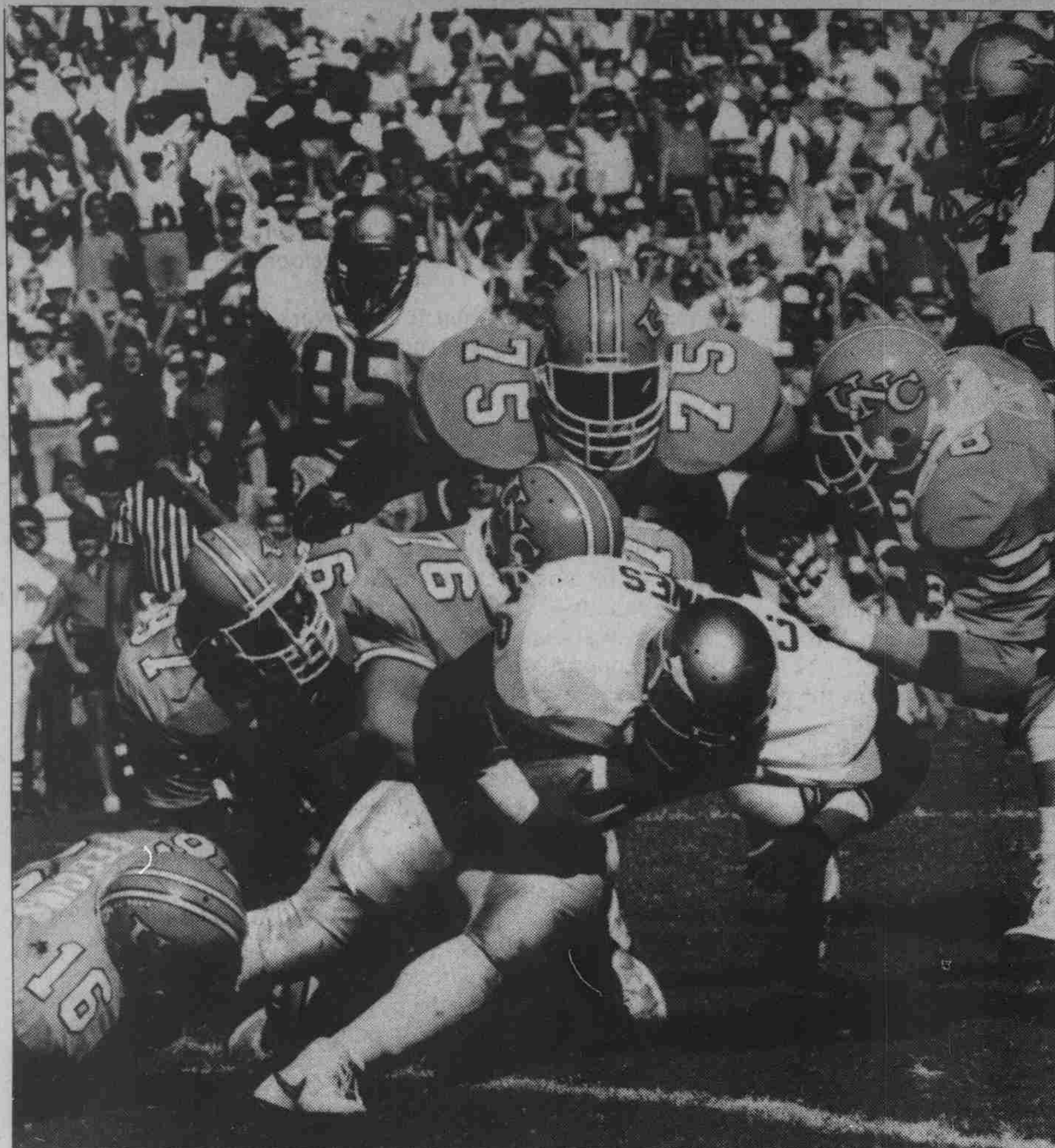


Defense turns in best performance of year in FSU loss



DTH/Dan Charlson

A smothering UNC defense, shown here pounding FSU's Cletis Jones, created five turnovers in the first half

By TOM MORRIS
Staff Writer

It was a stunned crowd that exited Kenan Stadium following Florida State's come-from-behind victory Saturday, stunned because UNC played its best defensive game of the year and still lost.

The improving UNC defense recovered four Florida State fumbles and intercepted two passes, but it wasn't enough. The Seminoles, who came into the game following a 76-14 thrashing of Tulsa the week before, were averaging 400 yards a game but were held to 295 by the opportunistic UNC defense.

"We should have held them to less than that. We wanted the game," said defensive back Tony Goss.

"I think we played a great game," said UNC free safety Darryl Johnson. "Sometimes you just have to get a shutout, that's what it takes."

However, the performance of the defense was reminiscent of the glory days of Lawrence Taylor. "We're working toward that goal," said UNC defensive coordinator Denny Marcin. "This was our best defensive effort of the year. We're getting where we need to be. Those puppies are getting to be doggies up front."

Defensive back Walter Bailey said he was happy with the defensive performance. "For the most part we gave it our best effort. We knew what to expect. We went out there and we did what we had to do," said Bailey.

UNC led 10-0 at the half thanks to two big plays by the defense that gave the offense the ball in FSU territory. With 9:42 remaining in the first quarter, UNC's Reuben Davis recovered a fumble by FSU quarterback Eric Thomas at the Seminole 16-yard line, which led to UNC's first touchdown. Then late in the first quarter, UNC's Larry Griffin intercepted an Eric Thomas pass to give UNC the ball at the FSU 46-yard line. That led to Kenny Miller's 54-yard field goal.

At the half, Florida State had only 85 yards in total offense. The Seminoles shuffled quarterbacks Eric Thomas and Chip Ferguson in the first half to try and get their offense started. But even when FSU wasn't turning the ball over,

the Seminoles still had trouble putting together any kind of drive.

In the second half, UNC's defense continued its opportunistic play as Eric Starr intercepted Eric Thomas's first pass of the second half. "I was supposed to sink back," Starr said. "I don't know whether he overthrew it or underthrew it. The ball just came into my hands." However, UNC failed to capitalize as Lee Gliarmis missed a 29-yard field goal due to a bad placement.

That was a sign of things to come as the Tar Heel defense spent the majority of the second half on the field and the offense sputtered. FSU had possession of the ball for almost 19 minutes of the second half. "I think we did get a little tired," said Marcin.

FSU's Ferguson settled down after a rocky first half and led the Seminoles to their first score of the game, a 23-yard field goal by Derek Schmidt. "They ran the same plays (as in the first half). They just executed better," Marcin said.

Early in the fourth quarter, Ferguson hit Hassan Jones with a 49-yard pass on which UNC's Darryl Johnson was called for interference. From there, the Seminoles drove the remaining 28 yards to score on a 10-yard pass.

"I thought the turning point of the game that got them going was the long pass play where we were called for interference," said UNC head coach Dick Crum.

Johnson said that he was going for the ball, and that at the time he didn't know who the call was on. "I knew he was going on a post. On the way down, we bumped. I was asking who the call was on. I was in a state of shock," Johnson said.

UNC linebacker Brett Rudolph said they were expecting the long pass, but he wasn't sure if that one play was the key. "I don't know if it was a turning point. It was definitely a factor," Rudolph said.

With the fourth quarter winding down, the Seminoles ground out a 12-play, 56-yard drive against a tired UNC defense. Schmidt's 51-yard field goal gave FSU the lead for good with 2:17 left in the game, and UNC's best defensive effort of the year was buried in another defeat.

Volleyball nipped by Blue Devils

By PARIS GOODNIGHT
Staff Writer

The Duke volleyball team was just too much for North Carolina once again as they won the Saturday match at Carmichael Auditorium in four games. This is the third loss to the Blue Devils this year for the Tar Heels.

UNC's record is now 20-10 and 2-1 in the conference and Duke retains first place in the ACC with a 3-0 record and 14-5 overall.

Duke dominated the first game from the start behind senior Gail Grabowsky's kills. They never trailed and won 15-7.

UNC played better in the second game, fighting back from a 5-3 deficit to take the lead at 9-5 with strong play by Jill Berkebile. But Duke once again played too well and won this game 15-12.

Worse than the loss of this game was the knee injury to junior Julie Neal. The extent of the injury is not certain.

North Carolina won the third game 15-10 on strong team play and Duke mistakes.

The final game started with both teams making kills but only alternating serves. UNC stayed close for the first half of the game but then Duke pulled away on the kills of senior Diane Brown, who hurt the Tar Heels the entire match. The final score was 15-8.

"We didn't play that bad," said UNC assistant coach Jolene Nagel. "We're still OK. This is only our first loss in conference matches."

Duke coach Jon Wilson was not happy with his team's play and said: "We played adequate. We only played good enough to win."

scoreboard

Women's Tennis

UNC 5, Princeton 4

Singles: Alexander (UNC) d. Schuette 6-2, 6-2; Shane (P) d. Fallon 6-1, 6-0; Meghane (P) d. Wachter 6-2, 6-1; Barnes (UNC) d. Myman 6-3, 1-6, 7-5; Palimintieri (P) d. Weasels 7-6, 6-3; Stephenson (UNC) d. Viswanathan 7-6, 5-7, 6-2.
Doubles: Alexander-Barnes (UNC) d. Schuette-Shane 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; Meghane-Myman (P) d. Fallon-Turner 6-7, 7-5, 6-1; Cox-Wachter (UNC) d. Palimintieri-Viswanathan 7-6, 5-7, 6-2.
Records: UNC 3-1.

Football

ACC

Maryland 40, Duke 10
Clemson 39, N.C. State 10
Virginia 20, Wake Forest 18
Tennessee 6, Ga. Tech 6

FSU's Ferguson may join growing ranks of prep predecessors

By SCOTT FOWLER
Assistant Sports Editor

If freshman Chip Ferguson keeps playing like he did Saturday, he may make football fans in his two hometowns forget the star quarterbacks that preceded him.

Ferguson, along with an immovable Florida State defense, was the major reason why the Seminoles rebounded from a 10-0 deficit in the second half to rally for a 20-10 victory over UNC.

Although the game was technically UNC's homecoming, unofficially it was also Ferguson's. More than 20 members of his family were in the stands, as was his girlfriend Sharon, who goes to UNC. He put on quite a show for them after a slow start, completing 15 of 23 passes for 124 yards and one TD.

"I was nervous at first, being in front of all those people I knew," Ferguson admitted after the game as he stood in front of a huge fan in the Seminole dressing room and spat tobacco into a crushed Coke Classic can.

That nervousness showed early. In a play that should make all of the Dick Clark-Ed McMahon blooper shows, Ferguson dropped back to throw in the first half, flung his arm forward and belatedly looked back to discover that the ball was lying on the ground behind him. UNC's Carlton Bailey pounced on it for one of FSU's five turnovers in the first 20 minutes of the game.

But how does one have two hometowns, anyway? Ferguson now hails from Spartanburg, S.C. But he played up through his junior year at Independence High School in Charlotte, where he backed up oft-injured UNC quarterback Mark Maye early in his career. Matter of fact, when Ferguson first saw the UNC game on the Seminole schedule this year he imagined a confrontation between the dueling quarterbacks from Independence. "I hate that Mark is injured," Ferguson said. "I would love for us to get to play against each other sometime."

Ferguson didn't stay at Independence his senior year, however, for what many fans considered a rather bizarre reason and why some Charlotteans begrudge his exploits. Ferguson's coach Allen Sitterle took a job as head coach of Spartanburg High School, a school that a few years earlier had produced quarterback Steve Fuller.

And Ferguson's family followed his coach, establishing a residence in Spartanburg while his father commuted to work 150 miles a day roundtrip to Charlotte. The reason given by Ferguson at the time was that the new Independence coach ran the ball too much, and he wouldn't have a chance to exhibit his passing skills.

The move caused quite a controversy in Spartanburg, and at one time it looked like Ferguson would be ruled

ineligible. But after much debate he was allowed to play — although a new "Ferguson" rule from the South Carolina High School League prohibits the situation from occurring legally again — and proceeded to break all of Fuller's passing records while leading the Vikings to the State 4-A finals.

Nevertheless, Ferguson wasn't recruited by many major schools, including UNC. The Seminoles were an exception, and Ferguson began the season way down on the depth chart. However, coach Bobby Bowden has a penchant for playing quarterbacking musical chairs (having played five quarterbacks in seven games), and Ferguson got a chance earlier than most anyone would have expected for a freshman on a team ranked in the top ten almost all year. He came into the Kansas game with the Seminoles trailing, and immediately completed a pass for the go-ahead touchdown.

Coach Bobby Bowden has since established Ferguson as his throwing quarterback, and after Eric Thomas got off to a woeful start in the first half, he went to his freshman for the rest of the game, excluding one series.

"In this one he had more of the ball game," Bowden said, explaining why he thought Ferguson's performance was his best of the season. "I stuck with him today, and I'll probably stick with him a little longer," he continued, implying that Ferguson would get his first start next week against archrival Miami of

Florida.

Ferguson's ability has impressed others as well, some of them more objective than others. "Chip is the man!" an FSU fan clad in garish red-and-gold exclaimed. "Bobby's got to go with him the rest of the year."

Indeed, the game's key play, a 49-yard Ferguson bomb to Hassan Jones, was more or less Ferguson throwing the ball into blanket coverage and Jones going up and getting it despite being interfered with.

The touchdown pass was again a demonstration of sheer athletic ability by Jones. "We always throw that to Hassan," said Ferguson, explaining his 10-yard lob to Jones in the end zone, "because he'll go up and get it every time."

That TD pass tied the game 10-10,

and Ferguson drove the Seminoles 56 yards on their next possession and went the final six yards of that drive himself on a quarterback keeper to set up Derek Schmidt's 51-yard field goal.

Great things are forecast for this freshman, and he may well be the one that fulfills Maye's supposedly unlimited promise and is the quarterback that fans remember went to Independence High in '10 years. As for the Fuller comparison, Ferguson said he admired the Chicago Bears quarterback but wasn't sure how his own style compared to Fuller's.

"I don't know too much about Steve except for watching him in the pros," he said. In five years, it may be Fuller watching Ferguson and saying the same thing.

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The Daily Classified Tar Heel Advertising

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