

Sports

Brown optimistic after Blue-White spring contest

By DAVE GLENN
Sports Editor

The scoreboard in Kenan Stadium flashed "Carolina 31, Visitors 0" Saturday afternoon after two football teams, clad in blue and white uniforms, slopped through the mud for almost three hours on a cold, rainy spring afternoon.

Unfortunately for Mack Brown's Tar Heels, this clash wasn't UNC-Duke, and the score won't count in the ACC standings.

But a lot of things did count for the second-year UNC football coach. It was Blue-White football, and Brown got a much-needed chance to see and evaluate the progress of his 1989-90 team — minus the incoming freshmen, of course.

Though the scoreboard didn't reflect it, the game boiled down to a battle between the first string and second string. An unofficial scorecard gave the nod to the first team by a score of 28-3.

Brown said the game was a great opportunity for the coaching staff to get a look at the returning players in what has become a completely revamped line-up.

So, leaving super recruit Chuckie Burnette in the proverbial phone booth for another day, Brown spoke about his latest number-one quarterback.

Meet senior Jonathan Hall, last year's sometimes-starter, who completed 12 of 20 passes for 133 yards and two interceptions on the day. "We now know more about what a Jonathan Hall can do offensively than we did before," Brown said. "We never got a good look at him in the fall because of his (injured) shoulder."

Brown said the fans and media aren't the only ones who have been concentrating on the quarterback spot. "We felt the number one thing we had to do was get solid at that position," Brown said, "and Jonathan Hall has become our first-team player."

The ACC's leading rusher in 1988, junior tailback Kennard Martin gained only 21 yards in a cameo appearance, but senior running back Aaron Staples lit up the defense for 114 yards on 20 carries against the second stringers.

A particularly good sign for the Tar Heels was the work of the offensive line, which lost four starters from last year's powerful crew. The Tar Heels' latest combination cleared the way for Staples and junior fullback Michael Benefield throughout the afternoon. Benefield, who gained 29 yards on seven carries, notched the game's first two scores on runs of two and three yards.

Led by senior center Carl Watts, who moved over from guard in the offseason, and All-America candidate Pat Crowley at right guard, the UNC offense marched downfield on the ground time and time again. Meanwhile, 6-foot-9, 280-pound tackle Bill Boyd and redshirt freshman guard Alec Millen opened holes on the left side of the UNC line by driving defenders four and five yards off the ball.

Brown beamed about the play of Crowley, a senior. "He was all-conference last year, and he's a better

player now," Brown said. "He has graded over 90 percent in every scrimmage. I've never seen anything like him."

Going to the air, a well-protected Hall went early and often to split end Eric Blount, who gained 92 yards on seven receptions. Hall and Blount hooked up on a 35-yard pass play to finish the scoring for the day. Hall passed quickly to Blount in the left flat, and the silky sophomore juked his way past two defenders on the wet turf and into the end zone for the final six.

Other players in the spotlight on Super Saturday were offense-to-defense transfers Torin Dorn (from running back to cornerback) and Reggie Clark (from wide receiver to safety). Both backs played well and displayed the kind of quickness that Brown has been looking for from day one.

Brown said he is pleased with the progress that has resulted from the spring changes. "The moves that we've made have made us a better football team," Brown said. "It's shown the defense a commitment to stopping people when we move two outstanding athletes over to that side."

Brown added that now is the best time to get players accustomed to new positions, not during the regular season — as was the case in many situations last year. "Torin Dorn is

making mistakes now, whereas guys were making mistakes in the fall last year," Brown said. "You can teach some new things during the year, but it's difficult because you're also getting ready for the next team all week."

One team that was ready Saturday was the Tar Heels number-one defense, a squad that gave up more points than any team in UNC history in 1988.

Though the defensive unit was without linebackers Willie Joe Walker and Bernard Timmons due to injuries, sophomore sensation Dwight Hollier stepped forward with an excellent performance. Hollier helped stuff the run on a defense that put consistent pressure on second-team quarterbacks Todd Burnett and Deems May.

Ready to scrimmage again tomorrow, Brown said this year's entire UNC squad has a few particular things at the top of its priority list for spring practice. "We have been focusing on a few different areas," Brown said. "Especially third down and critical situations. That includes goal-line situations, third and long, and the two-minute offense."

In other words, those things that can mean the difference between a win and a loss.

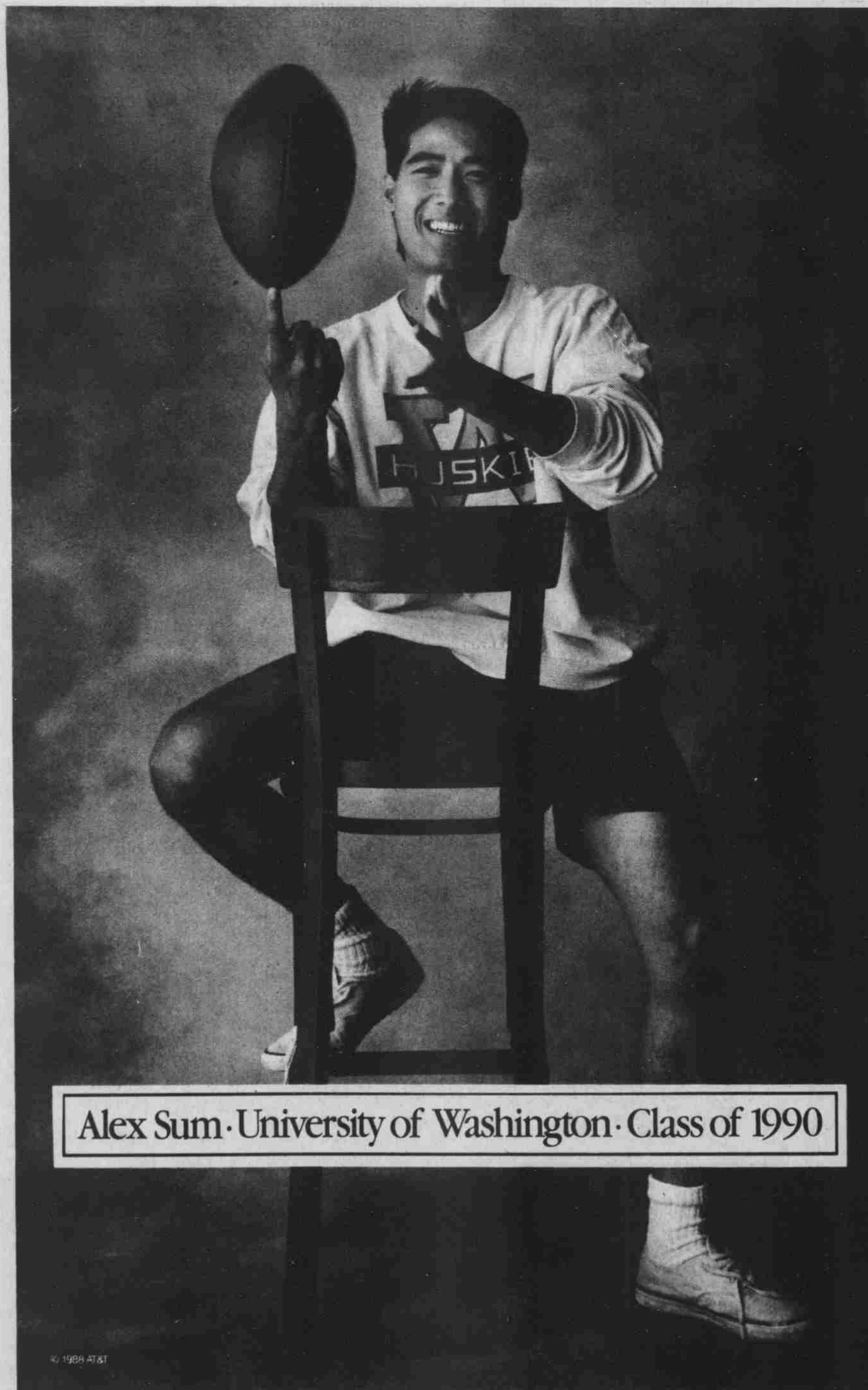
And for Mack Brown on Saturday, that was much more important than the numbers on the scoreboard.



DTH/David Surowiecki

North Carolina football players get their feet wet (and muddy) in Saturday's Blue-White game

"I wasn't rubbing it in—I just wanted Eddie to know the score of last night's game."

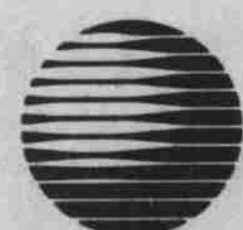


Alex Sum · University of Washington · Class of 1990

Go ahead and gloat. You can rub it in all the way to Chicago with AT&T Long Distance Service. Besides, your best friend Eddie was the one who said your team could never win three straight.

So give him a call. It costs a lot less than you think to let him know who's headed for the Playoffs. Reach out and touch someone.®

If you'd like to know more about AT&T products and services, like International Calling and the AT&T Card, call us at 1 800 222-0300.



AT&T

The right choice.

On Tap

Today

BASEBALL at Duke, 3:00 p.m.
LACROSSE at C.W. Post, Greenvale, N.Y., 3:00 p.m.

SOFTBALL at UNC-Wilmington, 3:00/4:30 p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS at Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, 2:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. N.C. State, UNC Tennis Center, 2:00 p.m.

Wed., April 12

BASEBALL vs. UNC-Wilmington, Boshamer Stadium, 6:00 p.m.

Thur., April 13

BASEBALL vs. Coastal Carolina (DH), Boshamer Stadium, 3:00/7:00 p.m.

MENS TENNIS vs. Duke, UNC Tennis Center, 2:00 p.m.

Summer Employment Opportunity

Jobs available with the UNC Physical Plant-Housing Support Paint Crew. Applications available at Physical Plant/Personnel Office
168A Airport Road
CB#1800
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
due April 14, 1989

Get a job!

Laserset
résumés



LASER PRINTERS

rushes possible
on Franklin Street above Sadlack's
967-6633