

Tar Heels Strive for Positive Attitude

Davenport to Undergo Knee Surgery Thursday

BY JUSTIN SCHEEF
MANAGING EDITOR

Mack Brown can always find something good out of bad situations.

Take the UNC football team's plight, for example. Brown's team is 4-4 and needs to win two of its last three games to qualify for a bowl. Yet the Tar Heel skipper sees it as a challenge for his team.

"This is a great learning experience for us," Brown said Tuesday. "I told them to act like you're 26 years old and you have three kids and you have three weeks of evaluations to see whether you'll get to keep your job or not."

"You don't have time to sit around griping about your boss, you don't have time to sit around griping about the guy that's sitting next to you. What you better do is produce."

That task starts this weekend against sixth-ranked Florida State. Then the Tar Heels wrap up their season against Duke and at N.C. State.

Brown said the team's positive attitude in spite of the disappointing season is what will make it able to succeed in the final three weeks.

"This has been the best group of young people that we've ever worked with," Brown said. "We haven't heard any griping. They're not pointing fingers. They've all done exactly what we've asked."

"It's been a very, very mature attitude with a team that hasn't had many good things happen to them."

Those "things" Brown was referring to was UNC's negative 18 turnover ratio, the worst in the nation. The Tar Heels have given up the football 29 times, while taking it back a mere 11.

"We'll try to keep a good attitude — we have not been a lucky team — but usually good teams are lucky," Brown said. "We just need to keep working because we're not like a team that's sitting around and doesn't know our problems."

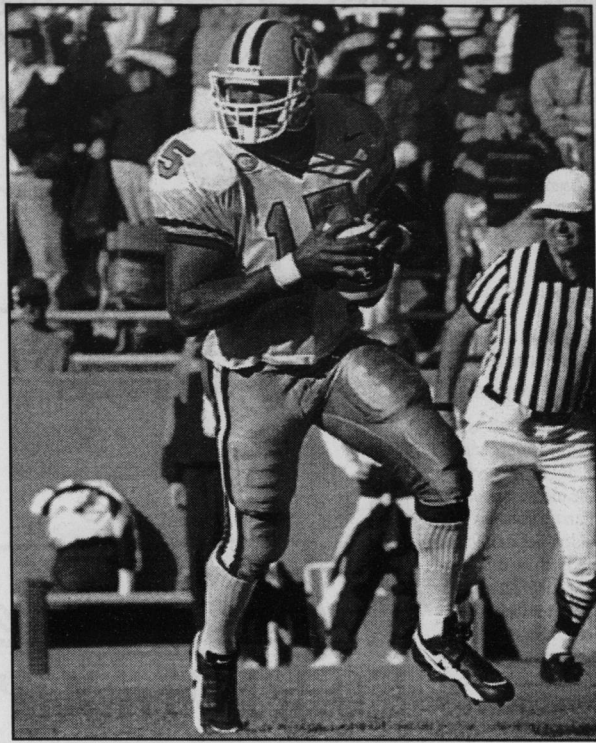
Against Clemson, the main problem was quarterback Mike Thomas' five interceptions, one of which safety Brian Dawkins returned 49 yards for the winning score.

Brown said Thomas, who is nearing several school passing records as well as the career interception record, at times has been trying too hard to make something happen. When he does that, he presses and that results in the mistakes.

"Our focus on Mike this week will be 'Go relax. You've proven that you're a good football player. You've played great in some big football games for us. So go back and relax and don't put so much pressure on yourself,'" Brown said.

Notes & Quotes

Golfer Payne Stewart attended Brown's press conference. Stewart was in town to see Dr. Richard Coop, a UNC sports psychology professor. ... Saturday's game against the Seminoles is slated for a noon kickoff and will be televised regionally by Jefferson Pilot. ... Backup QB Oscar Davenport is definitely out for this week. Brown said senior Tucker Perry, who was out earlier in the year with a broken thumb, will backup Thomas this week. ... Brown's weekly press conferences are turning into Marcus Jones for first-team All-America campaigns. This week, Brown said, "He is a player that is deserving of having his name on our stadium for the rest of our football life here at North Carolina."



Coach Mack Brown wants Mike Thomas to relax. The senior QB has thrown a UNC single-season record 17 interceptions, including five last Saturday.

Back-up quarterback Oscar Davenport's knee injury will require surgery and likely shelve the freshman for the rest of the year.

Davenport will undergo exploratory arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Thursday to reevaluate the damage done at Clemson, the North Carolina sports information office announced Tuesday.

Dr. Dan Hooker, coordinator of athletic training, said the injury will keep Davenport out of action over the next two weeks and likely for the rest of the season.

UNC hosts Florida State this Saturday and then Duke on Nov. 18 before ending the season at N.C. State on Nov. 24.

"It is a shame really when you consider that Oscar was just about to the point where we felt he was comfortable with the total offensive plan," Coach Mack Brown said. "Now we will have to just wait and see what the doctors find out Thursday."

The St. Petersburg, Fla., native injured his knee in the third quarter after playing only three plays against the Tigers.

Davenport's injury leaves freshman Toney Coles and senior Tucker Perry as the backups to starter Mike Thomas.

Coles completed a 10-yard pass in UNC's 62-0 romp over Ohio. However,

that was his only pass attempt of the season. Perry has also attempted only one pass in his Tar Heel career, a one-yard completion at Wake Forest last season.

"We'll have to start getting a second-team quarterback ready," said Brown following the Clemson game. "Right now, one of 'em's gotta come a long way."

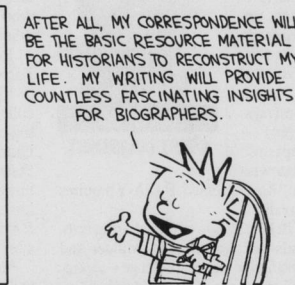
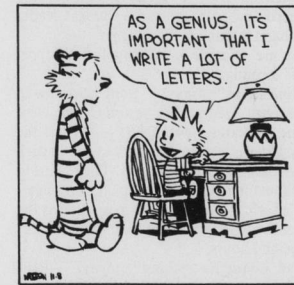
UNC was saddled with the lack of depth at quarterback because of the conversion of QB recruits to other positions.

Tailback Leon Johnson came to Chapel Hill as a quarterback, but he quickly found his notch in the backfield. Chuckie Parquet also came to UNC as a heralded high school quarterback, but he converted to cornerback in this year's spring practices.



Freshman quarterback OSCAR DAVENPORT may be out for the rest of the season.

Calvin and Hobbes



THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

- ACROSS
- 1 Pick-me-up
- 6 CIA forerunner
- 9 Poker money
- 13 "That's ___ (song)
- 14 Battle reminder
- 16 Rajah's wife
- 17 Old language
- 18 Malacca
- 19 Heraldic band
- 20 Pedestrian's marked lanes
- 22 Mob or lob end
- 23 Frontiersman, Wyatt
- 24 Starts
- 26 Very different
- 30 Equip
- 32 Untruthful one
- 33 Brood of pheasants
- 35 Chops up
- 39 Regards with approval
- 41 Trap
- 43 — profundo
- 44 Fatigue
- 46 Slow leak
- 47 Sen. Thurmond
- 49 Part of AWOL
- 51 Southwest spread
- 54 Near, pref.
- 56 Take — leave it
- 57 Decision-making site
- 63 Simpleton

64 Tun

65 Relieve by marriage

66 Burden

67 Molding

68 NY city

69 Heraldic band

70 Actor Byrnes

71 Computer word

DOWN

1 Powder, briefly

2 Sharif

3 "Say — drugs"

4 Rainbow

5 Thrill

6 Actor's award

7 Overcharged

8 Surberged

9 Certain air currents

10 Author Bret

11 Fla

12 Landing places

15 Put in new grass

21 Gretzky of hockey

25 Bends the head

26 Excess fat

27 Verdi work

28 Ewes' guys

29 Line pattern

31 —do-well

34 Ratio words

36 Anxiety

37 Ireland

38 Clan

40 "Goodbye, Columbus" author

42 Comes close

45 Set a burden upon

48 1990 Emmy winner, Alex

50 Whittish element

51 Get — (throw away)

52 Make amends

53 Intricate plot

55 Inquired

58 Latest fad

59 Aware of

60 Put — on it! (keep quiet)

61 Freshwater fish

62 Used the natorium

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