over its last six games.

The young defense began to gain some experience and play better and the three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust offense aired it out and made things exciting in Kenan Stadium over the second half of the year.

It was that momentum that has Crum and his troops eager and excited about the 1985 football season, just 16 days away.

"I think the momentum we had at the end of last season carried over into spring practice," Crum said prior to the start of fall practice. "I was very pleased with our kids attitude this spring. We worked long and hard, but the spring really went fast. I think the enthusiasm the players showed had a lot to do with that." It will take more than enthusiasm, however, to counter some of the factors working against the Tar Heels this fall.

First of all, North Carolina will be without tailback Ethan Horton, the school's fifth all-time leading rusher, the 1984 ACC Player of the Year and the conference's rushing leader the last two years. Gone as well are all-ACC linebacker Micah Moon, fullback Eddie Colson, center Brian Johnston, offensive guard Greg Naron and offensive tackle Bobby Pope.

Second, that hilariously easy schedule that a couple of years ago seemed to be becoming a trademark of North Carolina football and of the Bill Cobey years, is gone. On the slate this year are a couple of non-conference monsters in Florida State and Louisiana State, traditional football powers that traditionally chew up and spit out young ACC teams like the 1985 Tar Heel edition.

As if that's not enough, ACC foes Maryland, Georgia Tech, Virginia and Clemson should all be extremely tough. Maryland has even come out ranked no. 1 in one preseason poll.

So what do the Tar Heels have going for them?

A young defensive unit that started to get at the end of the season, for one. The strength of the defense is probably up front, where a young and solid line is developing for Crum's new eight-man front. Sophomore tackle Reuben Davis, all 6-3, 271 pounds of him, is one of the best returning defensive players in the ACC.

Sophomore nose man Tim Goad and juniors Ron Burton, an end, and Dennis Barron, a guard, are solid. Barron did excellent in spring practice and has the most experience of the four.

They are capably backed by sophomores Donnie Wallace, Noel McEachern and Carlton Bailey and senior John Stone.

Linebacker is also well-manned, with seniors Carl Carr and Troy Simmons, who led the team in tackles, and sophomore Brett Rudolph.

The most dramatic improvement will probably come from the defensive backfield, where a crop of former offensive players impressed in spring practice in replacement of the graduated James Gang.

One of the biggest surprises of the spring was the play of senior Larry Griffin at cornerback after playing three years as a wide receiver on offense. He so impressed the coaches that, as Crum said, he could become one of the best defensive backs in the ACC.

Former receiver Norris Davis, a sophomore, is no. 1 on the depth chart at strong safety, and former running back Antonio Goss, a freshman, should challenge sophomore Howard Feggins at the other safety, or ram position. At free safety seniors Darryl Johnson and Tim Morrison will provide depth, while sophomores Derrick Donald and Eric Starr will play left cornerback. Junior Walter Bailey returns from an injury to compete for a starting job.

"We've got more experience on defense than we had last year," said Crum, "and that will certainly be a big help. Our front four has good possibilities and I was pleased with the way our younger people played in the secondary during the spring."

The offensive backfield should be strong, as junior Kevin Anthony returns for his second year at the helm of the Tar Heels. Last year Anthony completed 146 of 265 passes for 1,786 yards and eight touchdowns. That was good enough to set school season records for passing yardage, passes attempted and total offense. He led the ACC in completions and was second in total offense.

All that, and Crum didn't even let him loose until the last three games, when Anthony threw almost half of his

passes. Crum says he sees UNC throwing the ball 30 to 35 times a game this year, which means goodbye, 1984 passing records. Anthony could leave this school as its all-time leader in everything that ever had to do with quarterbacking.

"He's going to have a lot to say about our offensive success because we're going to give him a lot of latitude on the field," Crum said. "He's a good, smart quarterback who has made a lot of improvement in the past year."

If he fails or falls to injury, Mark Maye won't be there to help. Maye will miss the 1985 season after having shoulder surgery last winter. Wes Sweetser and freshman Mike Bowman will battle for the back-up job.

They'll hand off to two speedy, elusive types at running back in junior William Humes and freshman Brad Sullivan. Both are in the 6-0, 190 range, a far cry from the bulk of Horton. Despite the Tar Heels' apparent commitment to pass more, Humes believes he'll get 1,000 yards. "I want to rush for 1,000 yards because I think it's important as a team statistic," Humes said. "We need that balance between the run and the pass. But my main goal is to win."

With the kind of receivers it has, North Carolina may never want to hand off.

Senior tight end Arnold Franklin is a legitimate all-America candidate, probably the only Tar Heel who could say that. He combines what has become excellent pass-catching ability with the blocking ability of an interior lineman.

Senior flanker Earl Winfield led the team last season with 34 catches and may double that this year. Sophomores Eric Lewis and Quint Smith should spell him occasionally. Eric Streater returns at split end for his junior year after pulling in 21 catches, four for touchdowns, last year.

The biggest question will be at offensive line. "This is going to be the smallest offensive line we've had at Carolina (since I've been here)," Crum said. But these kids are capable of handling more weight and hopefully they'll gain some."

The experience returning to the line comes in the forms of juniors C.A. Brooks and Harris Barton. Sophomores Daryl Parham and Ralph Phifer and junior Pat Sheehan will round out the starters.

The size of this line was one of the contributing factors to Crum's decision to air it out more this fall. This team won't be able to grind it out as well as it did in the days of Mount Blados.

Senior Tommy Barnhardt returns as the punter, and Lee Gliarmis and the aforementioned Miller (who set a school record of 15 straight field goals last fall) will place-kick.

"We've got a lot of work to do in the offensive line and the schedule is certainly demanding," Crum said. "Still, I think we have the potential to develop into a good football team."

The SAC: Everyone wants to get in, but will it be ready in time?

By SCOTT FOWLER
Assistant Sports Editor

The telephone jangled in Ernie Williamson's UNC memorabilia-lined office, bringing some of the most welcome news that the executive vice president of the Rams Club had heard recently.

"I'll bet you \$1,000 that the SAC is finished in time," one of the primary contractors of the new Student Activities Center said.

"I'm not a betting man, and I don't have \$1,000, but that's the best news I've heard in a long time," Williamson returned. The Rams Club's two phone lines had rung constantly during the summer of 1984 with good news, mostly from alumni interested in funding the SAC. After a letter asking for financial support was sent out by the Educational Foundation (the technical name for the Ram's Club), the first call he received was from an alumni who wanted to pledge \$50,000.

When the tallies were finally complete, 148 alumni had pledged from \$50-100,000, and 914 more from \$10-25,000 (see accompanying chart). The university finished with several million dollars of surplus in pledges for the \$35 million facility.

Everything looked rosy at the time. The SAC, which will be the largest facility of its kind built by private funds in the nation according to Williamson, would seat more than twice as many as Carmichael Auditorium and be ready in time for the first home game in November against UCLA.

"Everyone just assumed that it would be ready for this season," Williamson said.

However, everyone associated with the SAC got an unexpected dose of unhappy tidings this summer — they were informed that the SAC probably would not be completed in time for the UCLA game, and possibly the entire season would have to be played in Carmichael Auditorium.

An original stumbling block was a state university rule that all parts of a building must be completed before its occupation. The building schedule for the new natatorium was running behind the basketball gym, which meant that the SAC couldn't be opened because the swimming pool wasn't finished.

But the university was given approval by the Board of Governors to open the SAC before completion of the natatorium if it was deemed necessary. Now the only holdup is getting the basketball gym finished on time, and the prospects haven't been encouraging.

But the contractor's call came this week, and Williamson at the moment shares an attitude of cautious optimism with most of the people associated with the SAC.

PLEDGES FOR THE SAC

Dollar Amount	Number of Pledges
1,000,000	1
800,000	1
300,000-799,999	1
250,000-299,999	8
200,000-249,999	1
125,000-199,999	6
100,000-124,999	36
50,000-99,999	148
37,500-49,999	67
25,000-37,499	311
10,000-24,999	914
5,000-9,999	420
2,500-4,999	15
Under 2,500	394
Total Number of Pledges	2323

"I go down there every day," said Steve Camp, the director of the SAC who has an office in a trailer outside the building. "The workers seem to be making a concentrated effort to get it finished. There must have been 200 of them out there Tuesday. Everybody wants to get in badly, and you've got to be optimistic."

People have been optimistic about the SAC before, most recently in mid-1984 when rumors flew that the massive structure might be completed in time for the last few games of the 1984-85 season. That didn't happen, and the much-ballyhooed final game against Clemson was played on Feb. 23.

Everyone assumed that the UCLA game scheduled for Nov. 24 would christen the new building, but now no one is sure. The ticket office at UNC has had to develop three plans for ticket distribution for UNC students — one if the SAC opens on time, one if it opens midway through the season, and another if the entire season has to be played in Carmichael Auditorium.

"It's a confusing situation for everybody," said Ken Brown, director of ticket operations.

Indeed it is, for everyone from the alumni who pledged the money to the students. "I pledged \$31,000 for this new thing," said a Rams Club member living in Greensboro who insisted on anonymity. "That's a lot of cash. When I found out that the building might not be open, it didn't go over too well in my household."

"I had my two boys all hyped up about seeing basketball games, and now I got a letter that said the building may not even be open all season. I feel very strongly that if I donate the money, then I should receive the tickets."

However, there is a good chance he



Last Time?

won't. The Rams Club has been allotted almost 9,300 tickets in the SAC, but only have 2,800 tickets in Carmichael Auditorium. The 2,800 tickets will be distributed on a point system whereby an individual receives one point for every \$100 he donates, plus extra points for being active in the club for a certain number of years.

The letter the Rams Club member referred to was one sent out by the Educational Foundation. It was, Williamson admitted, the most ambiguous letter they have ever mailed.

"It said we didn't really know a

The rims went down amidst cheering fans February 23 against Clemson but the same officials may be setting them up again soon. The Student Activities Center may not be completed in time for the home opener against UCLA.

cotton-pickin' thing," he said. "It said that the UCLA game was not impossible, we were hopeful, but the situation was doubtful."

Student distribution may become somewhat strange over the course of the season, with a possibility of a single game having two ticket distributions. "If one game is distributed for early and then we find out the SAC will be ready for that game, we'll distribute again," Brown said.

Students will receive 8,000 tickets in the SAC, rather than the 3,300 allotted for them in Carmichael Auditorium.

Once the activity center is open, several changes will be instituted in the ticket policy.

One of the primary differences is that students will be allowed to pick up two tickets rather than one with valid registration cards and IDs. The lower arena seats will be done by lottery, but once those seats are gone the upper arena will be given out on a best-seats-available basis. Pickup will be on weekends, but if tickets are still available students will have until Wednesday to get them.

After Wednesday, tickets that haven't

been distributed will go on sale to the general public, a situation that should occur only when the Tar Heels play someone like Howard.

But the bottom line is that no one really knows when the SAC will be ready. Camp said the facility won't be compromised to speed up the process. "The SAC will be here in 20 years, and we're not going to lose first-class workmanship to get one or two more games in."

"So many things still have to go right, and there are so many unknowns. We'll try to get in, but if we don't, we don't."