

# Wounded Tar Heels Seek Return to Health Vs. State

**Game and time:** North Carolina State at No. 24 North Carolina. Kickoff is at 3:34 p.m.

**Site:** Kenan Stadium.  
**Playing surface:** Natural grass.

**TV/Radio:** The game will be televised regionally by ABC on WTVD-11. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage. The flagship stations are WCHL (1360 AM) and WKSI (98.7 FM). N.C. State's flagship station WPTF (680 AM) will also provide live coverage.

**1994 records:** North Carolina 5-2 (2-2 in the ACC), N.C. State 5-1 (3-0 in the ACC).

**Series:** UNC leads, 53-24-6.

**Last meeting (Sept. 25, 1993):** North Carolina, 35-14.

**Personnel update:** North Carolina - SE Gray Bovender (knee), OG Scott Overbeck (broken ankle), CB Tim Smith (knee) and OG Russell Babb (broken leg) are out. OG Pat Conneely (sprained knee) and OT Shawn Crouthamel (shoulder

stinger) are questionable.

**N.C. State** — No injuries reported.

**North Carolina Offense:** This truly is not the week to be banged up on the offensive line.

The battered and bruised Tar Heels will match up against one of the nation's premier defenses when they play the Wolfpack. At least seven players who see regular duty on the Tar Heel offense have bumps and bruises. Most of those players are offensive linemen or fullbacks.

That's bad news for quarterback Jason Stanicek and tailbacks Curtis and Leon Johnson.

Stanicek, who is coming off one of his worst games in a Tar Heel uniform, will have to rebound quickly.

The Park Forest, Ill., native was 7 for 16 with two interceptions last weekend at Virginia.

But Stanicek has had some of his best games at UNC against the Wolfpack. In UNC's 27-20 loss in 1992, he threw for 237

yards and was 26-for-35 passing. Last year, Stanicek took the field with bruised ribs and completed a 12-for-17 day.

Leon Johnson was the most prolific Tar Heel out of the backfield at UVa. He rushed for 43 yards and caught six passes for 83 yards.

Curtis Johnson had a big game last year against N.C. State. He rushed for 153 yards and broke the game open early in the third quarter with a 50-yard touchdown stampee up the middle.

**N.C. State offense:** Eddie Goines will probably touch the ball a lot Saturday.

Just like Stanicek, Goines saves his best days for this rivalry. In 1992, he caught nine Terry Jordan passes for 163 yards.

This season, Goines is averaging 17.4 yards on his 28 total catches.

On the ground, junior tailback Brian Fitzgerald enters the game listed as N.C. State's No. 1 running back. Fitzgerald has rushed for 386 yards this season.

However, redshirt freshman Tremayne

Stephens rushed for 189 yards two weeks ago against Wake Forest.

**North Carolina Defense:** The UNC "bend, but don't break" defense has played well.

On the season, the Tar Heels have surrendered big chunks of yardage but often have recovered inside the 20.

But against Virginia, that wasn't the case. The Tar Heels gave up 34 points and 425 total yards.

UNC's defense was on the field about seven minutes more than its offense vs. UVa. — thanks in part to turnovers and three-and-out possessions by the offense.

Thus, the key to UNC's defense may be the time of possession.

Along the front, Marcus Jones continues to play "lights out" football. The Outland Trophy candidate recorded a team-high seven tackles last weekend.

Despite being slowed with torn knee ligaments, Mike Morton leads the team in tackles. He recorded seven last weekend and also broke up a pass.

Linebacker Kerry Mock was limited earlier in the week. He dislocated his elbow in the Maryland game.

Offsetting Goines may be a task. The UNC coaching staff has contemplated a variety of schemes to throw at the Wolfpack

superstar.

"If we're deep in man coverage, but we want to double-cover Eddie Goines, you don't have enough people," said UNC head coach Mack Brown Wednesday in the Pit. "We have to try to figure out a way to get some pressure and not give up the big play."

**N.C. State Defense:** The Wolfpack ranks fourth in the nation in total defense.

Senior defensive tackle Carl Reeves has been the center of the Wolfpack defense.

Reeves, a former UNC fan, guaranteed a N.C. State win this weekend.

"I won't predict a score," Reeves said. "I'll just guarantee a win."

So is Reeves confident or cocky? Well, he only needs four more sacks to break the NCSU school record.

Inside linebacker Damien Covington leads the team in tackles with 73.

**Tidbits:** This game marks the 100th anniversary of the teams' first meeting. In 1894, the North Carolina won 44-0 ... UNC is 23-14-1 against the Wolfpack at Kenan Stadium ... Only 10 points separate the two teams over the last two meetings in Chapel Hill. In 1990, UNC lost 12-9 on a last-second, 56-yard field goal by Damon Hartman and it lost 27-20 in 1992. ... UNC has outscored the Wolfpack over the series

1,544-897 ... The 1992 game set an attendance record at Kenan Stadium. The mark of 53,725 stood until the 1993 UNC-Florida State matchup.

**Final analysis/prediction:** North Carolina is a better team than N.C. State. It has more talent and matches up very well against the Wolfpack.

But this week UNC will play hurt. Almost every offensive lineman and linebacker have some type of injury.

UNC even altered practice a bit this week to accommodate for the injuries.

"We will be in shoulder pads and shorts this week," Brown said at his Tuesday press conference. "We cannot practice in gear because we cannot afford to get one of our offensive linemen hurt."

The rivalry alone will provide the adrenaline for some Tar Heel players to forget about nagging injuries.

However, they will remain a step slow.

Wolfpack quarterbacks will find Goines deep a couple of times, and the N.C. State defensive front will keep the Tar Heel rushing attack in check.

Facts triumph over heart this weekend. Make it five in a row in Chapel Hill.

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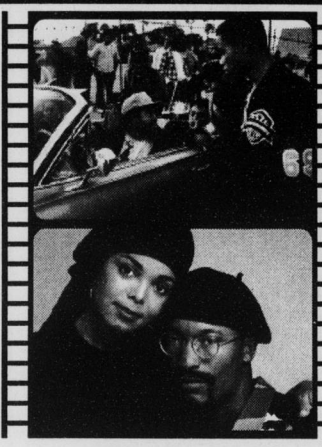
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