

Sports

UNC ventures into the Bayou

By **MIKE BERARDINO**
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina's up-and-coming passing attack, Air Maye, will make its first interstate flight this Saturday with touchdown slated for 7 p.m. in Baton Rouge's Tiger Stadium. Over 75,000 screaming Cajuns are expected to greet the arrival with full intent of breaking the sound barrier themselves and forcing the visitors into a crash landing.

In non-aeronautical terms, UNC's 4-1-1 football team will take a break from its ACC wars to face the Fighting Tigers of Louisiana State.

4-1 and ranked 12th nationally, in the original Death Valley of college football arenas. The nonconference game, for which the Tigers are nine-point favorites, is LSU's Homecoming.

The matchup will be the sixth renewal of a budding rivalry in which LSU has won four of five previous meetings, including a 23-13 decision in Kenan Stadium last season. But the faces, if not the outlooks, have changed for both teams since then.

Last year, Kevin Anthony threw for a school-record 302 yards (which Mark Maye surpassed last Satur-

day), LSU quarterback Jeff Wick-ersham committed two big turnovers deep in his own territory. Tiger tailbacks Dalton Hilliard and Garry James rambled for a combined 239 yards on the ground, and North Carolina's leading rusher was William Humes, with 33 yards.

None of those players will be on the field come Saturday night.

Instead, it will be Dick Crum's musical tailback system (with Derrick Fenner, Eric Starr and Torin Dorn all expected to see action) against the defensive genius (17 points per game allowed) of LSU head coach Bill Arnsparger, in his third year at the helm.

And we'll find out whether Maye's outstanding second-half performance against the Wolfpack will carry over to this Saturday. Or will that record-smashing exhibition of aerial football go the way of Bob Beamon's leap, Tom Dempsey's field goal and Kevin Anthony's day in the sun?

LSU will have some say in that matter, as the Tigers probably present the best defense North Carolina will have faced thus far in 1986. Despite the loss of linebacker Michael Brooks, the All-America candidate who tore knee ligaments three weeks ago, LSU is still in fine shape. Senior inside linebacker Toby Caston (6-1, 235 pounds) has played like a man possessed since Brooks' injury. Caston's 20-tackle performance against Georgia two weeks ago earned him Sports Illustrated's Defensive Player of the Week award.

On offense, the Tigers have red-shirt freshman Tom Hodson running the show. The 6-3 signal-caller riddled Kentucky last week for 255 yards and two touchdowns. Hodson has completed nearly 60 percent of his passes on the season.

Hodson's favorite target is split end Wendell Davis, who ranks second in the nation with 7.2 receptions per game. The dangerous Davis averages over 14 yards a catch.

LSU will alternate its tailback combo of Harvey Williams (373 yards) and Sam Martin (251 yards) throughout the game, keeping both runners fresh and the UNC defense off guard.

It seems almost a shame this fine interconference matchup must directly follow last Saturday's classic 35-34 thriller. Although you'll never hear them say it, coming out flat against LSU has to be a real worry for the Tar Heels. In the past five years, North Carolina is 1-4 the week following the N.C. State game.



UNC fencing coach Ron Miller (right) instructs his non-scholarship charges in the finer points of their sport

Fencing coach Miller honored

By **BONNIE BISHOP**
Staff Writer

For the second time in four years, North Carolina fencing coach Ron Miller has been named the collegiate fencing coach of the year for men.

This award is selected by coaches who are members of the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association and was voted on at the NCAA Championships last March. The results of the vote then went to the Association's executive board where they were finalized in late September.

Miller, who also won the award in 1983, is in his 20th year of coaching at UNC. In 1968, he organized the first varsity program from a club team, which had been in existence since the 1920s.

"One of the reasons they hired me was to see if they were interested in making it a varsity program," Miller said. "The first year we went 8-1, and they thought that was good enough, so they made us a varsity team."

Miller gives credit for the award to the people that he works with, the athletic department and the athletes.

"Really the award is a credit to all the people that are involved and not just one person," he said. "So I may win the award but it's an award for all parts of the program, from the athletic director right down to the 63rd player on the team."

Miller's fencing teams have had great success, competing in the NCAA tournament on a regular basis, finishing in third place in 1983 and eighth place in 1986. These accomplishments are made even more remarkable due to the fact that UNC fencing is a non-scholarship program competing with scholarship programs.

"I'd say a large part of the reason that I won the award before and also this year was due to the fact that our program was probably the only consistently nationally-ranked team in the country which does not have admissions assistance or scholarship assistance," said Miller.

He said that the athletic department is very supportive in other ways, as it supplies the team with a good operating budget.

"For the last five or six years, we've been probably one of the five or six best-funded programs in the country," Miller said. "But it's a different type of funding."

Unfortunately, not having scholarships does have its drawbacks, as North Carolina lost two recruits this past year to schools with scholarship aid.

UNC gets its fencers in a variety of ways, from people in fencing classes and from athletes who are disenchanted with other sports.

Miller said that the sport tends to sell itself. There are still other fencers who come to the University just to have a chance to work with him.

He has been the head coach for Junior Olympics teams and has coached the Junior Pan American team. He was the sabre coach for the U.S. team at the Senior World Championships in Rome three summers ago.

"I have travelled with three international teams, but most of my work deals with the planning and orientation stages for the programs," he said. "It may be less glamorous, but it is probably where most of the work is done."

Miller puts a great deal of emphasis on improving his coaching techniques and keeping them up to date, because the sport is constantly changing. He had the opportunity to go to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles but chose to go to a coaching seminar in Hungary instead.

"Every year there are changes and if you don't stay abreast of them, you're going to fall behind," he said. "One of the reasons I wanted to go to Hungary instead of the Olympic Games was because Hungary is the best in the sabre and that's the weapon I usually coach nationally. I wanted to learn as much as I could."

"The more sources that you can find to influence what you think and what you believe or what things you think you might want to teach, the better off you're going to be, because you have more selection from which to make an opinion. So we constantly strive to find as many different sources as we can and then choose the best."

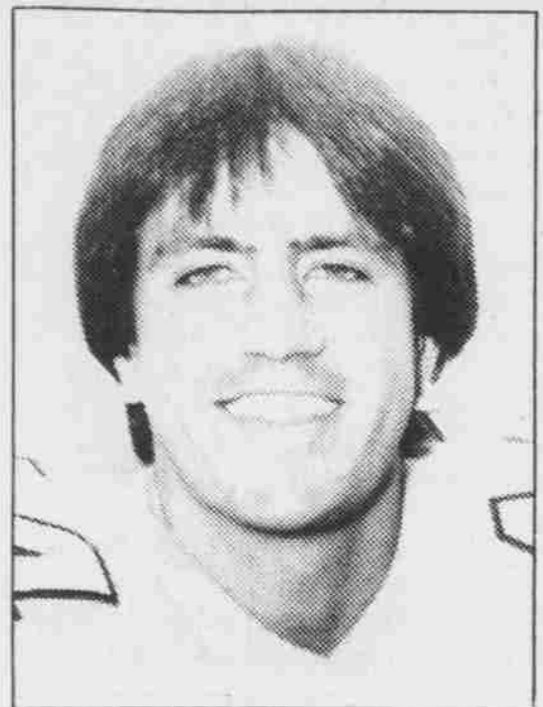
UNC Athlete of the Week

Gee, wonder who the UNC Athlete of the Week is? Mark Maye? What a surprise!

Actually, the soft-spoken, hard-throwing UNC quarterback was the easiest choice ever for this illustrious award. Maye was simply dynamite Saturday, zinging darts, strikes, frozen ropes and any other cliché you can think of all day long.

Maye threw 33 passes, and missed only eight times. His 25 completions went for 311 yards, a new school record, and three touchdowns. Most impressively, he did not throw an interception. He was awesome, tubular, outtasight, baaad, and just plain boss.

On the receiving end of nine of those blurs Maye was hurling was Quint Smith, who gets mentioned as honorable.



Mark Maye

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