## The Daily Tar Heel

## Tar Heels Look to Stop Virginia's Running Attack

The North Carolina football squad has not won a game at Scott Stadium since 1981, a span of nine contests.

Game and time: North Carolina at Virginia. Kickoff is at noon. Site: Scott Stadium.

TV/radio: The game will be tele-vised by Jefferson Pilot Sports. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM. Records: UNC is 3-4, 1-4 in the

ACC. Virginia is 4-3, 3-2.

Series: UNC leads 55-45-4. Personnel: UNC – RB Rufus Brown (shoulder), P John Lafferty (mononucle-osis) and LB Merceda Perry (broken right ankle) are out. CB Anthony Anderson (shoulder) and WR Chesley Borders (hamstring) are questionable LB Robert Harris

contusion) CB Errol Hood (right thigh) and LB Brandon Brandon Spoon (strained quad) are proba-ble. Virginia - OT

Brad Barnes (back) is out. key The matchup: George Welsh-coached have always relied on running the ball

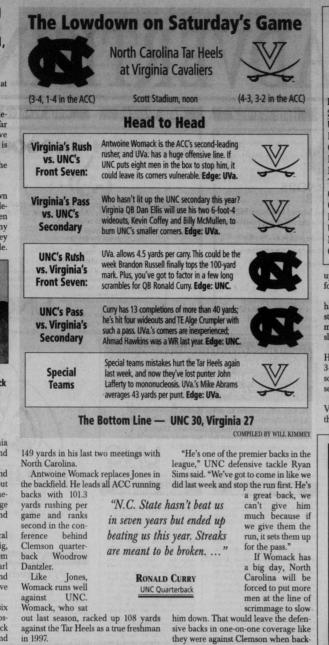
Virginia tailback Antwoine Womack gains 101.3 yards rushing per game to lead all ACC running backs.

behind a strong offensive line. Seven former Virginia linemen currently play in the NFL, and 21 have since 1980.

This year's group is no exception and might even be better. Even without Barnes starting at right tackle, the behemoths heading the Cavalier charge average 302 pounds a man and stand nearly 6-foot-6.

Their offensive line is a typical Virginia line in the fact that they're big, strong and athletic, and several of them will be in pro ball," UNC coach Carl Torbush said. "I've never been around a Virginia football team that didn't have a good offensive line."

That kind of muscle has put six Virginia tailbacks on current NFL rosters, including 2000 first-round pick Thomas Jones, who rushed for 180 and



**DTH Picks of the Week** The DTH and GoHeels.com's Evan Markfield pick the winners of this weekend's best college football games. We'll see if Evan, a former DTH assistant sports editor and picker, remembers how he did it in the good ol' days. Will Rachel Carter Mike Ogle T. Nolan Bret Strelov Evan Markfield James Giza Hayes Kimmey Terry 9-3 10-2 Last Week 12-0 8-4 2-10 11-1 8-4 9-3 2000 Record (69-27).719 (62-34).646 (69-27).719 (49-47).510 (69-27).719 (58-38 (69-27).719 .604 (66-30).688 UNC at Virginia Virginia UNC UNC UNC UNC UNC UNC UNC FSU at NCSU FSU **FSU** FSU FSU N.C. State FSU FSU **FSU** Clems Ga. Tech at Clemson Clemson Clemson Clemson Ga. Tech Ga. Tech Clemson Clemson Maryland at Duke Maryland Oklahoma Maryland Maryland Maryland Maryland Duke Maryland Duke Nebraska at Oklahoma Nebraska Oklahoma Oklahoma Oklahoma Nebraska Nebraska Oklahoma Tenn. at S. Carolina S. Carolina Tennessee S. Carolina S. Carolina S. Carolina Tennessee Tennessee S. Carolina Georgia at Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Georgia Florida Florida Ohio State Purdue Ohio State at Purdue Ohio State Purdue Purdue Purdue Purdue Purdue Kan. St. at Tex. A&M Kan. St. Kan. St Kan. St Kan. St. Tex. A&M Kan. St. Kan. St. Kan. St. UCLA at Arizona UCLA Arizona Arizona Arizona UCLA UCLA Arizona Arizona N'Western at Minn. Minn. Minn. Minn. **N'Western** N'Western Minn. Minn. N'Western Oregon Oregon at Ariz. St. Oregon Oregon Oregon Arizona St. Oregon Oregon Oregon up quarterback Willie Simmons threw four touchdowns in three quarters. schedule. The Cavaliers have beaten up on ACC also-rans Duke, Wake Forest

Virginia quarterback Dan Ellis, who hasn't played since he pulled a ham-string Oct. 7 against Maryland, is not as mobile as Simmons. The injury should slow him down even more.

A strong pass rush from the Tar Heels, who lead the ACC in sacks with 34 (almost five per game), should take some pressure off a secondary that ranks

some pressure on a secondary that rains seventh in the league against the pass. **Final analysis/prediction:** While Virginia has one more win than UNC, that's largely because of the Cavaliers'

and Maryland, as well as Division I-AA Richmond

North Carolina has collected all of its victories against similarly weak oppo-nents but has been competitive in loss-es to No. 21 N.C. State and fifth-ranked Clemson.

"Each week with at least nine minutes to go, we have a chance to make a play

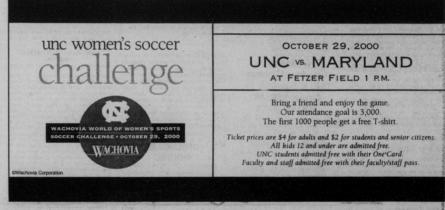
and don't make a chance to make a play and don't make it," Torbush said. "Because of that we get beat." Expect that to change this week. North Carolina has learned from those

close losses, and Virginia isn't as good as

Ronald Curry should have a big game through the air against a sec-ondary that boasts just one player with more than two years of college experi-ence. He'll lead the Tar Heels to their first win in Charlottesville since 1981. "N.C. State hasn't beat us in seven

years but ended up beating us this year," Curry said. "Streaks are meant to be broken, and hopefully Saturday it'll be broken.

UNC 30, Virginia 27. - Compiled by Will Kimmey



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