

Wake aims to keep winning

By PARIS GOODNIGHT
Staff Writer

For Wake Forest, last year's 6-5 record was an impressive turnaround from the past three seasons.

Coach Al Groh's 17-27 record over the past four years reveals that last year was a breakthrough season, whose success Wake hopes will carry over into this year.

"We broke through to a level of play that we had been aiming at for a long time," Groh said.

One of the strong points for the Demon Deacons is an experienced quarterback in senior Foy White, who will lead the offense. White averaged 140.4 yards per game last year after winning the starting position from Jamie Harris, who started the first three games. White threw for 12 touchdowns with only five interceptions for the top interception percentage in the league.

White is joined in the backfield by Michael Ramseur, who has proven himself as a quality running back over the past three years. He has rushed for 2,556 yards, which is second on Wake Forest's all-time rushing list, and scored 26 rushing touchdowns.

Fullback Topper Clemmons should also contribute to the Deacons' offensive attack. He is the strongest of the backs and averaged 5.3 yards per carry last year. Coach Groh said that Clemmons will be used to carry the ball frequently, and won't merely block for other running backs.

The offensive line may be a problem for Wake Forest because of the loss of some

key players to graduation. Tim Morrison and Paul Kiser are returning starters.

At center will be junior Frank Carmines (6-3, 252-lbs.), sophomore Paul Mann (6-3, 270) will be at right guard and sophomore Mike Rice (6-1, 265) will be at right tackle. Coach Groh said he is confident that the replacements will be more than adequate.

Wake Forest lost two of its top receivers, but the other 10 players that caught a pass in 1984 are returning. James Brim leads a group of talented receivers and is the probable starter at split end. He hauled in 26 passes for 407 yards last year.

At tight end is three-year starter Kevin Wiczorek, who averaged 12.3 yards per catch and is also considered a good blocker. David Chambers will start at flanker.

The defense still has some question marks, also because of graduation. Coach Groh said that the linebacking position is weak but is improving quickly. Tony Scott, last year's second-leading tackler and Steve Lambert, who started part of last year, will be the inside linebackers. The outside positions will be filled by seniors Tony Garbarczyk, who led the team in sacks, and Ken Grantham, a returning starter who will play cornerback some also.

The defensive backfield is young and could cause some problems because of lack of experience. The strong point of the backfield is Reggie McCummings, who led the team in tackles for the past two years at free safety.

Cornerback Rory Holt is a returning two-year starter and ranked third in tackles last year. The other spots will be filled by senior Marvin Young at cornerback and Ken Grantham, who was moved from linebacker.

The front line is a strong unit overall for the defense. Gary Baldinger returns at defensive end as the leading vote-getter from the all-ACC defensive unit. He had four games last year with double figures in tackles and has seven career fumble recoveries, a school record.

Bruce Mark is the other defensive end and is a three-year starter. Senior Randall Singleton will get his first start at noseguard after being the No. 2 man at that position for three years.

The kicking game was off last year for Wake Forest, but coach Groh said that placekicker Doug Illing had improved over the year and will be a key for the Deacons if he can keep his confidence. Illing went three-for-10 last year in field goals but was a perfect 13-for-13 in extra points.

The punter this year will have to fill the void of Harry Newsome who led the ACC in punting average for three consecutive seasons. Freshman Martin Bailey is the top candidate for punter.

Wake Forest has had two winning seasons in a row only once since joining the league in 1953. This year the Demon Deacons are determined to do it again.

WAKE FOREST

Coach: Al Groh (17-27, 4 years)
1984 Record: 6-5; 5th in conference, 3-4.

Offense: Pro—Set. Defense: Multiple.

Key Losses: Ronnie Burgess, DB; Ken McAllister, OG; Bobby Morrison, OT; Mike Nesselt, C; Harry Newsome, P; Duane Owens, WR.

Starters Returning: Offense (7). Defense (7).

Key Returnees: David Chambers, WR, Jr.; Toby Cole, LB, Jr.; Jamie Harris, QB, Jr.; Doug Illing, K, Sr.; Shawn Kelley, DE, Soph.; Paul Mann, OG, Soph.; Brian Paschal, OG, Jr.; Mike Rice, OT, Soph.; Terence Ryan, DE, Jr.; Greg Scales, WR, Soph.; Jimmie Simmons, LB, Soph.; Randall Singleton, NG, Sr.

Prediction: Seventh in ACC.



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