

In the Trenches

Postseason Blues

With North Carolina's mediocre 3-3 start this season, bowl invite and buffet of the century are in jeopardy

My expectations for the UNC football team were sky high in January.

Dreams of a big bowl bid and a possible top-10 finish waltzed through my head daily. The offense looked good, and the defense had a solid foundation to build off of. The schedule seemed tailor-made for success.

Perhaps I let my UNC bias blind my vision though. Or maybe it was the lack of sleep suffered from Daily Tar Heel work.

Anyway, my hopes were well off base.

For those of us who decide to devote our life to The Daily Tar Heel sports desk, rooting for UNC can often be very complicated. Balancing our loyalty to our school and objectivity as a journalist can be extremely tricky. It's hard to estimate the on-field potential for a team we are so close to. Especially when there's a fringe benefit involved.

Of course that fringe benefit involves covering the teams wherever they roam.

When the UNC women's soccer team goes to the NCAA title game, so do we. Likewise with the Final Four, ACC Tournament or exotic places like Los Angeles.

But in football, this was the year. After covering many big regular season games for the past two seasons, I knew this was my turn to cover the postseason. Finally, I had a shot at the big buffet line in the sky.

Others ventured to the land of year-long rain and flannel attire last spring to cover the Final Four. I stood in line, knowing the 1995 football season would be the year my dream of covering a major postseason event was to come true.

But sometime in between January and last weekend, the phrase "would be" has quickly turned into "was."

"Would be" was before the Tar Heels turned the ball over 20 times and started the season at 3-3. Because of the slow start, UNC was going to a bowl game.

The sky was the limit before the season. DTH Managing Editor Justin "The Jets really are my team" Scheef and I had begun browsing the bowl schedule before Mack Brown had put his golf clubs up for the year. Vigorously, we planned our "graduation vacation" according to the ACC deal in the Bowl Coalition.

Note: Scheef and I graduate in December.

However, as fall rolled into Chapel Hill, those plans slipped right through our fingertips

■ May, 1995... As I recall, we pondered the possibility of beating FSU and challenging for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl. Uh, ah, no!

■ Sept. 2, 1995... Syracuse slips past UNC in the fourth quarter. After that contest, Scheef and I start thinking Gator

By JAMES WHITFIELD
SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR



Bowl. "What a shame that Outback Steakhouse still doesn't sponsor that game," we thought on Labor Day.

■ Sept. 9, 1995... UNC loses its second game of the season. Uh-oh, will the Tar Heels even venture into postseason play?

Soon after that game, we started to check into alternative vacation plans like a ski trip.

Uh, maybe we'll go to Florida anyway.

■ Oct. 14, 1995... The Tar Heels drop their third game of the season. After beating Virginia a week before, the bowl hopes began to flicker again. But now, put you're money on UNC celebrating Christmas and New Year's at home.

With five games left, hopes for a bowl game have evaporated. UNC still could slip into the Peach Bowl or possibly the Carquest Bowl.

More likely, the Tar Heels will be at home over the holidays for the first time in three years. That means Scheef and I will be forced to look at that ski trip. Or perhaps a three-day getaway to blow a few chips in Las Vegas.

Any way you look at it though, UNC's .500 record has taken a little excitement out of the season. And it sure has put Scheef and I on the edge of our seat, still dreaming of the big buffet line in the sky.

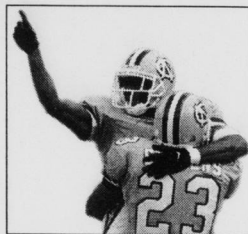
DTH SportSaturday

COVER STORY

6 Octavus Barnes — UNC's 'go-to' guy

Teams love to double- and triple-team sophomore wideout Octavus Barnes. That's what happens when someone has four straight 100-yard games.

By ALEC MORRISON



8 Caldwell can't win overnight

Wake Forest may be 1-6, but third-year Deacon coach Jim Caldwell believes he can build a winner in Winston-Salem.

By LISA ZARANEK



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Cover photo: John White

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DTH SportSchedule

Division I Football

SATURDAY

SOUTH

Clemson (3-3) at Maryland (5-1), Noon
Kentucky (3-3) at Georgia (4-3), 12:30 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman (2-4) at Albany, Ga. (6-1), 1 p.m.
Morgan St. (1-5) at Delaware St. (1-5), 1 p.m.
Vanderbilt (0-5) at South Carolina (3-3-1), 1 p.m.
N. Carolina St. (1-5) at Duke (2-5), 1:30 p.m.
E. Tennessee St. (1-5) at Furman (4-3), 1:30 p.m.
Wofford (2-5) at Liberty (4-2), 1:30 p.m.
Tenn. Tech (1-6) at Morehead St. (1-5), 1:30 p.m.
Howard U. (3-3) at N. Carolina A&T (3-3), 1:30 p.m.
Wake Forest (1-6) at North Carolina (3-3), 1:30 p.m.
Davidson (1-5) at Randolph-Macon (2-3-1), 1:30 p.m.
W. Michigan (4-3) at Auburn (4-2), 2 p.m.
Temple (1-5) at East Carolina (3-3), 2 p.m.
Citadel (2-4) at Georgia Southern (4-2), 2 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin (6-0) at Samford (4-2), 2 p.m.
Tennessee St. (2-4) at Austin Peay (2-5), 2:30 p.m.
Tenn.-Martin (4-2) at E. Kentucky (5-1), 3 p.m.
Delaware (6-0) at James Madison (6-1), 3 p.m.
SE Missouri (2-4) at Middle Tenn. (4-3), 3 p.m.
Texas Southern (2-4) at Miss. Valley St. (0-5), 3 p.m.
Alabama (4-2) at Mississippi (3-3), 3 p.m.
SW Texas St. (2-4) at Nicholls St. (0-7), 3 p.m.
Georgia Tech (4-2) at Florida St. (6-0), 3:30 p.m.
W. Carolina (2-4) at Tn.-Chatt. (2-4), 3:30 p.m.
Grambling St. (3-3) at Jackson St. (4-2), 3:30 p.m.
Nevada (4-2) at Louisiana Tech (4-3), 4 p.m.
Pacific (2-4) at SW Louisiana (3-3), 5 p.m.
Appalachian St. (6-0) at Marshall (5-1), 7 p.m.
Jacksonville St. (6-1) at Troy St. (7-0), 7 p.m.
Prairie View (0-6) at Alabama St. (2-3-1), 8 p.m.
North Texas (1-5) at LSU (3-3-1), 8 p.m.
Sam Houston St. (3-4) at McNeese St. (6-0), 8 p.m.
NW Louisiana (5-2) at NE Louisiana (2-5), 8 p.m.
Alcorn St. (3-3-1) at Southern U. (5-1), 8 p.m.

EAST

Army (1-3-1) at Boston College (2-4), Noon
Miami (2-3) at Pittsburgh (2-5), Noon
West Virginia (3-3) at Syracuse (5-1), Noon
Maine (2-4) at New Hampshire (2-4), 12:30 p.m.
Northeastern (1-5) at Boston U. (2-4), 1 p.m.
Yale (2-3) at Columbia (2-2-1), 1 p.m.

Richmond (5-1) at Fordham (3-4), 1 p.m.
Princeton (5-0) at Harvard (4-1), 1 p.m.
Lafayette (1-4-1) at Holy Cross (1-5), 1 p.m.
Cornell (2-2) at Lehigh (4-2), 1 p.m.
William & Mary (5-2) at Massachusetts (3-3), 1 p.m.
Connecticut (6-0) at Rhode Island (5-2), 1 p.m.
Virginia Tech (4-2) at Rutgers (1-4), 1 p.m.
Cent. Conn. St. (1-5) at St. Francis, Pa. (0-7), 1 p.m.
St. Peter's (1-4) at St. John's, NY (4-1), 1 p.m.
Bucknell (3-3) at Towson St. (4-2), 1 p.m.
Iona (3-2) at Wagner (4-1), 1 p.m.
Canisius (2-4) at Marist (3-3), 1:30 p.m.
Colgate (0-6) at Dartmouth (3-2), 1:30 p.m.
Siena (0-5) at Duquesne (5-1), 1:30 p.m.
Charleston Southern (1-6) at Hofstra (7-0), 1:30 p.m.
Villanova (2-4) at Navy (2-4), 1:30 p.m.
Brown (3-2) at Penn (3-2), 1:30 p.m.
Mercyhurst (3-3) at Robert Morris (4-2), 1:30 p.m.

MIDWEST

Purdue (2-3-1) at Ohio St. (6-0), 12:30 p.m.
E. Michigan (4-2) at Ball St. (4-3), 1 p.m.
Toledo (5-0-1) at Bowling Green (3-4), 1 p.m.
Thomas More (5-0) at Butler (1-6), 1 p.m.
Kent (1-4-1) at Cent. Michigan (3-3), 1 p.m.
Memphis (2-4) at Cincinnati (3-4), 1 p.m.
Dayton (6-0) at Drake (5-1-1), 1 p.m.
Colorado (5-1) at Iowa St. (2-4), 1 p.m.
Minnesota (2-2) at Michigan St. (3-2-1), 1 p.m.
Wisconsin (3-3) at Northwestern (5-1), 1 p.m.
Wingate (4-3) at Youngstown St. (1-5), 1 p.m.
Michigan (5-1) at Indiana (4-2), 2 p.m.
Oklahoma St. (1-5) at Missouri (2-4), 2 p.m.
Penn St. (4-2) at Iowa (5-0), 2:05 p.m.
Southern Cal (6-0) at Notre Dame (5-2), 2:30 p.m.
Evansville (3-3) at Valparaiso (3-3), 2:30 p.m.
SW Missouri St. (1-6) at W. Illinois (3-3), 2:30 p.m.
W. Kentucky (2-5) at Indiana St. (5-2), 3 p.m.
Ohio St. (6-0) at Nebraska (6-0), 3:30 p.m.
Kia U. (1-4-1) at Akron (1-5), 6 p.m.
S. Illinois (4-3) at N. Iowa (4-2), 7:30 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

Virginia (6-2) at Texas (4-1-1), 1 p.m.
Texas A&M (3-2) at Baylor (4-1), 2 p.m.
Tulane (2-4) at Texas Christian (4-1), 3 p.m.

FAR WEST

Wyoming (3-2) at Brigham Young (2-3), 2 p.m.
New Mexico (3-3) at Colorado St. (4-2), 2 p.m.
Weber St. (3-4) at Montana St. (5-2), 2 p.m.
Air Force (5-2) at Utah (3-4), 2:05 p.m.
UCLA (4-2) at Stanford (4-1-1), 3:30 p.m.
S. Utah (2-5) at St. Mary's, Cal. (4-2), 4 p.m.
CS Northridge (1-4) at UC Davis (2-3-1), 4 p.m.
N. Arizona (5-2) at E. Washington (2-4), 4:05 p.m.
Sacramento St. (1-4-1) at Cal Poly-SLO (3-3), 5 p.m.
Montana (6-1) at Idaho (2-3), 6:05 p.m.
Utah St. (1-5) at New Mexico St. (2-5), 8:30 p.m.
Idaho St. (5-1) at Boise St. (3-3), 9:05 p.m.
San Jose St. (2-4) at San Diego St. (4-2), 9:05 p.m.
Washington St. (4-2) at Arizona (3-3), 10 p.m.
Washington St. (3-3) at Oregon (1-5), 10 p.m.
California (1-5) at Oregon St. (1-5), 10 p.m.
San Diego (4-2) at Redlands (3-2), 10 p.m.
Cent. Florida (3-3) at Hawaii (2-3), 12:05 a.m.

NFL Week 8

SUNDAY

Houston (2-4) at Chicago (4-2), 1 p.m.
Miami (4-2) at New York Jets (1-6), 1 p.m.
Jacksonville (2-5) at Cleveland (3-3), 1 p.m.
New Orleans (1-5) at Carolina (1-5), 1 p.m.
Detroit (2-4) at Washington (2-5), 1 p.m.
Atlanta (4-2) at Tampa Bay (5-2), 1 p.m.
San Francisco (4-2) at St. Louis (5-1), 1 p.m.
Kansas City (6-1) at Denver (4-3), 4 p.m.
Minnesota (3-3) at Green Bay (4-2), 4 p.m.
Indianapolis (4-2) at Oakland (5-2), 4 p.m.
San Diego (3-4) at Seattle (2-4), 4 p.m.
Bye week: Arizona (2-5), Dallas (6-1), New York Giants (2-5), Philadelphia (4-3)

MONDAY

Buffalo (5-1) at New England (1-5), 9 p.m.