

Tar Heels Face Difficult Task on Road Against FSU

Second-ranked Florida State has outscored its opponents 27-0 in the first quarter of its two victories this season.

Game and time: North Carolina at No. 2 Florida State. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m.

Site: Doak Campbell Stadium.
TV/radio: ABC will televise the game regionally. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM.

Records: North Carolina is 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the ACC. Florida State is 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the ACC.

Series: Florida State leads 10-0-1.
Personnel update: North Carolina - LB Merceda Perry (fractured ankle) is out for the season. DE Will Chapman (shoulder sprain) and CB Michael Maddell (tendinitis) are probable. Florida State - CB Malcolm Tatum (back) is out. WR Anquan Boldin (ankle), FB William McCray (ankle) and DE Jamal Reynolds (hand) are probable.

The Key Matchup: The Tar Heels need to find the end zone in this contest. UNC should be able to move the ball against the Seminoles, but drives ending in field-goal attempts by Jeff Reed aren't going to allow UNC to stay within striking distance.

UNC's offensive line has a large task ahead of it. It must give quarterback Ronald Curry enough time to throw the ball, even if that means holding off FSU's quick linemen just long enough so Curry doesn't have to start scrambling immediately.

"We need to stay on our blocks longer and watch his back," said left tackle Cam Holland, who protects Curry's blind side.

"They come off the ball real fast. They come hard, and they send a lot of people."

The Tar Heels have deep threats such as Bosley Allen, Jamal Jones and Sam Aiken who could stretch the Seminoles defense and haul in some long touchdown passes.

All three have touchdown receptions of more than 45 yards this season, and Allen scored on a 78-yard punt return against Wake Forest.

"We have good athletes this year, and we have a lot of depth this year," Allen

The Lowdown on Saturday's Game

North Carolina Tar Heels at Florida State Seminoles

(2-0, 1-0 in the ACC) Doak Campbell Stadium, 3:30 p.m. (2-0, 1-0 in the ACC)

Head to Head

UNC's Rush vs. Florida State's Front Seven

UNC struggled to muster a running game against Tulsa and Wake Forest. Andre Williams should get some carries early, but the Seminole defense is considerably tougher. **Edge: FSU.**

UNC's Pass vs. Florida State's Secondary

The Tar Heels have three legitimate deep threats in Bosley Allen, Sam Aiken and Jamal Jones. FSU's defensive backs are just as quick. Pass protection will be key. **Edge: FSU.**

Florida State's Rush vs. UNC's Front Seven

FSU junior Travis Minor has averaged 83.3 yards a game against UNC, but the Seminoles are averaging just 1.9 yards a carry this year. UNC's rush defense is No. 1 in the nation. **Edge: UNC.**

Florida State's Pass vs. UNC's Secondary

Florida State senior quarterback Chris Weinke is averaging 380.5 yards passing a game and has thrown four TDs without an interception this year. UNC had 10 sacks last week. **Edge: FSU.**

Special Teams

UNC's Jeff Reed is 4-for-5 on field goals, and Allen had 153 yards on punt returns last week. FSU's kickers have struggled. Nick Maddox gets 21.5 yards per kick return. **Edge: UNC.**

The Bottom Line — Florida State 31, UNC 13

COMPILED BY BRET STRELOW

said. "I think it will be pretty interesting on the outside between us and the cornerbacks at Florida State."

The speed of UNC's wideouts could, in turn, allow Curry to look short to tight ends Alge Crumpler and Dauntae Finger, as well as receiver Kory Bailey, who runs a lot of quick out patterns.

Crumpler and Finger have combined for one catch this season, and a versatile passing attack could keep the Seminoles on their heels. It could even open up the running game, which has struggled in the first two weeks.

The Tar Heels are still looking for one of their three freshman tailbacks to establish himself. Brandon Russell and Willie Parker have shared time, but Andre Williams should see more snaps early in

the game after his five rush, 40-yard performance against Wake Forest last week.

"What he's got to do is convince our coaches and myself that he's going to be able to get it done," UNC coach Carl Torbush said.

"The thing that set Andre back was that he was hurt two or three days heading into the first game. That set him back and in my opinion let Brandon Russell and Willie Parker get ahead."

Final analysis/prediction: The Tar Heels endured what Torbush called "a seven-minute nightmare" against Florida State at home last season. The Seminoles scored 28 points in the first 6:57 to put the game away early. North Carolina helped out the Seminoles' cause by turning the ball over on its first

two possessions.

The Tar Heel offense has lost three of its four fumbles this season, but Curry hasn't thrown an interception. UNC needs to hold on to the ball to stay in the game early against the Seminoles, who have outscored opponents 27-0 in the first quarter.

"I'd rather get the game over early and talk to (ABC sideline reporter) Jack Arute on the sidelines than not talk to

him," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said.

FSU has struggled in the running game, and Peter Warrick's departure to the NFL means opposing defensive coordinators aren't scared out of their wits before the offense even takes the field.

But senior quarterback Chris Weinke has been on fire even without the services of Warrick. He completed 25-of-38 passes against Georgia Tech last week

and finished with 443 yards passing.

Weinke will slowly wear the UNC defense down with mid-range passes, and the North Carolina offense will come up a few big plays short of an upset.

The Seminoles should pull away from the Tar Heels in the second half and win by a comfortable margin.

Florida State 31, UNC 13.

Compiled by Bret Strelow



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