

UNC Football Releases Depth Chart

Starting defensive players Errol Hood and Brandon Spoon are candidates for postseason position awards.

By Mike Ogle
Assistant Sports Editor

The depth chart might be ready, but questions still remain as to whether North Carolina is.

One day after its third scrimmage of the summer, the Tar Heels released the depth chart for the season-opening game against Tulsa on Sept. 2.

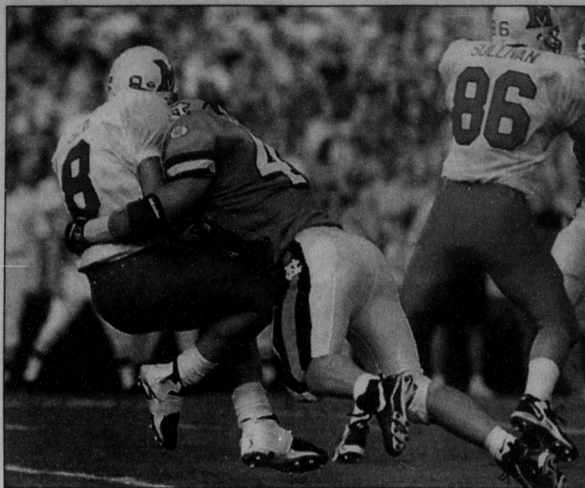
The lineup provided few surprises outside of the backfield, in which junior Rufus Brown was not present.

The rest of the card comprised some inexperienced players, particularly in special teams, who will get chances to solidify their preseason standings against the Golden Hurricane at 6 p.m. at Kenan Stadium.

Senior Jeff Reed replaces place-kicker Josh McGee, who set the school record for career field goals and scored the second-most points in UNC history.

"I know I have big shoes to fill," said Reed, a walk-on from Charlotte. "That's in the back of my mind, but this is this year, and that's in the past. I've just got to go out there, get my mind right and get the job done."

Freshman Blake Ferguson and sophomore John Lafferty are still battling to replace All-American Brian



DTH/MARC A. WHITE

Senior linebacker Brandon Spoon was named to the 2000 Butkus Award Watch List. He is the first player to make that list four consecutive years.

Schmitz as the team's punter. Schmitz's shoes are even more difficult to fill. He averaged an ACC-record 47.8 yards per punt in 1999 and holds the career conference mark at 44.4 yards a boot.

"We have not seen them play and perform in front of a crowd, and sometimes that makes a world of difference," coach Carl Torbush said of his new, inconsistent kickers. "I've seen so many times, especially in the kicking game, a

kicker in practice can kick it out of the end zone, but he gets in a ball game, and all of a sudden he tightens up."

Sophomore wide receiver Sam Aiken looks to do most of the kick returning as he heads the list for kickoff and punt returns. He took much of that role on his shoulders toward the end of last season to relieve the struggling Kory Bailey.

Other fresh faces atop their positions for now include Bosley Allen (wide

receiver), Louis Marchetti (tackle), Cam Holland (guard), Adam Metts (center), Isaac Morford (guard), James Wagstaff (tackle), Willie Parker (tailback) and Anthony Saunders (fullback) on offense. Anthony Perkins (tackle) and Michael Waddell (cornerback) are the lone new defensive starters.

Spoon, Hood Nominated

Brandon Spoon and Errol Hood were each named to the watch list for the national player of the year award at their respective positions.

Spoon became the first linebacker in the 16-year history of the Butkus Award to be named a candidate in four consecutive seasons. Seventy players made the preseason list.

Spoon returned for a fifth year after missing almost all of last season with a torn biceps tendon.

"I just want to get past the first round now," Spoon said. "It's an honor in itself to be nominated. I'm tired of being nominated. I want to get the real deal now. I want to meet Butkus himself."

Hood, a junior cornerback who had 58 tackles, 11 pass breakups and five interceptions in 1999, is one of 40 candidates for the Thorpe Award.

"I'm more confident," Hood said. "I'm very observant. I notice things. I remember them. I'll recognize that same play before it happens. I'm more experienced."

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Preseason Positioning

The North Carolina football team released its two-deep depth chart Thursday afternoon.

OFFENSE	DEFENSE
WIDE RECEIVER	END
3 Bosley Allen (6-1, 190, So.)	49 Julius Peppers (6-6, 270, So.)
88 Sam Aiken (6-2, 190, So.)	85 Malcolm Stewart (6-3, 225, So.)
LEFT TACKLE	TACKLE
70 Louis Marchetti (6-6, 280, Sr.)	87 Ryan Sims (6-4, 285, Jr.)
69 Greg Woolfer (6-5, 270, Fr. *)	91 Will Chapman (6-4, 255, So.)
LEFT GUARD	TACKLE
66 Cam Holland (6-2, 305, Sr.)	58 Anthony Perkins (6-5, 270, Jr.)
71 Jupiter Wilson (6-2, 300, Fr. *)	47 Eric Davis (6-3, 260, So.)
CENTER	END
60 Adam Metts (6-1, 270, Jr.)	68 Ross McAllister (6-5, 255, Sr.)
67 Marcus Wilson (6-2, 270, Fr. *)	95 Joey Evans (6-5, 265, Jr.)
RIGHT GUARD	LINEBACKER
78 Isaac Morford (6-3, 300, So.)	52 Sedrick Hodge (6-4, 235, Sr.)
63 Don Peters (6-2, 305, So.)	41 Quincy Monk (6-4, 240, Jr.)
RIGHT TACKLE	LINEBACKER
73 James Wagstaff (6-3, 345, Sr.)	44 Brandon Spoon (6-2, 245, Sr.)
74 Bryant Malloy (6-3, 310, So.)	55 Robert Harris (6-1, 225, So.)
TIGHT END	LINEBACKER
82 Alge Crumpler (6-3, 260, Sr.)	54 Merceda Perry (6-4, 245, Sr.)
83 Dauntae' Finger (6-4, 265, Sr.)	30 David Thornton (6-2, 210, Sr.)
QUARTERBACK	CORNERBACK
1 Ronald Curry (6-2, 200, Jr.)	18 Michael Waddell (5-11, 170, So.)
14 Antwon Black (5-11, 190, Sr.) OR	11 Anthony Anderson (5-9, 180, Jr.)
9 Luke Huard (6-4, 220, So.)	SAFETY
TAILBACK	42 David Bomar (5-11, 190, Sr.)
15 Willie Parker (5-10, 200, Fr. *)	24 Dexter Reid (5-11, 180, Fr. *)
31 Brandon Russell (5-11, 185, Fr.)	SAFETY
FULLBACK	28 Billy-Dee Greenwood (6-2, 185, Jr.)
20 Anthony Saunders (6-1, 225, Jr.)	25 DeFonte Coleman (6-1, 215, So.)
32 Ronnie Robinson (6-1, 245, Sr.)	CORNERBACK
WIDE RECEIVER	29 Errol Hood (5-11, 195, Jr.)
12 Kory Bailey (6-1, 190, Jr.)	21 Kevin Knight (5-8, 175, So.)
8 Jamal Jones (6-0, 200, Fr. *)	PUNTER
PLACE-KICKER	38 Blake Ferguson (6-0, 170, Fr.)
92 Jeff Reed (6-0, 200, Sr.)	21 John Lafferty (5-10, 180, So.)
95 Chris Bender (6-0, 180, Sr.)	* denotes redshirt



DTH/JEFF POULAND

Freshman running back Willie Parker was listed as the first-team tailback on the UNC depth chart, which was released Thursday. Parker rushed for 35 yards on five attempts in North Carolina's scrimmage Wednesday.

Thorogood Ahead of Juniors

By Bret Strelow
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior tailback Donte' Thorogood can't begin to describe how good he felt after blocking a punt against Wake Forest in 1998.

Jomo Legins picked up the ball and returned it six yards for a touchdown to give North Carolina a first-quarter lead.

Thorogood also can't recollect another time that he has touched the ball in a game for the Tar Heels.

"Never," said Thorogood, a fifth-year senior. "I've wanted to."

UNC coach Carl Torbush might grant Thorogood's wish this season. Thorogood is one of three players listed as the No. 2 tailback behind starter Willie Parker on the team's latest depth chart, which was released Thursday.

That's bad news for juniors Rufus Brown and Domonique Williams, who were also competing at tailback. Williams was listed with Ronnie Robinson as a back-up at fullback, while Brown was left off the depth chart entirely.

Torbush said after practice Thursday that Russell will back-up Parker, and

Andre' Williams will be the third tailback. He said Thorogood could also slide into the third spot.

"Every year you say he can't do this and he can't do that, and he's always hanging around and helping on special teams throughout his career," Torbush said.

Thorogood rushed for six yards on three carries during a scrimmage on Wednesday. Parker rushed five times for 35 yards, while Russell and Andre' Williams combined for 42 yards on nine carries.

Brown and Domonique Williams didn't have a rushing attempt.

Torbush said his two juniors have been improving. He also said Brown is healthy for the first time in 2 1/2 years.

"These other three we haven't seen play in a game," Torbush said. "So if



Senior walk-on Donte' Thorogood was one of three players listed as the second-team tailback behind Willie Parker.

they come out here the first game and can't handle the pressure of being out there in front of all these people, then we know we've got some proven guys."

Thorogood joined the team as a walk-on at running back in 1996. His status hasn't changed. Thorogood said he struggles to pay for meals and books and can't work because of the demands of practice.

Thorogood, who is 5-foot-7, doesn't mind playing the role of dark horse.

"I know the odds are against me, being a walk-on, being a small guy," Thorogood said. "I also don't have any pressure on me."

Thorogood still works with the second-team punt-block unit. But that could change if he maintains his role as one of UNC's rushing options.

Thorogood would love to get a chance to show off his running skills during a game.

"It would be a dream come true," Thorogood said. "I know the first day I would be nervous, but after that I would be all right."

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Aerobics, New Diet Help Wagstaff Trim His Figure

By Will Kimmey
SportSaturday Editor

Rarely can the words slim and 345 pounds be used in the same sentence.

But North Carolina football coach Carl Torbush boldly went where few others have dared when describing James Wagstaff, his starting right tackle.

"We're talking about a slim 345-pound guy who is not fat," Torbush said. "Have you all seen Wagstaff? He is just a big human being, just a big guy."

The 6-foot-3 senior, who has "Big Wags" tattooed on his left biceps, tipped the scales at more than 360 pounds last season. He started all 11 regular-season games at left tackle in 1998 but lost his job to converted tight end Allen Mogridge in '99.

The knock on the big guy was that he needed to be more aggressive.

"What he has been at times is too nice on the field," Torbush said. "He's a great young man - you would like to take him home every day. When you get on the football field, you need to have a little bit of nastiness, and he has not done that probably as much as he would probably need to."

"I think he's prepared to do that this year. I've seen a tremendous amount of maturity and improvement in him both in the spring and in the fall."

A big reason for Wagstaff's improvement on the field has been his conditioning work off it. George "Bulldog" Smith, the team's strength coach, has been behind him every step of the way.

"He sent me over to a nutritionist from Student Health," Wagstaff said. "I met with her, we went to the grocery store over the summer, and she showed me how to shop and eat right."

2 percent milk in his refrigerator with skim milk.

Wagstaff said he doesn't mind his new diet, but he still has cravings at times.

"I miss eating hamburgers," Wagstaff said.

Wagstaff also slimmed down by participating in "fat man aerobics" starting last winter.

Smith set up this work as well. He got the offensive and defensive linemen, as well as tight ends, to head to the Student Recreation Center at 6 a.m. three times a week to meet with an aerobics instructor.

It paid off, especially for Big Wags. "I'm feeling good, I'm moving quicker," Wagstaff said. "I'll be able to stay in longer, my stamina is pretty good. Overall, it will help my game out a lot."

His teammates are taking notice, too. "He is unbelievable," senior linebacker Brandon Spoon said. "He has done a complete 180. His ability, he's more agile. He's dominating people in practice. It's exactly what everybody thought he could have been when he first got here."

Wagstaff said he's come a long way since he first stepped on campus in 1996 as a little more than a big body. Now, he's finally filling out - or slimming down - the tackle position the way the Tar Heel coaches hoped he would when they recruited him. And he just might be working his way to the next level.

"He's the perfect size for an NFL offensive tackle," Torbush said. "So if he plays like we think he can, he'll have a shot."

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Tough Schedule Awaits Talented Tar Heels

North Carolina field hockey kicks off its new season against Duke at 1 p.m. Saturday at Henry Stadium.

By Rachel Carter
Assistant Sports Editor

Kristen McCann and Jana Toepel haven't always been best buddies.

Growing up in neighboring Pennsylvania towns, the two North Carolina seniors first met up on a field hockey field in the 10th grade.

Love at first sight, it wasn't. Both recall the dislike they had for each other during their high school careers and laugh about how things have changed.

"We were rivals," McCann said. "We came in (freshman year), and we weren't expecting to be friends at all."

But as their college years have passed, old grudges gave way to friendship and a common goal.

That goal is to return to the glory of their redshirt freshman season, when the two were integral parts of the 1997 NCAA champion Tar Heels.

McCann scored two goals in UNC's victory against Virginia while Toepel started every game in the backfield that season.

Now, they'd like another taste of NCAA glory.

Together with an older, more experienced squad, the two face tough challenges and a brutal schedule that includes defending national champion Maryland in their journey back to the NCAA finals.

"I like to play tough games, and I know the girls do, too," UNC coach

Karen Shelton said. "This is a really challenging schedule. I won't say that I did it intentionally, but it's sometimes difficult to get quality opponents, so I try to get as many as I can."

First challenge on the list is ACC opponent Duke, which will be trying very hard Saturday at 1 p.m. to be the first team to hand the Tar Heels an "L."

But history's not with Duke. The Blue Devils haven't won against the Tar Heels in UNC back Alison Stewart's entire lifetime.

Stewart was born on Jan. 26, 1982. The last Duke victory was months before on Oct. 13, 1981. Last season the Tar Heels (16-6, 2-2 ACC) didn't even give up a goal to Duke.

So barring the end of nearly 20 years of dominance, UNC's other challengers will find a team with one win under its belt.

The Tar Heels' second game of the season is against Michigan, one of five teams picked by ESPN.com to watch for. UNC is also one of those teams.

In fact, the only member of ESPN.com's "Teams to Watch For" list UNC won't play in the regular season is Connecticut.

Despite the difficult schedule, UNC still expects to be playing in the NCAA tournament.

"We expect everything," McCann said. "We expect to win every game."

To win every game, the Tar Heels will have to increase their offensive output. Last year UNC had only 57 goals, and the team's leading scorer was a back.

Shelton said it won't happen again. "If you look at our statistics last year, (forward) Abbey Woolley only had four goals," Shelton said. "She's going to have more goals this season, I'll guarantee you. She may even score four goals

Field Hockey 2000



North Carolina field hockey coach Karen Shelton

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 26	Duke	1 p.m.
Sept. 3	Michigan (in St. Louis)	Noon
Sept. 4	Penn State (in St. Louis)	10 a.m.
Sept. 9	Iowa (in Philadelphia)	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	Temple/Towson (in Philadelphia)	TBA
Sept. 16	Old Dominion	1 p.m.
Sept. 17	Virginia	1 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Richmond	1 p.m.
Sept. 24	at James Madison	1 p.m.
Sept. 30	Wake Forest	TBA
Oct. 1	at Duke	3 p.m.
Oct. 7	Princeton (in Norfolk)	11:30 a.m.
Oct. 8	Radford	1 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Wake Forest	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Michigan	2 p.m.
Oct. 15	at Virginia	1 p.m.
Oct. 22	at Maryland	1 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Old Dominion	1 p.m.
Oct. 29	William & Mary (in Norfolk)	Noon
Nov. 2-5	ACC Tournament (at Maryland)	TBA

in one game.

"I'm optimistic that the offensive players that have all returned for us are significantly better and more powerful scorers than they were last year."

Only one of Shelton's regular starters from last year has returned.

McCann and Woolley will both play the majority of the games, with the final forward spot shifting between Katie McDonald and Kate Sidebottom.

Although the forwards are all the same players as last year, the other two lines have a significant change.

Last year, Shelton discarded the idea of moving Toepel from right back to sweeper.

But this season, Martin will be starting in Toepel's familiar spot while Toepel finds her way in the midfield.

Toepel said she is concerned about the change simply because she feels that she is not as good in the midfield.

McCann, who has had her share of on-

the-field run-ins with the defender Toepel, said her friend is worrying about nothing.

"She feels that she's not as competent in the midfield, but Jana's great," McCann said. "She can play wherever. I think it's going to help our team attacking-wise."

Martin spent four games last season at sweeper while Toepel was in Australia playing for the U.S. National Team. Martin said she is comfortable with the change.

The Tar Heels are committed to the change and will have to hit the ground running to make sure it works before they face their toughest competitors.

"There are no peaks and valleys in the entire schedule," Shelton said. "So what we can do is focus on our development and not worry about who we're playing but worry about us improving as a team."

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