



DTH/CARA BRICKMAN

Wide receiver and kick returner Kory Bailey caught 63 passes for 781 yards and six touchdowns in his first two seasons at North Carolina.

# Wideouts Seek Redemption

**The return of Bosley Allen and the emergence of Jamal Jones signal a brighter year for UNC's wide receivers.**

By IAN GORDON  
Staff Writer

The mishaps were all too familiar to North Carolina football fans last season.

A miscommunication between the quarterback and wide receiver. A poorly run route. A dropped pass.

All of these contributed to a stagnant UNC air attack — one that this year's receiving corps hopes to revive.

With the return of wideout Bosley Allen and quarterback Ronald Curry, along with the addition of Mike O'Cain as offensive coordinator, the Tar Heels should be less predictable.

The receivers have been pleased with the progress of the offense and the changes to the playbook.

"I think the offense is a lot simpler to understand, a lot easier to execute, and

there's more potential for big plays," said junior Kory Bailey, who led the squad in receptions and yardage in 1999.

Bailey will be called upon to do much of the possession receiving for the Tar Heels this season. O'Cain will look to use the speed of Sam Aiken, Bosley Allen and Jamal Jones in order to spread out opposing defenses.

Allen, a sophomore who took a medical redshirt last season after dislocating and tearing ligaments in his left knee against N.C. State in 1998, will look to showcase the quickness he displayed in limited action.

"I've been tested and timed with everything I did my freshman year, and all of my times have come back better than they were," Allen said. "I didn't really test when I came in the 40, but when I came back I just ran a 4.3 in the spring."

"I've been thinking about big plays ever since I've been injured," he said. "I plan on making a lot with (Curry) throwing the ball."

Jones, on the other hand, has been the story of preseason camp. In UNC's

second intrasquad scrimmage this season, the freshman from Washington, D.C., hauled in a 41-yard touchdown pass from Curry.

At DeMatha (Md.) Catholic High School, Jones caught 50 passes for 1,780 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior. He was named first-team all-state that year.

Jones has already caught the attention of perhaps the most important Tar Heel. The one who gets him the ball.

"Jamal Jones has stuck out the most to me this year in terms of playing and showing what he's capable of doing — his speed and the ability to make people miss," Curry said.

But all of Curry's targets will need to improve so the UNC offense doesn't have a repeat of last year's horrendous statistics: Last in the ACC in scoring offense. Last in passing offense. Last in total offense.

Curry thinks they will. He doesn't see those numbers carrying over to the 2000 season.

"I think the receiving corps is going to shock a lot of people this year," Curry said. "They want to make plays."

# Tight Ends Ready for Larger Role

By WILL KIMMEY  
Sportsaturday Editor

North Carolina enters the 2000 season with question marks at several positions. But one place Coach Carl Torbush doesn't have to worry about is tight end.

Seniors Alge Crumpler and Dauntae Finger form one of the nation's best tandems at the position.

"It's pretty much a common thought at this point that they are two of the better tight ends this season," said Terry Lewis, UNC's tight ends coach. "They both have size, they both can catch, and they both are outstanding blockers."

"They both have all the attributes to be real good football players, not just for us, but beyond college in the NFL."

The Sporting News named Crumpler a preseason first-team All-American after he earned first-team honors in the ACC by catching 24 balls for 278 yards last year. Both figures ranked third on the team.

The 6-foot-3, 260-pound Crumpler missed all of 1998 because of a knee injury he sustained in practice that spring. Torbush said he didn't think Crumpler ever fully recovered from his injury last year, and he is excited at what the tight end might be able to do this season at 100 percent.

"I know I have great speed and hands," Crumpler said. "I want to be the primary go-to guy."

Finger got his first taste of game action in '98 while Crumpler was side-



DTH/JEFF POULAND

The Sporting News named senior Alge Crumpler a preseason All-American. Crumpler hasn't caught a touchdown since the fifth game of 1997.

lined, and he has continued to improve since. At 6-3, 265 pounds, he provides the team with another big target at tight end and a fully capable backup at the position. Lewis said Finger would start on any other team in the ACC.

While Crumpler forms the aggressive half of the duo, Finger makes use of the agility that helped him grab conference basketball player of the year honors as a junior in high school.

"I'm more physical, and I like to block," Crumpler said. "Dauntae" is more of a finesse guy. He likes to use a lot of basketball moves."

Despite their differences and the fact that they are fighting for playing time at the same position, Crumpler and Finger are close friends. They live in the same apartment complex in Durham and hang out together. This summer the duo started writing a journal for the Web site

Tarheelblue.com that will run throughout the season.

They also coach each other quite a bit. "Crump's always got something to teach you," Finger said. "If you mess up, he's coming back to help you out and tell you what you did wrong."

"If he does something wrong, he comes to me and we discuss things."

Opposing defenses will probably spend a lot of time discussing the tandem. The tight ends figure to play key role in offensive coordinator Mike O'Cain's offense, which should draw linebackers close to the line of scrimmage and allow for play-action passes over the middle.

That could mean a lot of passes spiraling toward Crumpler and Finger.

Said Crumpler, "We want to be the ones that set the standard for everyone in the nation."

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