

Bobcats Could Be Salve for Tar Heel Football Woes

BY JOSEPH ROLISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

There's nothing like good medicine from the doctor to heal an illness. As long as the cure is easy to handle and doesn't require much attention from the patient, then it's a welcome salve.

North Carolina, ailing from two unexpected losses, looks to fill just such a prescription Saturday at Kenan Stadium against the hapless Ohio Bobcats. The 'Cats, ranked 106th out of 106 Division I teams in Sports Illustrated's preseason poll, don't have any misconceptions about what awaits them in Chapel Hill.

"Realistically, we don't match up at all as far as Carolina is concerned," OU coach Jim Grobe said.

The Bobcats, in an effort to move out of the cellar they have inhabited for much of their history, adopted the feared "New Option" offense. Freshman quarterback Kareem Wilson's 120 rush yards per game ranks 21st in the country, and OU is 11th nationally with 250 rushing yards per game. Still, the 'Cats have experienced some rustiness while employing the option.

"The option's giving us a chance to win, but we're still making youthful mistakes," Grobe said. "It's supposed to be the triple option, but sometimes I wonder if it

is."

Unfortunately for Ohio, defense has been the buzz-word in the UNC camp lately. Against Louisville, the Tar Heels allowed only 159 yards of total offense. Excluding a fake punt, North Carolina surrendered a mere 89 yards to the Cards.

"I'm not sure we've played defense that well around here in a long time," UNC coach Mack Brown said. "That may be the best performance that we've had on defense in the eight years that I've been the head coach here."

When the Bobcats line up against the Tar Heels, they'll go head-to-head with last week's ACC Defensive Player of the Week, defensive end Greg Ellis. Ellis wreaked havoc on the U of L backfield, sacking the QB once, batting down three passes, and causing one fumble.

"Greg Ellis played very well, but just about everybody on defense played well for us," Brown said.

The 'Cats rarely air the ball, due in part to their run-oriented offense. Another explanation is that Wilson has been picked off five times in just 44 attempts.

The other side of the ball doesn't appear too promising for Ohio either. Though plagued by turnovers, the Tar Heel offense has shown occasional glimmers of brilliance. OU's defense, which allows over 25



Sophomore running back Jonathan Linton (27) hopes to cause this kind of confusion against the Ohio defense Saturday at Kenan Stadium.

points per game, has been about as resistant as a soggy paper towel. Accordingly, UNC's ball carriers slashing through the Ohio defense might be a common sight.

"We've got everything in place," Brown said. "We just need to go score."

Tar Heel QB Mike Thomas, interception-prone in his first three games, need

pay close attention to OU defensive back Dennis Fitzgerald. He already has three interceptions, 11th best in the nation. Covering ACC Offensive Player of the Week Octavus Barnes and Marcus Wall could be too tall an order for Ohio's DBs to fill.

On paper, UNC has the 'Cats thoroughly outmanned, but Brown insists that

Ohio at UNC
1:30 p.m., Kenan Stadium
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Playing surface: Natural grass.
TV/Radio: The game will not be televised. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide radio coverage. The flagship stations are WCHL (1360 AM) and WTRG (100.7 FM).
1995 records: UNC 1-2; Ohio 1-2-1. **Series:** UNC leads 2-0 (44-3 in 1993).
Personnel Update: Ohio — RB Lakarlos Townsend (hamstring) is out. C Aaron Shreffler (hand) and OT Rich Antonaros (foot) are doubtful. LB Charles Owens (knee) is questionable. North Carolina — OT Shawn Crouthamel (knee), QB Tucker Perry (hand) and OG Jerneis Gethers (leg) are out. DL Vonnie Holliday (neck) is questionable.
Analysis/Prediction: That UNC will chalk up a 'W' at about 4 p.m. on Saturday is a given. However, UNC may encounter a few early difficulties as it adjusts to the vaunted "New Option." Besides evening its record, North Carolina should also pad some of its paltry stats (i.e., turnover margin). Evaluating the Tar Heel reserves will be one intriguing aspect of Saturday's contest. Let's hope something is enthralling, because the action on the field won't be.
UNC 45, Ohio 11.
COMPILED BY JOSEPH E. ROLISON

there is more to this matchup than meets the eye.
"We need to understand that this game is critical for us," he said. "When you start 0-2, you don't have another chance to mess up."

Go Ahead, Try to Score 223 Points

Of all the unattainable sports records (Cy Young's 511 victories; Wilt Chamberlain's 55 rebounds in one game; Gaylord Perry's 3,476 dips into the vaseline bottle in one season), Georgia Tech's 222 points scored in 1916 against slightly overmatched Cumberland College is the most likely to stand forever.

Still, some teams are acting like they're trying to break it. Florida State has scored 70 and 77 points against conference opponents (Duke and N.C. State). Nebraska matched FSU's 77 against Arizona State. Florida scored 62 points against a top-10 team (Tennessee).

Even Kansas State, which for so many years was the little sister getting beaten up by big brother, turned violent last weekend with a 67-0 pasting of the aptly-named Akron Zips.

These scary numbers have led fans, sports writers and even other coaches to blast those doing the end-zone dancing. But the reality is that coaches who pile on the points do so with good reason.

First and foremost, any undefeated team still has a shot at the national title, and last year proved that victory margin matters in the polls.

Penn State was No. 1 in 1994 until it gave up two late touchdowns in a 35-29 win at Indiana. Penn State was suddenly No. 2, where it remained despite winning all its games.

It's also not fair to ask second- and third-string players to beat the heck out of each other in practice every day and then to send them out in games to sit on the football. They deserve the chance to have some fun,

and they also need to get real game experience. Running a two-yard draw play and waving to Mom in the stands doesn't cut it.

But not everyone agrees. For instance, Duke's Fred Goldsmith was not amused that FSU's Bobby Bowden reinserted quarterback Danny Kanell in the fourth quarter of the Seminoles' 70-26 win.

Even Joe Paterno, a man with an image cleaner than most hospital bathrooms, has been attacked for his team's 42-yard touchdown pass with 58 seconds left that gave Penn State a 59-34 win over Rutgers.

After the game, Rutgers coach Doug Graber said something unkind to JoePa, who responded, "Bull-(bleep)!"

Paterno's action was suspect because of the numbers involved. Penn State was favored by 20. Penn State was ahead by 18, meaning fans who made a side-trip to Atlantic City would soon be hearing from guys with names like "Nick the Fish." JoePa fixed all that with a meaningless touchdown.

But Joe says it ain't so. He says the play was supposed to be a short pass to tight end Cuncho Brown.

Instead, backup quarterback Mike McQueary went deep.

"I should not have to apologize for



ADAM DAVIS
PIECE OF MIND

Mike McQueary doing what he has been coached to do," Paterno said in a statement released by Penn State. "It was a tight end drag play. I thought it would be nice to get Mike a throw or two in the football game, because you never know when he is going to have to carry the load."

"Mike went back, spotted the flanker open, and did what he was coached to do."

Is Paterno lying? Maybe. But it shouldn't matter. If he wants to win by 25 to help his team win a national championship, he should have that right.

Coaches have enough pressure just to win without people telling them how to win.

While it's hard to imagine UNC being in position to slaughter someone, it may have the chance this weekend. The Tar Heels host Ohio U., a perennial college football doormat.

The Bobcats went 0-11 last season, and UNC beat them 44-3 two years ago. Tar Heel coach Mack Brown said that if he does have a big lead, he'll use his reserves, but he'll keep trying.

"Sometimes we've had really high scores on people, and we brought the second team in and just sat on the ball, and that wasn't fair to our second-team players," he said. "If we ever get in a circumstance where we could get in with the second team and try to move it and score with them, then we need to do that."

So if North Carolina is leading 40-3, Brown may call one of those tight end drag plays that turns into a long touchdown pass. But don't expect UNC to score 223 points.

Time Management Important for Athletes, 12-Member UNC Panel Tells 8th-Graders

BY JONATHAN HART
ASSISTANT SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

A panel of athletes from UNC Olympic sports stressed the importance of time management to a group of Reidsville Middle School students who visited the UNC campus Thursday.

The students, all eighth-graders, listened to 12 UNC athletes, had a question-and-answer session and were given a tour of Kenan Field House.

"It's an opportunity for getting (the students) to hear something from the actual student-athletes instead of their teachers," said Elizabeth Ancarana, assistant director of the UNC academic support program.

"I know (the athletes) work very hard to keep it all together and focus on their goals," Ancarana said. "I think it's nice that they can share what they've learned from the process with eighth-graders who might be going through it in a few years."

Though the athletes touched on a variety of topics, their focus was on time management. All 12 athletes touched on the subject at least once during their talks.

"For me, I have to get up at 8 o'clock in the morning, and I don't get back to my room until seven at night," said Mike Stoner, a senior baseball player. "Then I have to eat and study, and I don't get to bed until 12 or 1 in the morning."

Patrick Heffernan, a junior swimmer, said he doesn't have sympathy for students who have to get up at 8 a.m., because his day begins at 5.

"It shows you how to set goals," Heffernan said. "That helps you out in life because we all have goals we want to achieve in life."

David Britt, a sophomore tennis player, told the students that they should get into good work habits even before college.

"(In) your senior year (of high school), you should really bear down," Britt said. "That will help you out in the long run."

But not all athletes spoke exclusively about time management. Others focused on student life and hard work. Don Hill, a sophomore golfer, told the students that the life of a college athlete is far different from the preconceived notions that many people get.

"Life as a student-athlete is pretty hec-

tic," he said. "You see all the glitz and glamour, but it requires a lot of time."

"Pick the school you want to go to — don't let the school pick you."

Mike Chase, a senior wrestler, told the students to enjoy college life before they realize it's gone.

"College really went quick for me," Chase said. "Enjoy it to the fullest possibility while you're here."

Afterwards, the athletes said that they enjoyed giving the presentation.

"It's our way of giving back everything that's been given to us," said Lyne Goodlett, a junior gymnast.

By relating to the eighth-graders as students themselves, Goodlett said the athletes were able to get their message across.

"When older people speak, (middle school students) tend to shut them out," she said.

Stoner added that the talk gave students a chance to get a taste of college life and prepare themselves for the future.

"It gives them a sense of what college is like and how it is around here," Stoner said. "They can start disciplining themselves for doing what it is they want to do."

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