

# Heels try to rebound from mediocre year

By **PHYLLIS A. FAIR**  
Staff Writer

The 1984 season for the Tar Heels was one of inexperience and disappointment, as the Tar Heels finished with a 5-5-1 record after being picked to win the conference title.

The Tar Heels opened the season with a horrendous 1-4 start that included an opening-day loss to Navy and a 52-20 devastation by a lightning thrower by the name of Flutie. They rebounded in the latter part of the season to go 4-1-1 over the last six games, including a win over Memphis State, a tie with nationally-ranked Virginia and a victory over traditional rival Duke.

However, UNC teams aren't supposed to just break even. This year's team seeks to rebound from a season labeled by most media and fans as an extreme disappointment.

Part of the team's record was due no doubt to the fact that the team was the youngest that coach Dick Crum had ever been associated with. Crum had 30 lettermen and 11 starters returning from the 1983 season, and a lot of holes to fill on defense.

He had to find replacements for players such as William Fuller, Willie Harris and Bill Sheppard on defense and Scott Stankavage, Joe Conwell, Brian Blados, Mark Smith and Tyrone Anthony on offense.

Inexperience in the interior of the offensive line was another problem Crum had to face. Brian Johnston and Dennis Barron, the No. 2 nose guard in 1983, were the only players with appreciable experience.

However, the Tar Heels did boast strong All-America contenders like Ethan Horton and Micah Moon.

Moon, who played inside linebacker for two years, was moved to the outside linebacker position at the beginning of the season because of UNC's inexperience on the outside and to take better advantage of his athletic ability, but was switched back inside halfway through the season.

Horton was rated as one of the best runners in the game going into the 1984 season with only three years of experience at the tailback position, and ended up being drafted in the first round of the NFL draft after leading the conference in rushing.

Last year, North Carolina depended on Horton to make things happen for the offense, a reliance they will not have the luxury of this year.

Despite UNC's .500 mark last year, sophomore defense tackle Reuben Davis felt that the Tar Heels had a good team. "I felt that we were good," Davis said. "We just had bad breaks. At times we played like we should have and at times we didn't. We had a great time last year but were not able to produce."

Damon Hueston, freshman tight end, said that the team's performance was mediocre. "We could have won a lot of games that we lost. I think we did pretty good at the end."

Hueston has high hopes for this season. "The offense has opened up a lot and the defense has matured more. We're going to be better than people think."

Teammate Dennis Clemmons agrees. Clemmons said that the team's overall attitude also has improved over last year.

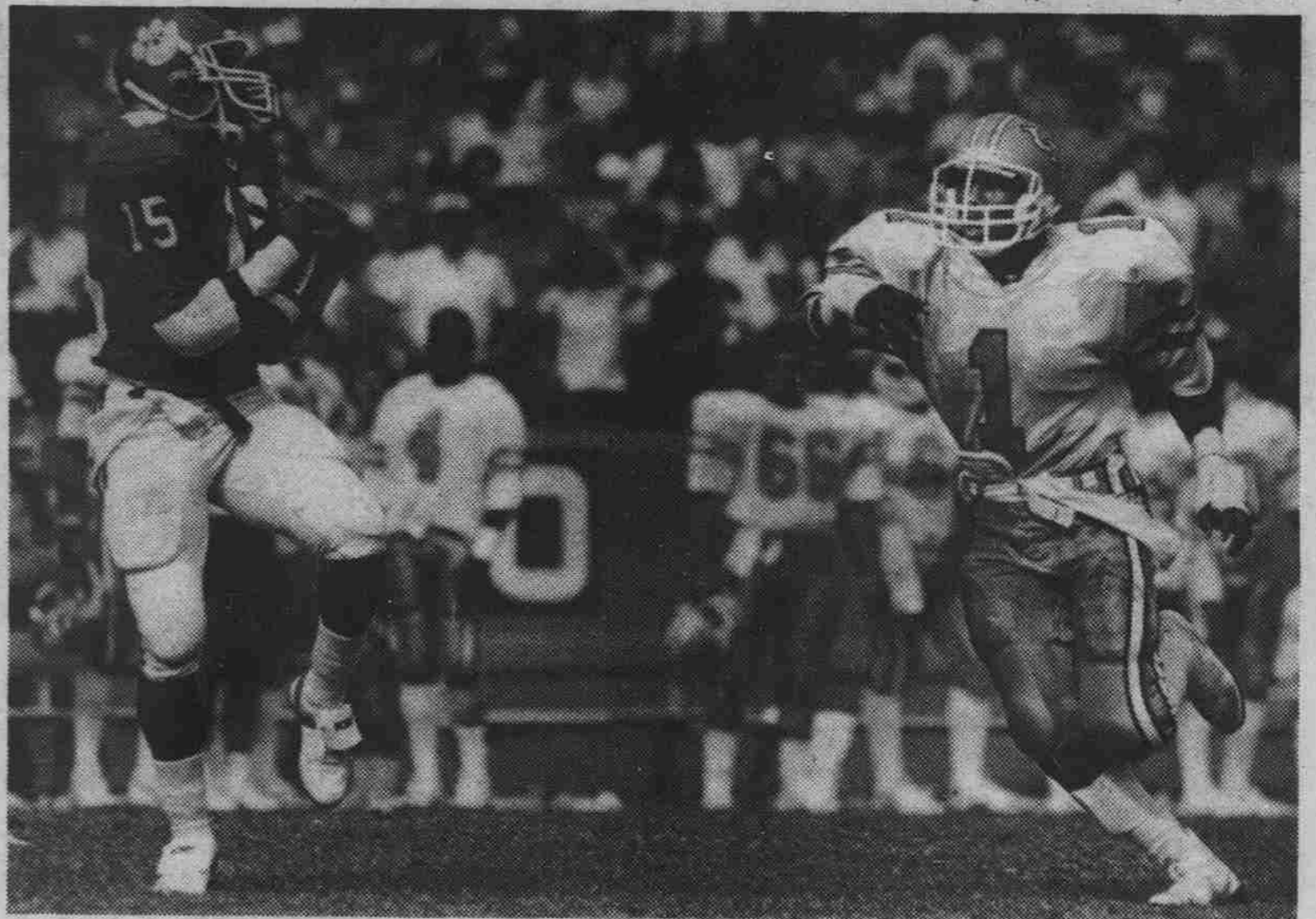
"Despite what the newspapers say about us we feel that our attitude will improve our performance," Clemmons said.

The expectations of last year and this year are basically the same, according to team members.

Davis said that last year one of the team's goals was to gain respect from people and other teams. This year's is "gain respect, win the Atlantic Coast Conference and go to a bowl."

According to Gary Ruble, "We wanted to have a winning season. We started off disappointing but we got better down the line."

This season "we are expecting a good year. We're going out and do what we have to do. We're still young but we're not as inexperienced as people say we are. Whatever it takes to win we'll do it."



**Bye-Bye**

Terrance Roulhac caught this pass for Clemson late in the game to give the Tigers a come-from-behind victory over the Tar Heels.

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