

# UNC Hoping to Rebound With Win Against Mustangs

**Game and time:** No. 18 North Carolina at Southern Methodist. Kickoff will be at 3 p.m. EDT.

**Site:** Ownby Stadium, Dallas.  
**Playing surface:** AstroTurf.  
**TV/Radio:** The game will not be televised. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage. The flagship stations are WCHL (1360 AM) and WTRG (100.7 FM).

**1994 Records:** UNC 2-1, SMU 1-3.  
**Series:** This will be the first meeting between the schools.

**Personnel update:** North Carolina — SE Gray Bovender (knee), OG Scott Overbeck (broken ankle) and CB Tim Smith (knee) are out. LB Mike Morton (knee) and Jimmy Hitchcock (broken arm) are questionable. TE Greg DeLong (concussion) and TB Leon Johnson (hip pointer) are probable.

**Southern Methodist** — WR Brian Berry (knee), WR Kevin Thornal (knee) DE Jason Lindbloom (sprained ankle) and SS Rodney Watkins (knee) are out. SS Warren Scott (bruised thigh) is doubtful. RG Keith Chiles (knee) and QB Ramon Flanigan (hamstring) are probable.

**SMU Offense:** The Mustangs are a run-and-shoot team whose offense begins and ends with Flanigan. With him, they battled UCLA to the wire in a 17-10 loss in Pasadena. Last week, a hamstring injury prevented Flanigan from playing most of second half, and the Ponies were trounced at Texas Tech 35-7.

Flanigan led the Southwest Conference in total offense (271 yards per game) before the Texas Tech game. The sophomore QB also had a string of seven straight games with at least one touchdown pass snapped

by the Red Raiders.

Flanigan's primary target is senior receiver Mick Rossley, head coach Tom Rossley's son, who lead the SWC in catches with 32. Another receiver, John Biggins, who started in place of Berry last week, more than doubled his career receptions total with six against Texas Tech.

When SMU runs, freshman tailback Donte Womack is the biggest threat to break one long. He averages 8.0 yards per carry and ran for 129 yards against New Mexico two weeks ago.

**UNC Offense:** Quarterback Jason Stanicek should become UNC's scarecrow yardage leader against SMU, breaking Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice's record of 4,883 yards.

Stanicek needs just 181 yards to set the mark, a total he could get in the first half. Redshirt freshman receiver Octavus Barnes seems comfortable in the passing attack just four games into his career.

But after "fumbling" against Florida State, it remains to be seen if the young pass catcher's confidence has been shaken. The ACC admitted Tuesday that its officials screwed up in ruling that Barnes fumbled after catching a pass in the third quarter of the FSU game. The play should have been ruled an incomplete pass, ACC officials said.

An interesting note about the Tar Heels offense: No player has rushed for 100 yards in a game thus far this season. This could be the game that either tailback Curtis Johnson or Leon Johnson could wash away that drought.

**SMU Defense:** The thought of playing without either starting strong safety Rodney Watkins or backup Warren Scott can't

please Tom Rossley. Defending the option won't be easy without experienced safeties, and it won't help the pass defense either.

Middle linebacker Chris Bordano leads the Mustangs in tackles with a whopping 54 in four games.

**UNC Defense:** The Tar Heels gave up 31 points at Florida State, but all things considered, that really wasn't bad.

Strong safety Sean Boyd was named the ACC defensive back of the week after garnering 10 tackles against FSU, yet he didn't even earn UNC defensive player of the game honors. That title was awarded to defensive tackle Riddick Parker, in part for sacking FSU quarterback Danny Kanell inside the 'Noles 10 and forcing a fumble.

Linebacker Kerry Mock, who had nine tackles last week, may be assigned to contain Flanigan if the pocket breaks down and he decides to scramble.

**Final analysis/prediction:** The only way UNC will struggle is if it doesn't let go of the emotional loss at Florida State.

The Tar Heels' seniors will have to assert more of a leadership role this week to prevent younger, less experienced players from losing focus. This being the second of two road games requiring air travel makes for an even worse situation.

UNC could be a little flat for this game. After all, the same thing happened against UTEP last season: The Tar Heels rode the crest of an emotional wave after an important win against N.C. State and then almost lost to the Miners the next week.

But if they can rebound from past mistakes, the Tar Heels should romp. **UNC 40, SMU 16.**

COMPILED BY STEVE ROBBLEE



DITH/DAVID ALFORD

North Carolina hopes touchdowns like this Malcolm Marshall plunge against Florida State will be easier to come by Saturday against SMU. The Mustangs were very giving last week in a 35-7 loss to Texas Tech.

## Letdown Would Make SMU Game Repeat of UTEP Scare, Brown Says

BY STEVE ROBBLEE  
SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina head coach Mack Brown has seen it before.

Take a Tar Heel team fresh off an emotional game and let it play a lightly-regarded team from Texas and what happens?

This season, it's too soon to tell — as UNC (2-1) prepares to play SMU (1-3) after a tough loss at Florida State — but last year against Texas-El Paso, disaster almost struck for the Tar Heels at Kean Stadium.

On Oct. 2, 1993, one week after UNC beat N.C. State for the first time in six seasons, the UTEP marched into town and jumped out to a 21-7 lead before the Tar Heels dug their way back for a 45-39 win.

Brown hopes he doesn't see a repeat of the UTEP game this Saturday in Dallas, but he knows that Saturday's game could go a long way toward demonstrating the level of maturity and degree of focus that this year's bunch has.

"You have to take up for them in situations where they fought so hard at Florida State, but then you've got to try to get (the emotional loss) out of their system," Brown said Tuesday. "That's a difficult thing to do."

The task becomes more difficult with

the number of underclassmen the Tar Heels have played this season because of graduation and injuries.

Brown blames himself in part for a lack of preparation against UTEP and hopes he has learned from his mistakes.

"I did a very poor job in preparation for our El Paso game," he said. "So I've got to do a better job preparing our guys for the ballgame this week, making sure the talk is not on previous ballgames but on the upcoming game with SMU."

The fear of a letdown is magnified because UNC coaches know what Mustang quarterback Ramon Flanigan can do on the field. Flanigan took them within 10 yards of tying or winning at UCLA two weeks ago, as SMU missed on a last-minute first-and-goal chance in a 17-10 loss.

"Ramon Flanigan is the key to their football team," Brown said. "He's very similar to running the Houston Oilers offense when Warren Moon was there."

Flanigan was leading the Southwest Conference in total offense with 271 yards



RAMON FLANIGAN led the SWC in offense through last week.

per game in the Mustangs' run-and-shoot offense before injuring his hamstring in last week's loss to Texas Tech. Just a sophomore, Flanigan is already hearing compliments and comparisons.

"When he has been healthy in ballgames they have a chance to win," Brown said. "We talked to the UCLA people, and they felt like he was as good as any quarterback they've ever played."

The UCLA coaches' views are not theirs alone. Brown rattled off a sampling of what others around college football have been saying about the SMU quarterback: "He's the best athlete in the Southwest Conference," Texas Tech head coach Spike Dykes said.

"He could be another Charlie Ward (last season's Heisman Trophy winner)," Navy linebacker Javier Zuluaga said.

Nevertheless, the Tar Heels know that Flanigan's supporting cast is not nearly as good as Florida State's.

Brown said he knew many of the Tar Heels would not feel the same pressure to perform as they did last week at FSU.

"Florida State puts so much pressure on you, you've got to make the plays," Brown said. "You've got to make every play to win."

So now the question for UNC this week is: Can it still play well, knowing it doesn't need to make every play to win?

## ACC Admits Officials Made Error On Barnes' 'Fumble' Vs. 'Noles

BY CHAD AUSTIN  
ASSISTANT SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

A controversial pass play in North Carolina's 31-18 loss to Florida State should have been ruled an incomplete instead of a catch and a fumble, ACC officials announced Tuesday.

With 11:16 remaining in Saturday night's game, UNC quarterback Jason Stanicek dropped back and threw over the middle to wide receiver Octavus Barnes. Stanicek's pass apparently deflected off Barnes' shoulder pads and fell to the turf. However, game officials ruled that Barnes made the catch and then fumbled the ball.

In a statement released from ACC headquarters in Greensboro, Assistant Commissioner Bradley E. Faircloth said that officials should have ruled Stanicek's pass incomplete.

The call sent UNC head coach Mack Brown into a tirade on the sideline, but at his Tuesday press conference, Brown acknowledged that the officials' job is not easy and said the play is now a dead issue.

"There were some judgement calls that went the other way, right or wrong," Brown said. "The officials have a very difficult job. They're human beings. They have tough weeks at work, then they go out there and do games on the weekend."

"When they get in a ballgame as fast as

that one was moving Saturday night, it is difficult for any of them."

Brown also said he has been an advocate of using instant replay in college football.

"I have always been someone that has supported instant replay," he said. "I know we can't do that in college football."

Although Brown said instant replay is not feasible in the college game due to money and time constraints, he believes it would aid officials and would help ensure fairness to players, coaches and fans.

"I have always felt like instant replay would give everybody the opportunity for the best team that night to win," he said.

And after reviewing game film, the UNC head coach said the one thing that was obvious was that Florida State is still one of the top football teams in the country.

"We felt like we needed to get some breaks, and we didn't get many," Brown said. "I was really pleased that, even after we lost some steam and possibly points on that play, our defense stops Florida State



MACK BROWN says UNC must forget the Florida State game.

again and makes them punt.

"Then we turn the ball over the next series which pretty much took us out of the ballgame."

Brown said after the game that he is not interested in moral victories, but he admitted that keeping the score close against FSU was a good sign for the Tar Heels.

"Another thing I thought was good was that (FSU) Coach (Bobby) Bowden didn't get to sit on his stool, and normally he does," Brown said. "I think that was a good omen for us that he had to stand up the whole game. Normally he gets to sit over there by halftime and grab a Coke and get that stool out and just enjoy the game."

"I don't have many stool games here," Brown was referring to Bowden's ailing back. Bowden had surgery on his lower back in the offseason and Bowden's physician asked him to relieve some stress by sitting down occasionally on the sideline.

Brown said the team must now build on what it learned against the defending national champions and turn its attention to this week's opponent — SMU.

"Our goal was to win the game, and we didn't win it," he said. "But we were very, very pleased that, with the adversity, I felt we showed as much character and poise and confidence for a young football team on the road coming back in the last quarter and a half of any team I've been around."

## Osborne Calls On 'Rudy' in Huskers' Rout

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — Adam Kucera enjoyed the movie "Rudy," the inspirational story of a 27-year-old benchwarmer at Notre Dame who got to play briefly in his final home game.

"I liked it because it was about an underdog who made his dreams come true," Kucera said.

Last Saturday, he starred in a "Rudy" revival in Lincoln, Neb.

A 5-foot-8, 180-pound freshman who was a student manager for the Nebraska football team a month ago, Kucera found himself playing quarterback for the second-ranked Cornhuskers in the closing minutes of a 70-21 rout of Pacific.

With fans chanting "Rudy, Rudy" and his father cheering from the stands, Kucera entered the game with 5:22 left and guided the Cornhuskers to two first downs.

"It was a dream come true for me," he said. "I grew up in Nebraska, my dad was a coach at Nebraska, and I went to football camps there every summer."

"I was always a big Nebraska fan. My closets are still filled with red things."

Kucera was a good high school quarterback in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., but was too small to play big-time college football. Determined to participate in Nebraska football, he joined the team as a student manager, setting up tackling dummies, fixing helmets and doing other odd jobs.

After two quarterbacks left school and another was injured during preseason practice, Kucera joined the scout team — scrubs who simulate the opponent in practice.

"I was just excited to put on the uniform," he said.

Kucera, who wants to be an orthopedic surgeon, got even more excited when he found out he might play in a mop-up role against outmanned Pacific. So did his father, Bill, a graduate assistant at Nebraska before becoming Adam's high school coach in Arizona. He flew in to watch the game.

"If Adam was going to play, I didn't want to miss it," he said.

Adam's moment finally came after Pacific scored late in the game. Following the kickoff, Coach Tom Osborne sent Kucera in with his first play, a pitch to tailback Scott Davenport.

"As soon as I ran out there, the nervousness disappeared," Kucera said. "I just focused on the play. I didn't even hear the crowd."

Kucera ran for four yards on the next play, but the gain was wiped out by a holding penalty. After two more running plays, he tried his first pass.

"It was a timing pattern, but I couldn't see the receivers because the linemen were in front of me," Kucera said. "I just threw it away to be safe."

Finally,  
a comedy that will change  
the way you think,  
the way you feel,  
and most importantly...  
the way you dress.

**Priscilla**  
THE ADVENTURES OF  
QUEEN OF THE DESERT  
7:00, 9:15 weekends 2:00, 4:15  
CAROLINA THEATRE

**EASTERN FEDERAL THEATRES**  
CHapel Hill Plaza 3 \$3.50  
ELLIOTT RD at E. FRANKLIN 967-4737  
STEREO SOUND-ALL AUDITORIUMS  
**TIME COP** 3:10-5:20 7:20-9:25 R  
SIX-TRACK DIGITAL STEREO  
**TERMINAL VELOCITY** 3:00-5:00 7:10-9:20 PG-13  
**MOVIES at TIMBERLYNE** \$3.50  
WEAVER DAIRY at AIRPORT RD CHAPEL HILL 933-8600  
STEREO SOUND-ALL AUDITORIUMS  
**FORREST GUMP** 3:45-7:00 9:40 PG-13  
**THE MASK** 7:20-9:25 PG-13  
SIX-TRACK DIGITAL STEREO  
**TRIAL BY JURY** 3:05-5:10 7:20-9:30 R  
**THE CLIENT** 3:15-7:10 9:20 PG-13  
**CORRINA, CORRINA** 3:00-5:15 7:25-9:35 PG  
**LITTLE RASCALS** 3:20-5:20 PG  
**IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU** 7:30-9:35 PG  
**CAMP NOWHERE** 3:10-5:10 PG  
SHOW TIMES FOR TODAY ONLY!

**WOLFGANG PETERSEN'S SHOCKINGLY FUNNY!**  
HURRY-DON'T MISS THE YEAR'S MOST EXCITING THRILLER!  
**UNC & THE CRITICS LOVE DANGER**  
HARRISON FORD  
**CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER**  
A gripping comedy about letting go.  
7:20 8:30  
EAST FRANKLIN 967-8665

**CHELSEA**  
1129 Weaver Dairy Rd. Timberlyne, Chapel Hill 969-3005  
MATINEES WEEKENDS ONLY  
"The most delectable food-related hit this side of 'LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE!'"  
"SUPERB, WONDERFUL AND COMPELLING!"  
"A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT!"  
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR!"  
**SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**  
SNEAK PREVIEW SAT. OCT 1 9 20  
**Barcelona**  
7:10, 9:20 weekend 2:10 4:20 (no 9:20 Sat.)

**Seniors**  
Don't take a chance on your resume getting you the interview. Talk to recruiters in person at the Carolina Career Day Oct. 6 in the Great Hall 12:30-5 PM

**Ram Triple**  
NationsBank Plaza 967-8284  
136 E. Rosemary St.  
**Natural Born Killers** Nightly at 7:15 • 9:45 (R) Sat & Sun Mat. 2:15 • 4:45  
**True Lies** 9:30 ONLY (R)  
**Color of Night** Nightly at 7:00 (R) Sat & Sun Mat. 2:00 • 4:30  
**Milk Money** Nightly at 7:00 • 9:15 (PG-13) Sat. & Sun. Mat. 2:00 • 4:15  
Sorry no passes or coupons