

New DBs Aim to Keep Secondary Top-Notch

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Senior Writer

One thing has been certain for the last two years in the ACC — it's almost impossible to beat North Carolina through the air.

During the past two seasons, the North Carolina defense has finished first in the conference and third in the nation in pass-efficiency defense.

The Tar Heels have been so efficient that teams have had to alter their offensive game plans.

"I think that shows a great deal of respect when people are gonna try to do something a little bit different to coun-

teract what you're trying to do or try to confuse you," UNC head coach Carl Torbush said.

But graduation hit the Tar Heel secondary hard. Defensive backs coach Ron Case has several holes to fill in the secondary. Five players who saw significant time in the secondary last year are gone.



UNC free safety Antwon Black averaged a team-high 22.5 yards on 11 kickoff returns in 1997.

The secondary sports only one returning starter from 1997. Granted, the lone returner is two-time All-American Dre' Bly, who has been the cornerstone of the secondary unit. He has 16 of UNC's 38 interceptions in the last two seasons.

No one doubts Bly's talent or ability. What will be in question is the other 75 percent of the secondary.

When UNC released its two-deep

rosters last week, the secondary unit had a few unfamiliar names on the list.

Lining up opposite Bly is senior Steve Fisher. Fisher came to UNC as a walk-on, but he has earned a scholarship and a starting role.

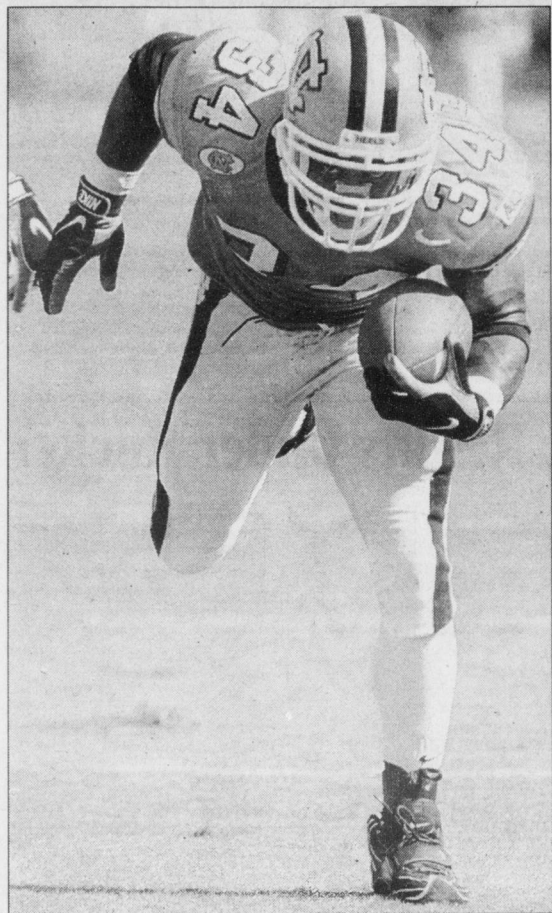
Fisher said it doesn't bother him that people are calling the rest of the secondary a "no-name" unit. He said that makes it easier for him to surprise people.

"I don't really need for anybody to know my name," he said. "They just need to know that if they throw the ball to my side, then I'm going to get the job done."

"And I know they'll be throwing at my side; there's an All-American on the other side."

Sophomore Antwon Black gets the

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DTH FILE PHOTO

Senior cornerback Steve Fisher intercepted one pass in 1997 and will start in UNC's secondary this season.

Pre-Season Ranked

#

U-MALL
Chapel Hill Tire
Occasions
Dillard's
Kerr Drug
Eddie's
Wireless
GTE
20/20 Eyeworks
Nuts N' Such
Ritz's
Children's
Noni Gallery
Walden Software
Dubey's Pet World
Allied Services
Storehouse Burlington
Waldenbooks
Toy Corner
Chick-Fil-A
Dollar Tree
Cop Shop
Hudson Belk
Beauty Unlimited
Cameron's
Shoe Show
Print Shop
GNC
Mitchell's Hairstyling
Take Ten
Artsclapes
K&W Cafeteria
Roses
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