

UNC tailback Jon Linton (with ball) hurtles a pileup at the line during the Tar Heels' 23-6 win over Indiana. He rushed for a career-high 121 yards and scored one touchdown against the Hoosiers. UNC faces Stanford on Saturday.

Cardinal's high-octane offense to offer stern test for UNC 'D'

Game and time: No. 17 Stanford at No. 7 North Carolina. Kickoff is at 6

p.m. Saturday.
Site: Kenan Stadium

Playing surface: natural grass

TV/radio: espn2 will telecast the game nationally. The Tar Heel Sports age; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM.

1997 record: Both teams are 1-0.

Series: first meeting
Personnel update: North Carolina
- DT Marcus Dow (lacerated kidney) is out for the season.

Stanford — none reported Stanford offense: The Cardinal has

one of the nation's most well-rounded attacks, though it relies more on the pass than the run.

Quarterback Chad Hutchinson threw for 302 yards in Stanford's season-opening 28-12 win over San Jose State last week, including one touchdown and

two interceptions.
"The performance by Chad was very solid," Stanford coach Tyrone Willingham said. "There were a lot of guys who touched balls. We like that because it doesn't allow the defense to really dig in and pinpoint one guy."

UNC coach Mack Brown called Hutchinson the best opposing quarter-

back to come to Kenan in a long time, and the junior from Del Mar, Calif., should test UNC's secondary all day. His primary targets include flanker

Troy Walters, who caught eight passes for 166 yards last week, and flanker Jeff Allen, who averaged 21.5 yards per catch. Hutchinson completed passes to 10 different receivers against San Jose

Walters is a threat anywhere on the field. He compiled 202 multipurpose yards Saturday, and he is the Cardinal's top punt returner, averaging 11.7 yards per return.

Stanford has two strong runners out of the backfield, which was rated second in the nation in the preseason by The Sporting News. Mike Mitchell and Anthony Bookman combine for 3,662 career rushing yards, and Bookman ran

for 51 on Saturday.

But the Cardinal hasn't faced a run defense like UNC's, and Stanford needs to establish a ground game to keep the

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The Baily Tar Heel

"We know that (UNC) will be tuned up for this next game," Willingham said. "... That is something we have to improve and do better in — running."

North Carolina offense: UNC's two biggest offensive questions were answered last week. Tailback Jon Linton rushed for a career-high 121 yards on 22 carries, and tight end Alge Crumpler caught three passes for 57 yards, includ-

ing a touchdown.

But the focus shifted when quarterback Chris Keldorf threw three inter-ceptions against Indiana's defense. Keldorf will need to recover his touch in order for UNC to move the ball Saturday.

"I got it out of my system," Keldorf said. "Everything's out, you almost feel so relaxed now. Now you can go to the drawing board and start to work.'

Keldorf did have a strong second half last week, completing nine of 14 passes for 142 yards. His ability to throw short in third-down situations could deter-

mine the outcome of this game.

Linton, too, will be a key factor in allowing the Tar Heels to establish a multifaceted offense. Like UNC, Stanford's defense should be well-versed in dealing with a West Coast attack These two offenses are very similar.

Stanford defense: The Cardinal unit yielded 236 passing yards Saturday, and Keldorf could abuse that stat even more. Given UNC's speed and sticky hands at wide receiver, the Stanford secondary could be susceptible to the big play. Free safety Tim Smith (6-foot-4) is the only SU defensive back with the height to

match UNC wideout L.C. Stever North Carolina defense: The UNC defense could decide the outcome of

this game. The Tar Heels were relentless in their pressure of Indiana quarterback Jay Rodgers last week, and the seclary came up with two interceptions

and two pass break-ups.

Stanford's attack, though, will be the toughest UNC has faced in the past two years. Defensive end Greg Ellis will have to break through double-teams to keep Hutchinson on his heels, and corner-backs Dre' Bly and Robert Williams have to blanket Stanford's receivers to

keep Hutchinson at bay.
"If you get to him, he can't throw the ball with great accuracy, so that's our whole plan is to get to him," Ellis said. "It will put a lot of pressure on us, and it's a big test for our secondary."

Bly and defensive tackle Vonnie

Holliday were banged up Saturday, but both returned to the game. The two saw limited contact during Tuesday's prac-tice and went full contact on Wednesday

Final analysis/prediction: Two factors should swing the game in the Tar Heels' favor. Stanford arguably has the better offense in this matchup, but UNC's defense has more than enough ability to nullify the Cardinal attack UNC's pass defense currently rates third

And while UNC's offense might be less prolific than Stanford's, the Tar Heels can be just as potent at any given

Keldorf should be much more settled nder center, and as long as Linton makes his presence known, the Tar Heels will withstand an early Stanford charge and surface on top by the second

UNC 24, Stanford 14 COMPILED BY ALEC MORRISON

Cross country opens season with only home meet

North Carolina's men's and women's cross country teams open their seasons today running their only scheduled home

meet in two years. The men and women will host James Madison, East Carolina and Elon College in the UNC Cross Country Challenge at Finley Golf Course. The men will also compete against Tar Heel alumni.

"The men's toughest competition will be the alumni," coach Joan Nesbit said. "It should be an interesting race."

The women are scheduled to run at 5:30 p.m. and the men will follow at 6:30. Between the races at 6 is the Citizen's 5K

will follow at 6:30. Between the races at 6 is the Citizen's 5K Race, an event open to the public.

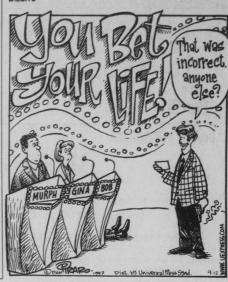
Nesbit leads a pair of teams with different expectations for 1997. For the women, the goal is to remain a national power; for the men, a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Despite losing Blake Phillips and three-time ACC champion Karen Godlock from last year's squad, the women's team figures to contend once again for the ACC championship. The team finished second to N.C. State in the ACC last season and notched a 15th-place finish at the NCAAs.

The women's pack will include junior co-captain Sara Majka, who was fourth in the '96 ACCs, and senior co-captain Jennifer Strange. Sophomores Trish Nervo, Julie Smith

tain Jennifer Strange. Sophomores Trish Nervo, Julie Smith and Heather Tanner should provide the team with depth. The men's team, which placed third in the ACC last year, returns only two starters. But according to Nesbit, something graduated along with them: pressure to perform. Returning runners expected to fill the void include senior captain Kevin Pierpoint, senior John Cline and junior Todd Morgan. Junior Bill Jackson, who has an injured Achilles' tendon and is questionable for today's race, should also contribute.





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Roommates

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