

Delay of Game

# Open It Up

*With the UNC defense allowing more than 30 points per game, the offense needs to score more to keep up the pace.*

By Will KIMMEY  
SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR



There's no secret why North Carolina has lost three of its last four games: UNC hasn't been able to stop anybody defensively.

Those four opponents lit up the scoreboard, averaging 39.5 points, and the Tar Heels are yielding 30.2 points per game overall.

It's unlikely that the defense will experience a dramatic change and start putting the clamps on opponents.

And it's tough to win if you can't stop anybody.

Yet it can be done. It happens every Sunday. And the people of St. Louis love it.

The Rams are easily the NFL's best team, but it's not like they're shutting

people out every week. The Rams' defense is downright offensive, giving up 29.0 points per game.

Just three NFL teams allow more points per game than the Rams, and the combined record of the 49ers, Falcons and Chargers is 2-17.

The only reason these teams rank worse than the Rams in terms of points allowed is because they've all faced the Ram offense.

That creative, pass-all-day-long-and-into-the-night offense makes up for the defensive deficiency by scoring a mind-blowing for 43.7 points per game.

It's time for Rams football at UNC.

Obviously, North Carolina doesn't have Kurt Warner, Issac Bruce and

Marshall Faulk to bring in off the bench.

But it does have an exceptionally athletic quarterback with a strong arm in Ronald Curry and a stable of speedy wideouts.

It's time to open things up in a big way. Shotgun formation every down. Four wide. One back. Throw, throw, throw. And after that, throw some more.

Curry can still take his usual scrambles, gaining about 10 yards a pop because the defense will need more defensive backs to cover all the receivers. That would also open up the middle for draw plays by Curry and the tailback, who would otherwise block and catch swing passes.

Detractors say gimmick offenses like this never work. Tell that to the guy on the other sideline today.

Tommy Bowden employed a pass-happy offense for two seasons at Tulane. The Green Wave averaged 39.7 points per game during the two seasons he coached. But the proof lies in the wins and losses. Tulane went 4-18 in the two seasons before Bowden, 18-4 in two years with him.

Bowden's done the same thing for Clemson, resurrecting a team that went 3-8, scoring 19.8 points a game in 1998, the year before he arrived.

The '99 Tigers averaged 26.8 points and improved to 6-6. This season, Bowden's offense is posting 43.9

per game and is 7-0.

Clemson QB Woodrow Dantzler and Curry are very similar players. The UNC wideouts are at least equal to the Tiger receivers.

Even if it doesn't work, at least it would be fun to watch.

But what if it worked?

North Carolina, an offensive juggernaut. It could happen. And it would be beautiful. The Tar Heels as the college version of the Rams.

UNC's already off to a good start. It has the right mascot roaming the sideline on a leash.

Will Kimmey can be reached at [wk@unc.edu](mailto:wk@unc.edu).

## SportSaturday Quotables

"It didn't work, so obviously it's not a good call. If it had worked, I would have been one of the smartest coaches in the world."

- UNC coach **Carl Torbush** on the botched fake punt in last week's loss to N.C. State.

"If we don't pick up the blitz, it's going to hurt us. But if we pick up the blitz, then I think it's going to hurt them. They're going to blitz and do well at blitzing at times, and they're going to get caught in the blitz. Hopefully we can make them pay for blitzing."

- UNC quarterback **Ronald Curry** sees how many times he can say "blitz" in one answer.

"I think the problem is today so many high-flying dunkers. The highlights they should be showing are basketball plays, and they're not because they're not as pretty as a windmill dunk. I enjoy watching the guy who set the back screen for the windmill dunk. Point him out."

- Toronto Raptors point guard **Mark Jackson**, who apparently can't throw down a windmill dunk.

"It actually came down between here and Clemson. But I thought they were a little bit too close to home, and I hate orange."

- UNC defensive tackle **Ryan Sims**, one of the only athletes to avoid a college partially because of an aversion to a secondary color.

### AP Top 25

Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Nebraska (66)	6-0	1,770	1
2. Virginia Tech (1)	6-0	1,656	3
3. Oklahoma (4)	6-0	1,603	8
4. Miami (Fla.)	4-1	1,546	4
5. Clemson	7-0	1,523	5
6. Florida St.	6-1	1,439	7
7. Oregon	5-1	1,290	9
8. Florida	6-1	1,242	10
9. Washington	5-1	1,147	11
10. Kansas St.	6-1	1,118	2
11. TCU	5-0	1,042	12
12. Georgia	5-1	898	14
13. Mississippi St.	4-1	865	15
14. Ohio St.	5-1	854	6
15. Southern Miss	5-1	845	16
16. Michigan	5-2	737	18
17. Purdue	5-2	586	21
18. South Carolina	6-1	517	24
19. Oregon St.	5-1	493	23
20. Notre Dame	4-2	458	20
21. Arizona	5-1	378	22
22. Minnesota	5-2	227	NR
23. UCLA	4-2	210	13
24. N.C. State	5-1	183	NR
25. Northwestern	5-2	146	17

Others receiving votes: Texas 134, Auburn 74, Colorado St. 25, Iowa St. 19, Western Michigan 16, Arizona St. 10, Tennessee 9, Alabama 5, Toledo 4, Air Force 2, Pittsburgh 2, Louisville 1, Wisconsin 1

### DTH Top 25

Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Virginia Tech (24)	6-0	1,440	2
2. Nebraska (12)	6-0	1,416	1
3. Oklahoma (18)	6-0	1,404	8
4. Clemson (6)	7-0	1,326	7
5. Miami	4-1	1,278	3
6. Florida St.	6-1	1,224	5
7. Oregon	5-1	1,098	9
8. Florida	6-1	1,032	13
9. Washington	5-1	934	10
10. Mississippi St.	4-1	834	14
11. TCU	5-0	810	11
12. Kansas St.	6-1	792	4
13. Southern Miss	5-1	738	15
14. Ohio St.	5-1	666	6
15. Michigan	5-2	594	17
15. Georgia	5-1	594	16
17. Purdue	5-2	564	21
18. South Carolina	6-1	432	22
19. Oregon St.	5-1	372	19
20. Arizona	5-1	366	NR
21. N.C. State	5-1	318	23
22. Notre Dame	4-2	312	20
23. Minnesota	5-2	306	NR
24. Northwestern	5-2	156	16
25. UCLA	4-2	102	12

Others receiving votes: **Contra Jackson** 94, Auburn 54, Texas 36, Alabama 12, Tennessee 12, Meat Watch 10, Garth Joseph 9, Western Michigan 8, **Riding the White Horse** 5, Leigh Ann Merryman 3, Penn St. 2, Idaho 1

## DTH Picks of the Week

The DTH SportSaturday staff and one celebrity pick the winners of the biggest college football games each week. This week, Toronto Raptors point guard **Mark Jackson** takes time out from throwing alley-oops to Vince Carter to assist us as the guest picker. One problem: none of us got any 'ups.'

Picks of the Week is a football thing. We're gridiron experts, not exactly wise in the ways of the hardwood.

So Coach says we have to shoot free throws after practice till we arf.

James "Player/Coach" Giza and T. "Pick 'n' Roll" Nolan Hayes got that jump shot down last week, checking in at 9-3.

Will "Box Out" Kimmey and Matt "Ball Movement" Terry couldn't do better than some dude from the Czech Republic.

At 8-4, Hurricanes center Josef "Short Shorts" Vasicek showed some North American savvy, keeping the guest pickers (unfortunately) a lay-up away from the overall lead.

Mike "Bounce Pass" Ogle ran suicides by himself last week at 7-5.

Rachel "Taking the Charge" Carter and Bret "Triple-Threat Position" Strelow are building houses with their respective bricks, tossing up ugly-looking 6-6's.

Mark Jackson looks at us and laughs.

	T. Nolan	Will	Rachel	Mike	Bret	James	Matt	Mark
	Hayes	Kimmey	Carter	Ogle	Strelow	Giza	Terry	Jackson
<b>Last Week</b>	9-3	8-4	6-6	7-5	6-6	9-3	8-4	8-4
<b>Record</b>	(59-25).702	(53-31).631	(57-27).679	(61-23).726	(47-37).560	(58-26).690	(49-35).583	(58-26).690
<b>Clemson at UNC</b>	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	UNC	Clemson	Clemson	UNC
Duke at Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Duke	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech
UVa. at Florida St.	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	Virginia	FSU	FSU	FSU
Wake at Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Wake	Maryland	Maryland	Maryland
Va. Tech at Syracuse	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Syracuse	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech
Notre Dame at W. Va.	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	W. Va.	W. Va.	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
Purdue at Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Purdue	Wisconsin	Purdue	Purdue	Wisconsin	Purdue
Boston Coll. at Pitt.	Pittsburgh	BC	Pittsburgh	BC	BC	Pittsburgh	BC	BC
Mich. St at Mich.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Mich. St.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Alabama at Tenn.	Tennessee	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama	Tennessee	Tennessee	Alabama
Arizona at Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Arizona	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon
Oregon St. at UCLA	UCLA	Oregon St.	Oregon St.	UCLA	Oregon St.	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA