

Experienced Cavs face tough schedule

By MARK ANDERSON

Staff Writer

Virginia Cavaliers coach George Welsh knows he has a potential powerhouse on his hands. The only question is whether he'll ever get the chance to unleash it.

Welsh may have the best team he has ever had in his eight years at UVa. The Cavs return 18 of 22 starters from last year's 7-4 squad, including All-ACC performers Roy Brown (guard) and Kevin Cook (free safety). Throw in the nation's most highly recruited running back, Terry Kirby, and Welsh has a potent mix.

Unfortunately, Welsh says he may have his toughest schedule ever. The Cavs were dominated, 33-16, by Notre Dame in their opener and must travel to Penn State this weekend. They must also face their chief rivals for the ACC crown, Clemson and N.C. State, on the road.

But Welsh refuses to dwell on the schedule.

"We have no excuses if things go wrong," he said.

Welsh returns nine starters on an offense that boasts the best overall

backfield in the ACC. Leading the way is junior quarterback Shawn Moore, who set the school record for total offense last season with 2,526 yards.

The 6-2, 210-pound Moore's 2,158 yards passing were second on UVa's all-time single season list. He passed for 15 touchdowns and ran for 368 yards and 10 more touchdowns.

But the real excitement comes from behind Moore. Senior fullback Durwin Greggs, 5-11, 230 pounds, will have the job of blocking for two excellent tailbacks, junior Marcus Wilson and freshman Kirby.

Despite playing in only six games last year, Wilson rushed for a team-leading 429 yards. Fortunately, Welsh happily reported that Wilson's two knee surgeries have actually left him faster and that Wilson was impressive against Notre Dame.

Wilson's quick recovery may be directly due to looking over his shoulder at Kirby. The 6-2, 210-pound tailback gained 7,428 yards and scored 103 touchdowns, both state records, in his career at Tabb (Va.) High School. His many awards included

national player of the year honors from *Parade Magazine*, *USA Today* and the Gatorade Circle of Champions.

Welsh said Kirby is handling all the hype surrounding his enrollment. "He knows he's going to play. He's not feeling the pressure," he said.

Moore lost the school's all-time reception leader, John Ford, to graduation, but he may not miss him. Junior Bruce McGonnigal (26 catches, 18.1 yard average) is one of the best tight ends in the ACC. Sophomore Herman Moore and senior Tim Finkelman (19 catches, four touchdowns) man the wideouts.

This high-powered offense is solidified by five returning starters on the front line. All-ACC senior guard Brown and 6-6, 295-pound tackle Ray Roberts, a red-shirt sophomore, are among the nation's best.

The Cavs had better put a lot of points on the board because their defense, which looked porous against Notre Dame, may rank in the middle of the ACC pack.

The excellent defensive end tandem of senior Ray Savage and sopho-

more Don Reynolds anchors the suspect defense. The 6-4, 256-pound Savage is quick enough to cover backs on pass plays.

Starting nose guard Ron Carey and tackle Joe Hall return to the line, while senior Chris Stearns and red-shirt freshman Kenneth Miles will fight for senior Elton Toliver's tackle spot.

The 6-2, 258-pound Toliver was forced to move to linebacker with the loss of NFL draftees Jeff Lageman and David Griggs. Senior Phil Thomas will man the other linebacking spot.

1988's weak spot, the secondary, may be a strength in 1989. After giving up 229 yards per game in the air, Welsh hopes experience will make the difference as all four starters return. One of the returnees, Keith McMeans, led the nation two years ago with nine interceptions as a freshman.

The kicking game is the weakest part of Welsh's 1989 squad. Jake McNerney will be the kicker, despite never having kicked in a UVa. game. Myron Martin, a junior college transfer, will handle the punting duties.

1988: 7-4, 5-2 ACC, second place.

37 Returning Lettermen; 18 Returning Starters.

Key Offensive Starters Back: Quarterback Shawn Moore, tailback Marcus Wilson, wide receiver Herman Moore, All-ACC guard Roy Brown, tackle Ray Roberts.

Key Defensive Starters Back: Ends Ray Savage and Don Reynolds, defensive back Keith McMeans.

Key Losses: Wide receiver John Ford, kicker Mark Inderlied, linebackers David Griggs and Jeff Lageman.

Strengths: Best overall backfield in ACC, 18 returning starters, versatility of Moore at QB, offensive line.

Question Marks: Tough schedule, Who will replace Ford as big-play threat?, How will they rebound from early season demotion?

O'Donnell leads Maryland into tough season

By NATALIE SEKICKY

Staff Writer

The hopes of the 1989 Maryland football team are riding on the strong arm of senior quarterback Neil O'Donnell, and it will take a mammoth performance from the ACC's top returning signal caller to keep the Terrapins out of the conference cellar this season.

O'Donnell, at 6-foot-3 and 219 pounds, may be the giant Maryland head coach Joe Krivak needs as he enters his third season at the helm. The most accurate passer in school history with a 61.1 percent completion rate, O'Donnell is among the all-time Maryland leaders in several other categories.

But the decimation of the fourth-best running attack in the ACC (162.3 yds/game) leaves Maryland with very little firepower to take on the likes of

West Virginia, Michigan, Penn State and league powers like Clemson and N.C. State.

"We've got to play on all cylinders, and we've got to play very, very hard," said Krivak, who is 9-13 in two seasons as head coach and under some pressure to return Maryland to the role of ACC contender it enjoyed in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The outlook for the running game was not so bleak after last season. The Terps' three leading rushers, Ricky Johnson, Mike Beasley and Bren Lowrey, who combined for 1,519 of the team's 2,105 total rushing yards, were expected to return and contribute.

However, Johnson was declared academically ineligible in February, and though playing now, missed the spring workouts. Beasley transferred after Krivak denied him a red-shirt he requested in order to boost his grades. The Terrapins also lost red-shirt freshman and highly-touted back Andre Vaughn for the season with a knee injury suffered in a spring scrimmage.

Maryland's only proven tailback is Lowrey, who averaged 3.4 yards per carry and 23.3 yards per game in

1988.

Opening holes for the depleted group of backs will be an experienced offensive line anchored by senior center Mark Agent, a preseason second-team all-conference pick. Junior Ken Oberle and senior Mark Hofland return at the tackle spots, along with senior Mike Kiselak at guard. The only new face on the line is really a familiar one, that of senior Blaine Rose, a tight end converted to guard.

O'Donnell will be pitching to returning senior wideout Dean Green (14 catches, 214 yds, 2 TDs) and junior wide receiver Barry Johnson (24 catches, 348 yds, one TD). Senior tight end David Carr averaged 13.7 yards per catch and had one touchdown last year.

On the other side of the ball, the Terps are hurting in the defensive secondary after graduating three of their four starting backs. Strong safety Kevin Fowlkes is the only returning starter from a core that was seventh in the conference in pass defense, giving up 232 yards per contest.

The defensive line is led by sophomore Larry Webster at left tackle. Webster, at 6-5 and 271 pounds, is

expected to bounce back from a spring knee injury and could be an All-ACC lineman. Junior Rick Fleece is a 6-3, 254-pound guard who played in every game last season.

At right tackle is 6-foot-7, 268-pound sophomore Lubo Zizakovic, who runs a 5.1 40 yard dash despite his monstrous proportions. Zizakovic played in five games last season.

The obvious strength of the Maryland defense is the veteran linebacking squad, led by seniors Scott Whittier (6-1, 225) and Scott Saylor (6-1, 234) at the inside slots. Juniors Karl Edwards (6-4, 225) and Jack Bradford

(6-1, 219) are the outside linebackers.

Saylor led the Terps in tackles last season with 119 despite seeing limited time in the last four contests due to injury. Whittier had 73 takedowns, good for sixth on the team. The two are co-captains, along with Agent.

Shoring up the punting duties for Maryland is sophomore Dan DeArmas, who averaged 36.9 yards per punt in 1988. Sophomore kicker Fred Ensign will be hard-pressed to fill the shoes of Dan Plocki, the ACC's leading scorer last season with 78 points. Plocki was perfect on 27 PATs and hit 17 of 22 field goal tries.

1988: 5-6, 4-3 ACC, fourth place.

31 Returning Lettermen; 14 Returning Starters.

Key Offensive Starters Back: Quarterback Neil O'Donnell, fullback Bren Lowrey, tailback Ricky Johnson, wide receiver Barry Johnson, center Mark Agent.

Key Defensive Starters Back: Linebackers Karl Edwards, Scott Saylor and Scott Whittier, safety Kevin Fowlkes.

Key Losses: Running back Mike Beasley (transfer), wide receiver Vernon Joines, kicker Dan Plocki, linebacker Matt D'Amico, defensive back Chad Sydnor.

Strengths: Quarterback, linebacking corps.

Question Marks: Running game, brutal non-conference schedule (Michigan, Penn State, West Virginia), Will a runner emerge to take pressure off of O'Donnell?

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