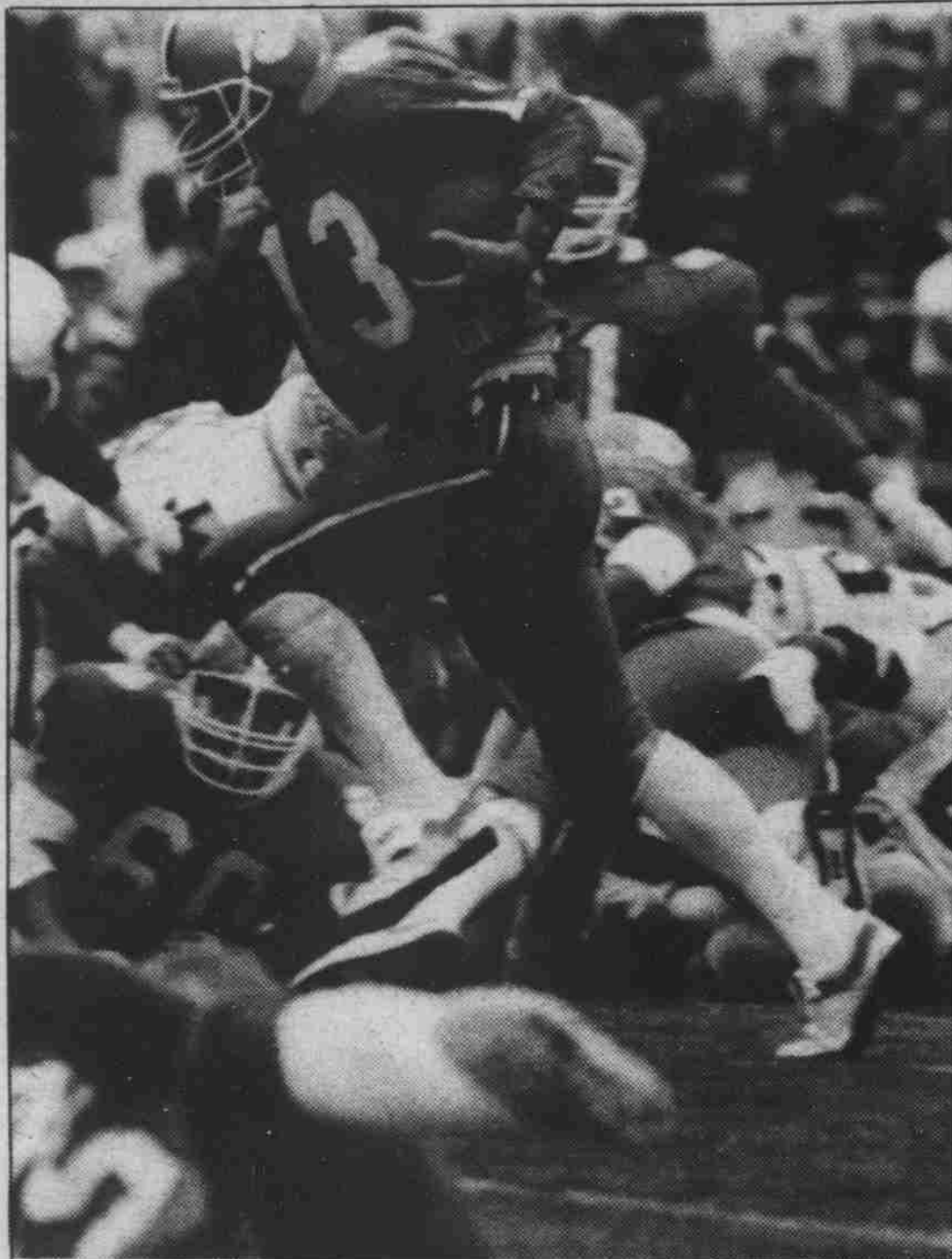


# Clemson

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Rodney Williams will option Clemson to a New Year's Day bowl

## Strong offense could lead Cavs to second straight bowl game

By **BRENDAN MATHEWS**  
Staff Writer

When you think about the University of Virginia, you think picture-postcard campus, country-club atmosphere, and enough tradition to rival UNC. You don't think conference football powerhouse.

But that's just what the Cavaliers are out to prove they have become. After stunning the ACC with a 7-4 record last season, the team picked to finish seventh rolled over BYU in the All-American Bowl. Virginia must now convince everyone, including themselves, that 1987 was no fluke.

The key for UVa. will be getting the ball to All-ACC receiver John Ford. Ford, who also earned honorable mention All-American honors, hauled down 48 passes for 855 yards and six touchdowns, despite a pulled hamstring that plagued him throughout the fall.

Already the holder of Virginia's single-season and career passing yardage records, Ford looks to be an all-around threat in opposing secondaries. "Even when teams do something to take him out of the game, he has enough talent to overcome that," said coach George Welsh. "When he gets double-teamed and people play deeper against him, it helps us in other parts of our game. It takes some people out of run support and allows some of our other receivers to be one-on-one on many

challenge to any defensive lineman. Also at tackle is Ty Granger, a two-time strength All-American.

The guards are a mixture of old and new. Senior Pat Williams returns from a 1986 Gator Bowl injury that sidelined him for a season. Sophomore Eric Harmon, the first freshman lineman ever to start all 12 games under Ford, also returns. Senior Jeff Bak will keep alive his string of 24 consecutive games at center.

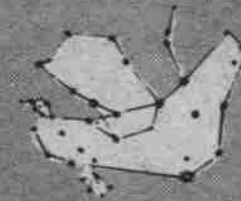
The line should give Williams plenty of time to find his receivers, should he ever want to throw. Waiting downfield will be junior Gary Cooper, who last year caught 34 passes for 618 yards and four TDs. Joining him will be senior Keith Jennings, whose career-high seven catches for 110 yards in the Citrus

More important, however, is Clemson's search for a kicker to replace graduated All-American David Treadwell. In his years with the Tigers, Treadwell proved himself to be one of the top clutch kickers in football, as Tar Heel fans can attest.

On the whole, the Tigers will field the most solid and experienced team

in the ACC. With 18 starters and 51 lettermen returning to Death Valley, another year of orange dominance is inevitable.

So is there any doubt about Clemson? The consensus would say no.



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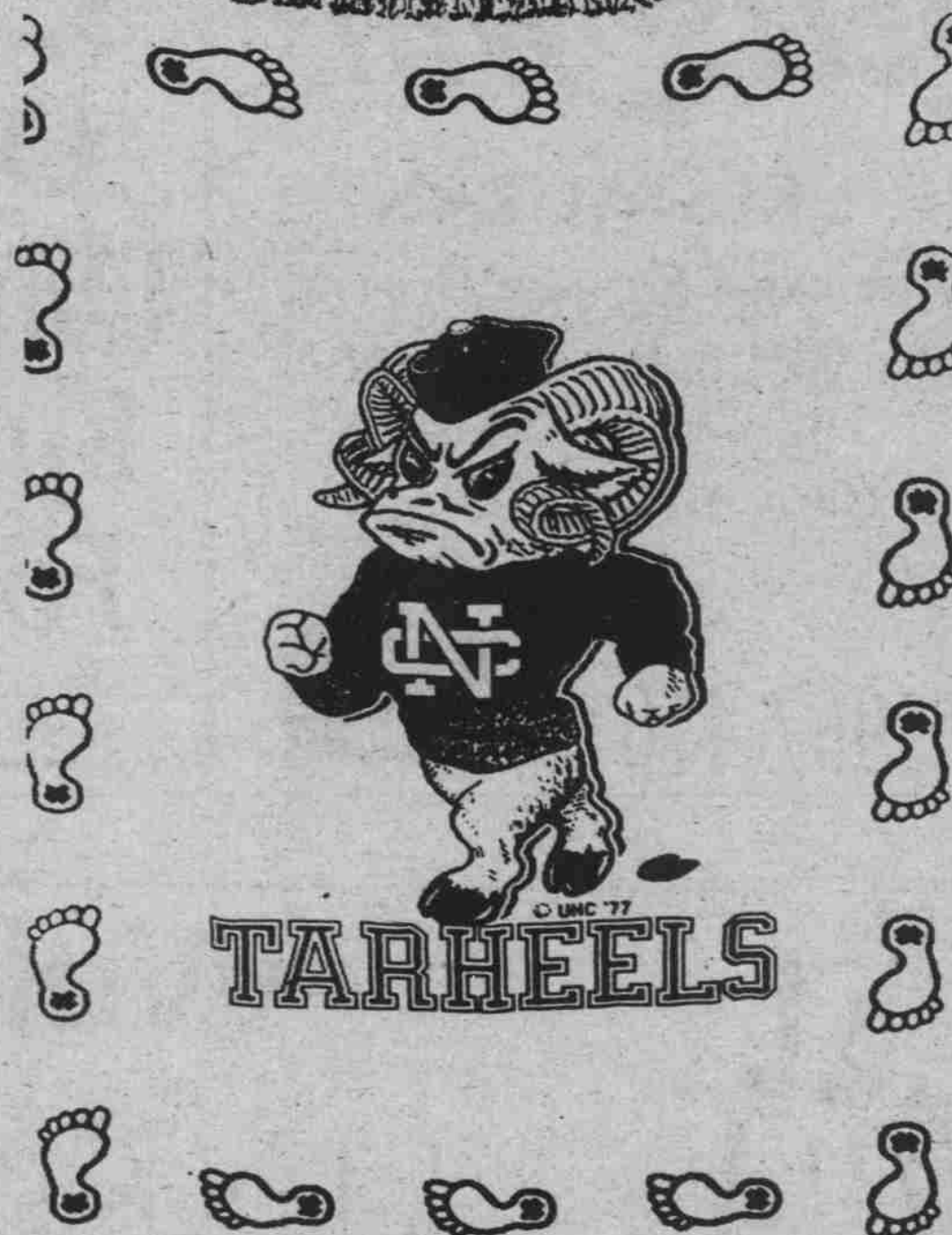
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occasions."

In order for Ford to have an All-American season, and for UVa. to return to a December bowl game, there has to be someone who can pass the ball, someone who can fill the shoes of Scott Secules, the All-ACC quarterback who went to the air for 2,311 yards and 12 touchdowns last year.

The burden falls to sophomore Shawn Moore, last year's No. 2 man. Although he saw only limited time in '87, he was impressive in the team's 21-19 loss to Maryland, completing eight of nine down the stretch. His 13-of-17, 221-yard performance in the Cavaliers' spring game proved to Welsh that Moore was capable of running the air show.

Moore will have a choice of throwing to Ford or any of the other receivers in the team's three-wideout formation. Ever since the setup brought Virginia two touchdowns in the last 2:53 against North Carolina, it has become an integral part of the Cavalier offense.

Those receivers should be Tim Finkelston, the team's leading punt and kickoff returner in '87, and walk-on Derek Dooley, son of Georgia coach Vince Dooley. Moore will also have the option of going to tight ends Joel Dempsey and Bruce McGonni-

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