Sports

A view from the sideline

When I watched the UNC-Clemson game from Section 14, Row T on Saturday, it was the first time in almost two years that I watched the Tar Heels from a place other than a press box.

I figured I would miss two things: the wit and humor of press box announcer Dave Lohse that often makes terrible games tolerable and, of course, the free food.

I was wrong. As I looked back after witnessing the 35-3 mismatch, something I'm used to by now, I realized that I missed much more.

I had anticipated the unbridled excitement that used to accompany games at Kenan Stadium, but I left with a hollow disappointment. At least in the press box, I remembered, nobody was allowed to have fun.

But this weekend, the people dressed in orange — on the field and in the stands - were the only ones who enjoyed their Saturday afternoon.

I had to listen to crass, uneducated Clemson fans make fun of my school. I had to listen to hometown boos of frustration cascading down toward the UNC sideline. I had to watch guys who I travel with every week — football players and coaches who have worked



Dave Glenn Sports Editor

as hard as anyone all year - get stomped, beaten and embarrassed ... again. I hated every second of it, and I could only imagine how difficult it was

I yearned for my position as objective journalist in the press box, where I wasn't allowed to care. But I realized it was too late.

Then I remembered something I saw in Sports Illustrated a few weeks ago, something that gave me a little bit of perspective on everything that had been bothering me.

The following is an actual statement from Clemson head football coach Danny Ford after he learned of the amount of money going toward the creation of an academic center for "student-athletes" at Clemson: "This is

one of my unhappy moments at Clemson. They're going to spend \$2.5 million on a learning center, and you could put all of that into an athletic dorm. I'm not trying to tell you what to do, but it's your money."

Unbelievable. I know a lot of people who are stupid

enough to think that, Danny, but I know very few who are stupid enough to say it. Congratulations.

With an attitude like Danny Ford's, the academic status of Clemson athletes has no chance to improve.

With talented young players and a charismatic head coach, the UNC football program's record does. With that in mind, Tar Heel fan or

not, I feel much better. But I'm also headed back to the press

It's never too early to start thinking about UNC basketball, especially now that the team has its first exhibition game (a 100-86 win over Marathon Oil) under its belt.

This year's team has a great mix. My preseason ACC picks? UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, N.C. State, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Virginia and Maryland.

Netters visit N.C. State

By STEVE WALSTON Staff Writer

The UNC volleyball team will be looking to at least maintain the status quo when it travels to Raleigh to face archrival N.C. State in a conference match at 7:30 tonight.

The second confrontation of the season between the Tar Heels and their hosts will showcase two teams that appear to be headed in opposite directions.

North Carolina won two of its three weekend matches, losing only a five-game heartbreaker to nationally-ranked Penn State. The Tar Heels stand 17-7 overall, 5-0 atop the ACC.

Meanwhile, the Wolfpack has hit the skids, dropping five matches in a row and 12 of its last 13. Included in that streak is a 15-3, 15-3, 15-13 whitewashing in Chapel Hill. State is 8-17 overall and stands 1-4 in conference play.

Although the numbers are stacked heavily in favor of North Carolina, UNC assistant coach Don Van Zytveld warned against a letdown against the archrival Wolfpack.

"Just the fact that we're playing

them generates a lot of emotion," Van Zytveld said. "We'd like to finish the season undefeated (in the ACC), and I'm sure they'd like to keep us from reaching that goal.

"They'll be ready to play. We beat them handily the first time, so we'll have to guard against a letdown."

The key to victory for the Tar Heels will be much as it was in the first matchup, according to Van Zytveld. UNC grabbed the upper hand early in each of the three games.

"We need to serve aggressively to keep them from getting into any kind of offensive rhythm," Van Zytveld said. "We need to dictate the tempo of the match like we did in our earlier match."

Van Zytveld said UNC needs to become mentally tougher, but credited the team for playing well in recent matches.

"They're becoming more focused on not overlooking any opponents and on being where we need to be at tournament time," he said, "They're working hard, and it's paying off. They're really pulling together as a team."

Van Zytveld noted that outside hitter Sharon German played well over the weekend. The senior All-America aged 41 digs. He also praised freshman setter Amy Peistrup, who hit .340 for the week and collected 35 digs and 158 assists in four matches.

"Amy had one of her best matches against Penn State," Van Zytveld said. "She just continues to improve as the season goes on."

For the season, Peistrup has averaged 9.31 assists and 2.16 digs per game. German leads the team in kills per game (5.08) and hitting percentage at .375. Junior outside hitter Liz-Berg combines with German for an effective one-two punch with a teamleading 2.9 digs per game and averages 4.42 kills per game.

The Wolfpack is led by senior middle blocker Pam Vehling, an academic All-America last year. Vehling has 213 kills and 100 blocks for the season. Freshman outside hitter Lisa Kasper leads the team in kills with 266.

The Tar Heels host Florida and Georgetown on Nov. 10-11 before heading to the ACC tournament on Nov. 18. UNC, the number-one seed, will get a first-round bye in this year's tourney in Hilton Head, S.C.

Burnett tries to make the best of a tough situation

By DAVID J. KUPSTAS

terback Todd Burnett watched UNC's football games from the sideline know- goals to Maryland and Virginia. ing that he would likely have to wait a year before calling another play for the

Tar Heels. Head coach Mack Brown hoped the combination of senior Jonathan Hall and freshman Chuckie Burnette would stay healthy so Burnett could be redshirted. Burnett then would return next year with three years of eligibility left.

Brown's plan suddenly changed, however, in a 38-0 loss at Maryland two weeks ago. Burnette started for Hall, who was nursing a sore shoulder and a bruised knee. But with North Carolina trailing 24-0 with 5:19 to go in the third quarter, Brown summoned Burnett from the bench to take over for Burnette at quarterback. Burnett responded by completing eight passes in 16 attempts for 77 yards. The only stickler was that he threw three interceptions, bringing UNC's season total

to 14. Brown decided to stay with Burnett Saturday against Clemson to see if he could help lift the Tar Heel passing attack from the bottom of the ACC. In the 35-3 loss to the Tigers, Burnett was 12 of 22 passing for 120 yards and one interception. His 54.5 percentage was better than UNC's average at that point of 41.1 percent, and his percentage would have been higher if it weren't for

a few dropped passes. "I thought Todd did a lot better today than he did against Maryland," Brown said. "He made some plays in the passing game that we hadn't been making, so I thought he did a good job."

The Clemson defense entered the game with the nation's 11th-best scoring defense (14.2 ppg) and 16th-best total defense (297.6 ypg), so any quarterback has his work cut out for him when facing the Tigers. But when someone makes his first start of the season — especially one eight games into the season - his job becomes that much tougher.

Burnett is getting used to coming in when the going gets tough, however. He was pressed into duty last season as a true freshman to help rescue an 0-6 team. He won the starting job by leading UNC to its only win, a 20-17 vic-

tory over Georgia Tech. Except for the Clemson game, the Tar Heels were For most of 1989, sophomore quar- competitive under Burnett, losing by a touchdown at Duke and on late field

If Burnett took even one snap in a game this season, he could not have been red-shirted. Now he will have used two years of eligibility to start eight games (assuming he starts against South Carolina and Duke).

Despite having just two years of eligibility remaining, Burnett does not mind giving up some of his future if it means the Tar Heels can win now.

"I could have either stayed redshirted, or I could play and have some input into winning," Burnett said. "That's the way I look at it. I don't perceive (being activated) as anything that was bad. It's not something I regret or the coaches made a bad decision.

"All I want to do is win. If that means giving up my red-shirt, that's fine."

Burnett came out throwing on the Tar Heels' first drive Saturday, completing three passes in three attempts. One of those passes was a 48-yard strike to a wide-open Joey Jauch that gave UNC a first down at the Clemson 26. That drive ended in a 47-yard field goal from Clint Gwaltney.

But the Tigers scored on their first two possessions to take a 14-3 lead, pressing UNC's back against a wall.

Burnett's only interception came on the second play of the third quarter. On second-and-19 from the UNC 22, the Clemson defense pressured Burnett into throwing the ball into the ground. Linebacker Levon Kirkland snagged the pass at the 18 before it hit the ground. Clemson then scored to make it 21-3, and any hopes the Tar Heels had were squelched.

The Tar Heels' young offensive line sometimes offered Burnett little protection. The 6-foot-6 quarterback had several passes batted down by Tiger linemen and was forced out of the pocket on many other occasions. Clemson's quick defensive line and linebackers sacked Burnett six times for 47 yards.

Overall, Burnett is not sure yet how to rate his first lengthy outing of 1989. "I did some things better this year than what I did last year," he said. "It's hard to say. I haven't seen the film yet. Most importantly, it's what the coaches



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