

## SPORTS

## ACC teams vying for the number one spot

FRANCES SILVA  
Sports Editor

As the Atlantic Coast Conference football season gets underway, seven enthusiastic teams will be vying for the number one spot. This year should prove to be an exciting one for ACC fans. With new coaches at both Duke and Clemson, and a host of freshmen as well as experienced starters returning, many ACC teams have a chance to capture the conference crown.

**CLEMSON** — With new coach Danny Ford adjusting, and many of last year's starters gone, Clemson's chances are uncertain. Although most of the offensive line, quarterback Steve Fuller and receiver Jerry Butler have left, the Tigers still have their 1,000 yard running back Lester Brown and a solid defense returning. Ford's Tigers will probably finish in the top three of the ACC.

**DUKE** — Red Wilson is undertaking the job of rebuilding the Blue Devils from the bottom of the ACC into contention. Starting with what he calls a "wide open offense," Wilson hopes to run the veer with his young, and inexperienced but "emotional" team. Duke will probably need a few years to make its mark on the ACC.

**MARYLAND** — Coach Jerry

Claiborne's Terrapins will have to find players to fit some very important roles. Many standout performers have either graduated, been injured or become academically ineligible. Gone are backs Atkins, and Maddox, quarterback O'Hare, and standout defensive linemen Johnson and Palmer. Also, All-ACC cornerback Lloyd Burruss will be lost for the season. However, Maryland's strength may lie in its offensive line. In any case, the Terps will have to take their chances, one game at a time.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE** — Although Bo Rein's Wolfpack lost Ted Brown's rushing and scoring ability, State's offensive line, headed by All American center Jim Richter, should open the way for others such as Dwight Sullivan and Billy Ray Vickers. On defense the Pack will be capable of containing opponents in much the same manner as last season — quickly. State should finish in the top two.

**VIRGINIA** — The Cavaliers have the 16 returning starters, with whom Coach Dick Bestwick hopes to improve on his 5-27-1 record. Backs Vigorito and Taylor should be allowed more running room with the biggest offensive line Virginia has ever had.

The veer also should become a more potent offense for the Cavs.

**WAKE FOREST** — John Mackovic's Demon Deacs have a larger offensive line and many returning players. However, this Deac team is somewhat inexperienced and will probably be underdogs for most of the season. Senior back James McDougald will make the offense click with the aid of quarterback Jay Vanuto, who missed last season with an injury. Although hopes are high in Winston Salem, the Demon Deacons will have their work cut out for them.

**CAROLINA** — Coach Dick Crum's Tarheels hope to improve on his inaugural 5-6 season. The nucleus of last year's offense is returning with running backs "Famous" Amos Lawrence

and Doug Paschal. Also, junior Walter Sturdivant and freshman Kelvin Bryant will round out the backfield. The Heels offensive line with an All Conference hopeful center Rich Donnelly should allow Lawrence and others a chance at 1,000 yard seasons. Although the defense has only four full time starters returning they are in key positions. The secondary has standout All ACC anchor cornerback Ricky Barden. Also seasoned linebackers Buddy Curry and ACC 1978 Rookie of the Year Darrell Nicholson are returning. The Tarheels are in a position to challenge 1978 ACC champion N.C. State for the title; hopefully when the season rolls to an end the Carolina Blue Tarheels will be accepting a bowl bid.

Sports Spotlight

## Bryant to aid Carolina running attack

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At the end of last year's unsuccessful season Carolina began searching for players to bring the winning tradition back to Kenan Stadium. One such addition to the backfield is Kelvin Bryant, a highly recruited football and track star.

At 6-foot-3 inches and 190 pounds, Bryant should be able to increase the versatility of the Carolina running attack. Also if he is used as a pass receiver or in kickoff returns, Bryant will become a triple threat to opponents.

As the Tarboro High School Vikings' all-time career rushing and scoring leader, Bryant participated in many high school sports. The Viking baseball team on which Bryant played short stop, was first in the conference. Also at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association boy's track and field championships at North Carolina State, Bryant helped his Viking team to a first place finish overall.

Although finishing third in the 100-

yard dash with a time of 10.15, Bryant returned to win the 220-yard dash with a time of 21.6 edging a Kinston runner who earlier won the 100. He also competed in long jump, winning with a jump of 24-0 $\frac{7}{8}$ .

Even though he participated in many different events in high school, Bryant insists that for the coming year he will play only football.

After having such a successful high school career, Bryant was highly sought after by many large universities ranging from East Carolina and N.C. State to Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas.

When asked why he chose Carolina, Bryant replied, "I didn't want to go far from home, so my choice was Carolina." Although Bryant says his mother had an influence on the school he chose, the decision, which finally was not hard to make, was his own.

As for his prediction on the coming year Bryant insists, "If everyone stays healthy Carolina should do real good." And if Kelvin Bryant fulfills his role on the football team Carolina should do well indeed!



Kelvin Bryant-Carolina runningback.

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