

Durant to Start Thursday Night

QB Darian Durant will get his first start Thursday night because of a hamstring injury to Ronald Curry.

By Mike Ogle
Senior Writer

And so, the great two-quarterback experiment ends — at least for one week.

North Carolina coach John Bunting said Tuesday at his weekly press conference that redshirt-freshman Darian Durant will start Thursday night's nationally televised game at No. 23 Georgia Tech. Ronald Curry is still ailing from a hamstring injury he suffered Oct. 20 at Clemson.

"It's hard to say (Durant) hasn't had a lot of experience," Bunting said. "He's played in every single ballgame. He's earned a significant role in the last five wins. He has a lot of confidence. He's had a good week of practice so far. I feel very good about Darian Durant starting for us and playing the whole game."

A shot at the ACC Championship will be on the line at Bobby Dodd Stadium for No. 22 UNC (5-3 overall, 4-1 in the ACC), Maryland and Florida State each have a conference loss, as well. Both schools have Clemson and N.C. State remaining on the schedule, and FSU also has to play the Yellow Jackets (5-2, 2-2).

"I feel like I'm prepared," said Durant, who has completed 78-of-124 passes for 949 yards, nine touchdowns and seven interceptions. "Coach gave me an opportunity to play early in the last five games, and I feel like I'm ready to step it up."

Durant and Curry began rotating every two series in the Florida State upset that kickstarted UNC's five-game winning streak. But Curry has started all eight games.

Curry, the Tar Heels' all-time leader in total yards, needs 30 passing yards to become UNC's career leader in that



Redshirt freshman Darian Durant (11) runs from Clemson's defense in North Carolina's 38-3 victory Oct. 20. Durant has completed 78 of 124 passes for 949 yards.

DTH/JOSHUA GREER

category. Durant needs 27 yards to break Curry's freshman passing record.

Curry has not been taking his snaps in practice. Durant has gotten them, and Aaron Leak has been taking the backup spot while Curry has nursed his leg.

"I feel good," said Curry, who is 43 for 101 with 672 yards, four touchdowns and five interceptions in 2001. "Yeah, I could play (Thursday)."

"I think (Durant) might play better (because he's starting). He might have a more productive day because he won't be playing two series on, two series off. He can get in a groove and stay in a groove."

Bunting said Curry told him Monday he would be ready if needed. Bunting said he would rather be safe than sorry with three games and a possible bowl left.

"If Ronald's available, with so much

football left in this season, I probably will not play him unless there is a situation that we absolutely desperately need him in the game," Bunting said. "I would not want to risk it. But he is available, at least that is what he's told me. We'll wait and see."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Peppers Selected As Lombardi Semifinalist

The four finalists for the award, which is given to the nation's top linemen, will be announced early next month.

From Staff Reports

North Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers has been named one of 12 semifinalists for the 2001 Rotary Lombardi Award. The award is given annually to the nation's best lineman.

Peppers, also a candidate for the Bronko Nagurski Award (best defensive player) and the Heisman Trophy (best overall player), has 43 tackles this season, including 8.5 sacks and 17 tackles for losses. He leads the Tar Heels with three interceptions and has more interceptions this season than any other defensive lineman in the country. Peppers made a spectacular interception in the Tar Heels' 38-3 win at Clemson two weeks ago and is ranked eighth in the ACC in interceptions.

Peppers has 29.5 career sacks and 51 career tackles for losses. He is just three sacks shy of the UNC record of 32.5 sacks established by former first-round NFL draft pick Greg Ellis (1994-97). Peppers is six sacks shy of the ACC record of 35.5 set by Virginia's Chris Slade from 1989-92.

Peppers has more sacks in a two-year period than any other player in Carolina history. Peppers has 23.5 sacks in the last two seasons, including 15 in 2000 and 8.5 this year. Ellis combined for 21.5 sacks in 1996 and 1997, and Lawrence Taylor had a total of 21 sacks in 1979 and 1980.

The four finalists for the Lombardi Award will be announced the week of Nov. 11 after a second round of voting among nearly 300 members of the selection committee made up of sports-writers, broadcasters and Division I head coaches from around the country. The winner will be announced in Houston on Dec. 5.

Men's Soccer Slips in Polls

The North Carolina men's soccer team dropped two spots in this week's National Soccer Coaches Association of

America poll, falling from No. 6 to No. 8 after going 1-1 in two games last week.

Last week, UNC shut out Old Dominion 2-0 last Wednesday and lost a 4-2 decision at No. 21 Wake Forest last Saturday night.

Southern Methodist is ranked No. 1, as it has been all season. Virginia is No. 2, Stanford is No. 3, Indiana is No. 4 and Saint Louis is No. 5.



Defensive end Julius Peppers has 43 tackles this season including 8.5 sacks and 17 tackles for loss.

Ball Picks Up Honor

North Carolina sophomore forward Elizabeth Ball and Duke sophomore goalkeeper Thora Helgadóttir share this week's ACC Women's Soccer Player of the Week honor after leading their respective teams to conference victories last week.

Ball came off the bench against No. 13 Virginia and scored two goals and had two assists in the 6-1 Tar Heel victory. Ball has yet to start this season but is second on the team with eight goals and 21 points this season.

Girl Wins Courtside Seat for MJ's Return

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jessica De Rubbio's seat to watch Michael Jordan in his comeback game Tuesday night cost \$101,300, but she won't be getting a bill anytime soon.

The courtside seat at Madison Square Garden is one of two belonging to director Spike Lee. It was auctioned off to benefit the Widow's and Children's Fund set up by the New York Fire Department.

The fund selected 12-year-old Jessica, daughter of firefighter David De Rubbio, who was killed Sept. 11 in the

terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center. The 38-year-old De Rubbio was from Engine Co. 226 in Brooklyn.

The auction winner has insisted on remaining anonymous.

"I just thought about what I could do to have the most impact," said Lee, a rabid New York Knicks fan. "And then I had to clear it with my wife. It's her seat."

Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships, returned to the court against the Knicks after a 3-12-year retirement.

Jordan: Watch Out for Wizards

Michael Jordan offered some wisdom

Tuesday to all the Washington Wizards' doubters out there.

"You know, the unknown is dangerous," Jordan said before his comeback game against the New York Knicks. "No one knows. Everyone speculates, but no one knows — and I think that's a part of the challenge."

"This young team, although they've never won anything and have never really been put in a situation to win, may be a story in the making."

The Wizards, with Jordan as team president, won only 19 games last season, and many observers don't expect them to do much better this time

around, even with the former All-Star on the court.

Jordan, who keeps track of national NBA predictions, has taken note. To those who doubt him, he offered some of his most tantalizing quotes of the month.

"I have a strong sense of confidence about winning. Hopefully that fuels some of my teammates and the attitude of my team," Jordan said after the Wizards' shootaround at Madison Square Garden.

"That's the way I go about doing it. Anything can happen if you put forth the effort."

NCAA Committee Endorses Bowl Eligibility Standard

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An NCAA oversight panel endorsed a proposal to require football teams to win six games in an 11-game season or seven in a 12-game season to be eligible for postseason bowls.

The Football Study Oversight Committee's endorsement Monday puts

it at odds with the NCAA Division I Management Council, which last week approved a measure that would permit a team with just six wins in a 12-game season to go to a bowl.

The NCAA's Board of Directors is scheduled to consider that proposal later this week.

The Football Study Oversight

Committee includes eight college presidents, a representative from the Bowl Championship Series and other college and conference representatives.

The panel said it did not concur with the proposal approved by the Management Council.

The oversight panel also requested Monday that legislation be considered

to allow a Division I-A school to count a game against an I-AA opponent in a 12-game season for bowl-eligibility purposes.

The panel also recommended that the NCAA hold off from legislating a maximum number of bowl games and suggested that conferences use an "open market" concept to negotiate their bowl games.

The Burrito Bunker
Est. 1993
Coco & Burrito Foundry
932-9010
WWW.BURRITOBUNKER.COM

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals
Work/ Study Scholarship Year in Germany!!!
State Dept. Sponsored Program includes:
International Flights—German Language School—Professional School—Internship—Stipends
Application (deadline Dec. 1, 2001) and information at www.cdsintl.org/cbyxintro.html

Been a while since you've seen this face?
Participate in our life-saving & financially rewarding plasma donation program.
IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION!
Donors Earn up to **\$200 per Month!**
★ New donors earn \$25 for first visit, \$35 for the second visit within 7 days.
Call or stop by: **Sera-Tec Biologicals**
109 1/2 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill • 919-942-0251 • M-Th 8-6pm, F 8-4pm, Sat 8-12pm

Join us at our **TEACHER JOB FAIR**
FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Hiring for the 2002 - 2003 school year
November 10, 2001
Registration Oct. 22 - Nov. 6
The Job Fair is being held at **Oakton High School**
2900 Sutton Road
Vienna, Virginia
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
All candidates must pre-schedule an interview. Please call 703-750-8533 to register.
For information and directions, visit www.fcps.edu
EOE • We Value Diversity

Paramount Parks auditions
Paramount's Carowinds will host performer auditions and technical support interviews for Paramount Parks 2002 Entertainment Program in:
CHARLOTTE, NC
Saturday, November 3, 2001
Sunday, November 4, 2001
Paramount's Carowinds
The Paramount Theater
1pm Instrumentalists
2pm Singers, Actors, Variety, Technicians
3pm Dancers, Costumers, Dressers
CHARLOTTE, NC
Saturday, November 10, 2001
Sunday, November 11, 2001
Paramount's Carowinds
The Paramount Theater
1pm Instrumentalists
2pm Singers, Actors, Variety, Technicians
3pm Dancers, Costumers, Dressers
For more dates and information call 704.587.9011 or visit our website at www.auditionnow.com
Paramount Parks is an equal opportunity employer. © & 2001 Paramount Parks

STUDENT TRAVEL
Lectures
Term Paper
Job
Leave 'em all behind and get outta here.
STA TRAVEL
143 E. Franklin St.
919.928.8844
www.statravel.com