

Times Are Tough And Rewards Few Along The Offensive Line

By Jonathan Phillips
Special Correspondent

Center was always a tricky personnel decision in those sandlot games.

On the one hand, you needed someone tough and dependable to put the ball into play.

On the other hand, you hated to waste a real good player there, because in those brutal no-pads, no-defense contests, the center was nearly always smashed and taken out of the play.

Thus has it always been for the lowly offensive lineman, though the good ones at more sophisticated levels of play do their own share of smashing. Even then, however, the offensive lineman's life is a punishing one with little or no glory.

Everybody knows the running backs and quarterbacks get all the publicity. Every marginal football fan in Craven County knows the names of UNC stars like Kelvin Bryant and Rod Elkins. Only a few know Dave Dreschler, the tackle who lets Bryant and Elkins keep their uniforms clean.

Ends and flankers get their glory when they make a big catch. Defensive backs and linebackers make a big tackle or an interception and get their names called over the loudspeakers. Defensive linemen can sack the quarterback or fall on a fumble to gain glory.

An offensive lineman can do his job perfectly all night long and get not a mention from the P.A. announcer or a word in the paper.

Sometimes an offensive lineman will get a mention--when his man beats him and makes a big tackle. Occasionally, very occasionally, credit will be given for a good block.

But even that only happens when the lineman sends his adversary flying, even though on most plays it is trouble enough--and effective enough--to push his man a few feet, or stay in his way.

In the trenches

Every coach at every level says it; it may be the game's oldest cliché: football games are won and lost in the trenches, which means along the line of scrimmage.

Fans don't pay much attention, and keep on worshipping backs. But there is no such thing as a great offense, or a great team, without a great offensive line.

Look at the 1980 West Craven High School team, which was the Eagles' best so far and brought West Craven to respectability. Sure, there were great



Don Dawson

Vanceboro Athlete Leads Team In Reception And Yardage

Don Dawson led the West Virginia Golden Bears in receptions and yardage last season and will be heading up the deep receiving position in the premiere game of the season September 4th.

The 5'8" 165-pound speedster from Vanceboro is a rising senior computer management and data processing major and likes the wide receiver position because of his size and because he can utilize his speed.

W. VA. Institute of Technology coach Roy Lucas is looking for a big year from Dawson who will probably be an All Conference candidate.

According to team statistics, in eight games last season, Dawson scooped up 14 receptions for a total of 252 yards and scored three touchdowns. He also caught the longest reception for the team for a total of 68 yards.

Dawson's speed and good ball handling will be a definite asset to the

Golden Bears. The team comprised a 6-4 record for last season in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and placed second in the southern division.

The premiere game will be against Georgetown, Kentucky Sept. 4th in Lexington, Kentucky. The Golden Bears reported for practice and training August 15th.

Dawson is a 1978 graduate of West Craven High School and is the son of Mrs. Annie B. Dawson of Vanceboro. He reportedly gained a few pounds with his mother's home cooking this summer and is looking for a good season with the Golden Bears.

Williams Keeps Secret

Raleigh--For five months, Eric Williams has been keeper of the secret.

It isn't easy being the silent partner to "Playboy" magazine, but the free safety on N.C. State's football team obeyed the orders and kept his mouth shut.

If he had wanted to tell anybody the day he found out, he'd have had to mumble anyway.

"I had just had five wisdom teeth--I had an extra one coming in--pulled that day, and my face was all swollen up," recalls Williams. "They called me and told me to come down to Case (Athletics Center). Then they told me, and I forgot all about my teeth until I went back home and looked in the mirror."

The big news was he had been named 1982 pre-season all-America by "Playboy" magazine. The edition with the collegiate all-American selections hit the stands Monday, and now--finally--Williams is free to talk.

"As soon as I found out in April, I wanted to tell somebody," says Williams, who did. "I told my mom. I wanted to tell my dad, but he's the type of man who'd tell the guys at work, and I couldn't."

Now that the word is out, the elder Williams can safely be the proud father.

But he already was before the accolades started rolling in. Williams, the Wolfpack's-second straight Playboy pre-season all-America following last year's selection Robert Abraham, was also named all-South on the "Southern Living" pre-season team.

Williams earned those honors by his play on the field.

In 1979, he led State in interceptions with four, including a school record three in a single game. He broke his left leg in pre-season drills and missed the 1980 season but he came back in 1981 to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference in interceptions with seven.

Williams was a big reason the Wolfpack was second in pass defense and third in team defense in the ACC last year, but that wasn't enough. He decided to give up football.

"I told the coach before the last game that it'd

(Continued on page 10)

REDSKINS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Sept. 12--at Philadelphia | 1:00 |
| Sept. 19--at Tampa Bay | 4:00 |
| Sept. 26--ST. LOUIS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 3--CLEVELAND | 1:00 |
| Oct. 10--at Dallas | 12:00 |
| Oct. 17--PITTSBURGH | 1:00 |
| Oct. 24--at Houston | 12:00 |
| Oct. 31--SAN FRANCISCO | 1:00 |
| Nov. 7--at Cincinnati | 1:00 |
| Nov. 14--MINNESOTA | 1:00 |
| Nov. 21--at New York Giants | 4:00 |
| Nov. 28--PHILADELPHIA | 1:00 |
| Dec. 5--DALLAS | 4:00 |
| Dec. 12--at St. Louis | 12:00 |
| Dec. 19--NEW YORK GIANTS | 1:00 |
| Dec. 26--at New Orleans | 12:00 |

(Continued on page 11)

COWBOYS

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Sept. 13--PITTSBURGH (Mon.) | 8:00 |
| Sept. 19--at St. Louis | 12:00 |
| Sept. 26--at Minnesota | 12:00 |
| Oct. 3--NEW YORK GIANTS | 3:00 |
| Oct. 10--WASHINGTON | 12:00 |
| Oct. 17--at Philadelphia | 4:00 |
| Oct. 24--at Cincinnati | 9:00 |
| Oct. 31--at New York Giants | 4:00 |
| Nov. 7--ST. LOUIS | 12:00 |
| Nov. 14--at San Francisco | 1:00 |
| Nov. 21--TAMPA BAY | 12:00 |
| Nov. 25--CLEVELAND (Thanks.) | 3:00 |
| Dec. 5--at Washington | 4:00 |
| Dec. 13--at Houston (Mon.) | 8:00 |
| Dec. 19--NEW ORLEANS | 3:00 |
| Dec. 26--PHILADELPHIA | 3:00 |

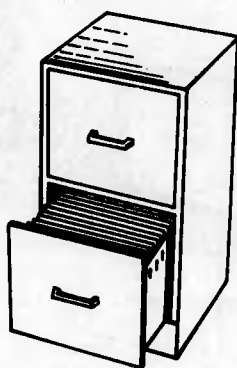
RAMS

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Sept. 12--vs. Green Bay (Mw.) | 12:00 |
| Sept. 19--DETROIT | 1:00 |
| Sept. 26--at Philadelphia | 1:00 |
| Oct. 3--at St. Louis | 12:00 |
| Oct. 10--ATLANTA | 1:00 |
| Oct. 17--at San Francisco | 1:00 |
| Oct. 24--NEW ORLEANS | 1:00 |
| Oct. 31--at San Diego | 1:00 |
| Nov. 7--at New Orleans | 12:00 |
| Nov. 14--NEW YORK GIANTS | 1:00 |
| Nov. 21--at Atlanta | 1:00 |
| Nov. 28--KANSAS CITY | 1:00 |
| Dec. 2--SAN FRANCISCO (Thurs.) | 6:00 |
| Dec. 12--DENVER | 1:00 |
| Dec. 18--at Oakland (Sat.) | 1:00 |
| Dec. 26--CHICAGO | 1:00 |

2-Drawer Files

only

\$44⁵⁰



Where Good Things Happen
315 Pollock St. 638-5621
Downtown New Bern

BEFORE THE GAME DINE IN ANOTHER TIME AT

Clancy O'Hara's Restaurant

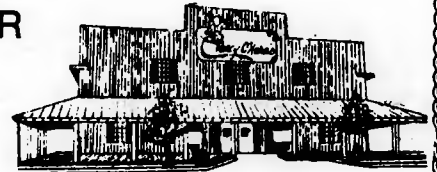
Step Back Into Another Time and Dine Like A Gourmet.

• SEAFOOD • PRIME RIBS • STEAKS



50 ITEM SALAD BAR

ALL ABC PERMITS



PARTY ROOM FACILITIES

GOOD LUCK to all Area Teams



637-2206



RACE TRACK RD.

NEW BERN