

Decimating graduation losses leave 'Pack guessing

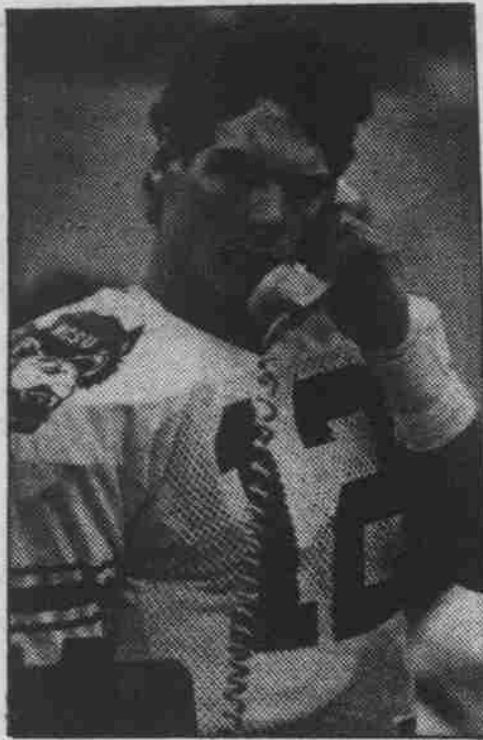
By JIM MUSE
Staff Writer

The upcoming year has the potential to be a very long one for the N.C. State football team.

Gone is Erik Kramer, the ACC Player of the Year in 1987, and the second leading passer in State history. Gone is Haywood Jeffries, the second leading receiver in State history with just five fewer catches than some guy named Mike Quick. Gone are All-ACC kicking specialists Mike Cofer and Kelly Hollodick. The swath of graduation has cut far and wide.

But that's not all. Nasrallah Worthen, State's leading receiver with 41 catches last year, has been suspended from the team for what have been called "disciplinary reasons." With another good year, he could have become the leading receiver in the school's history.

All told, just nine starters will return from last year's Cinderella team, a squad that went 8-3-1 last season, including a heartbreaking Peach Bowl loss to Virginia Tech. That was the first State team to go to a bowl game since 1978.



E.K. (State's Erik Kramer) phone home, but there's no one to listen

Needless to say, second-year coach Dick Sheridan is going to have his work cut out for him.

The biggest hole that Sheridan has to fill will be at quarterback. The

latest word is that redshirt freshman Preston Poag and sophomore Shane Montgomery are both in the running to command coach Sheridan's unusual "I-option" offense. Sheridan maintains that he has confidence in both quarterbacks, but it was Montgomery who started the opener against East Carolina, a game the Wolfpack lost in embarrassing fashion, 32-14.

In the backfield, behind whomever ends up starting, there is not much experience. Senior Bobby Crumpler, State's leading rusher last year with 581 yards, could start at either tailback or fullback, and may play the latter spot to make room for impressive sophomore tailback Todd Varn. Junior fullback Mal Crite will also play a lot, while two freshmen, Tyrone Jackson and Chris Williams, have looked good in the scrimmages and may get some playing time.

At receiver, seniors Danny Peebles and Mack Jones will lead an otherwise young and inexperienced group into battle. Neither Peebles nor Jones is of star quality, but both are consistent, hard workers. A measure

of just how soft the receiving corps is can be found in the fact that no returning end had more than eight catches last year.

The offensive line will be State's biggest offensive asset. Three starters return, led by co-captain tackle Joey Page. Four linemen, including Page, Lenny Schultz, John Inman, and Jeff Strum, are three-year lettermen. Brock Miller, a 6-8, 275-pound tackle, is the largest person on the team, if not in the entire conference.

Although only five starters return from last year's unit, the defense should be the strength of the team.

The line will be solid, anchored by ACC Rookie of the Year Ray Agnew at tackle, while three-year letterman Kent Winstead takes the thankless position of nose guard, and junior John Adleta lines up at the other tackle.

The linebackers, if not quite, will at least look big. Senior co-captain Mark Smith and Scott Wilson will line up on the outside, at 6-3 and 6-8 respectively, while junior Fred Stone and sophomore Grant Slavin will man the inside. The

four weigh in at an average of just over 6-4 and 232 pounds.

The secondary will be led by senior strong safety Chris Johnson, whom Sheridan calls "the best player on the team," with hard-nosed hitter Michael Brooks at the other safety spot.

The kicking game, which will sorely miss the services of All-ACC punter Kelly Hollodick and kicker Mike Cofer, is still a question mark. Bryan Carter, a redshirt sophomore, should get kickoff duty, while senior Craig Salmon will get the punting job.

Sheridan is cautious to comment on the upcoming season. "We haven't shown the kind of consistent play that will make us contenders," he said. "We know, from an emotional standpoint, that there will be a lot of teams who want to beat us a lot more than they did a year ago."

There is no doubt that there is a lot of talent on the team, but the lack of depth will be a major problem. And with so many inexperienced players on the team, how well the team will do is anyone's guess.

Dooley inherits 'Air Elkins', little else

By CLAY HODGES
Staff Writer

The 1987 Wake Forest football team is a program in transition.

Not only must the team contend with a graduating class that stole 11 Deacon starters and 17 lettermen, but it must also make the transition to a new coaching system and philosophy under first year head coach Bill Dooley.

Dooley accepted the Wake Forest position last year after leading his Virginia Tech Hokies to a Peach Bowl victory over last year's ACC Cinderella team, N.C. State. The position became available after a contract dispute initiated the resignation of former Deacon head coach Al Groh.

Dooley is no stranger to the ACC. From 1967 to 1977 he served as the head coach at UNC, leading the Tar Heels to six bowl appearances and three conference titles. He left the ACC to take over the Virginia Tech program in 1978, and amassed an impressive 63-38-1 record.

In both situations, Dooley arrived at schools that were caught up in extended periods of mediocrity. At UNC, the team had achieved just

three winning seasons and one bowl appearance in almost 20 years. Tech was not much better, claiming just three winning seasons in nine years. The Hokies had not made a bowl appearance in a decade. Dooley's success in turning around lackluster programs is a promising statistic for Demon Deacon fans, who watched their 1986 team limp to a 5-6 record.

Dooley will once again have his work cut out for him in Winston-Salem, where graduation claimed six defensive starters and five on offense, including the entire offensive line. Lou Altobelli, a sophomore offensive tackle who turned in a strong pre-season, recently went down with an injury that will keep him out for the entire 1987 season.

"Have you ever seen a football team without an offensive line?" asked Dooley, before adding, "We have no experience on the line."

The one bright spot for the Deacons is the return of senior tight end Greg Scales. The 6-4, 250-pound Winston-Salem native ranked ninth in the ACC last year in receiving, and should be one of the top tight ends in the conference.

Junior Jay Deaver, sophomore

Tony Mayberry, junior Joe Kenn, sophomore Rod Ferguson, and freshman split end Steve Brown will see action for an offensive line that will front for a contrastingly experienced and talented backfield.

Junior quarterback Mike Elkins, the ACC's total offense leader in 1986, will lead the Demon Deacon offense in 1987. Elkins, whose brother Rod started three years at quarterback for North Carolina, will make the transition to the I-formation that Dooley has instituted. The new offense should decrease some of the

See DEACONS page 15



The
STOCK EXCHANGE
• A Unique Clothing Shop

CONTEMPORARY • TRADITIONAL
FINE NAME BRANDS • DESIGNER
NEW • SLIGHTLY USED

50% to 80%
BELOW RETAIL

CALVIN KLEIN • KAMALI • ANNE KLEIN • ANDREA
VITTIDINI • BELLE FRANCE • ALFRED SUNG • RALPH
LAUREN • JOANIE CHAR • VALENTINO • ST. JOHN • BILL
BLASS • NINA RICCI • MONDI • AND MORE


4 The Courtyard
W. Franklin • 967-4035



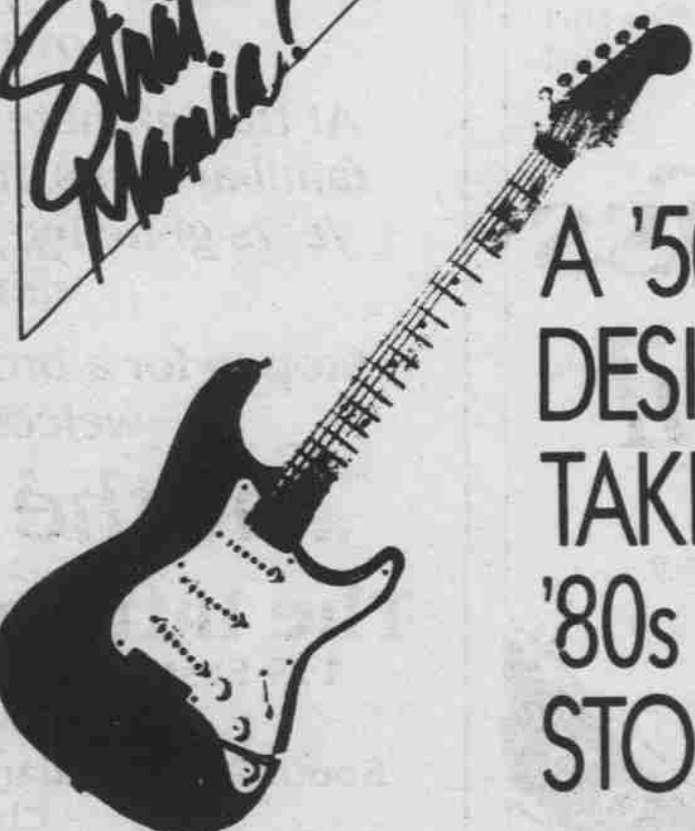
7 Pool Tables
Wide-Screen
TV
for football games
COLD BEER

Kroger Plaza Mall
Entrance located in back of Kroger Plaza Mini-Mall,
behind Plaza Laundry & Cleaning

929-1815



THE MUSIC LOFT



Strat Mania!

A '50s DESIGN TAKES THE '80s BY STORM

300 East Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 968-4411

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

FRIDAY
WOMEN'S SOCCER
VS
Florida International
3:30 PM FINLEY FIELD

Hardee's