

Injury-Plagued Yellow Jackets Look to Fill Holes

The Lowdown on Saturday's Game

Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets at **North Carolina Tar Heels**

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

Head to Head

Tech's Rush vs. UNC's Front Seven: Not only is Tony Hollings, the nation's leading rusher, out of action for Tech, but his backup, Sidney Ford, is injured as well. Freshman Ajenavi Eziemefe will struggle. **Edge: UNC.**

Tech's Pass vs. UNC's Secondary: Yellow Jacket QB A.J. Suggs is surrounded by good receivers, but he has been inconsistent. UNC corners Kevin Knight and Derrick Johnson have been improving. **Edge: UNC.**

UNC's Rush vs. Tech's Front Seven: UNC's Jacque Lewis was a workhorse out of the backfield against Texas, but Georgia Tech's terrific linebacking trio, led by Ricardo Wimbury, has combined for 75 tackles. **Edge: Tech.**

UNC's Pass vs. Tech's Secondary: Tech's corners are experienced but will have their hands full covering Tar Heel Sam Aiken. Quarterback Darian Durant is second in the ACC in passing yards per game. **Edge: UNC.**

Special Teams: The Yellow Jackets' senior punt returner Kelly Rhino had a career-best 111 yards on four returns against the Tar Heels last year. UNC's returners have been invisible. **Edge: Tech.**

The Bottom Line — UNC 17, Tech 9

COMPILED BY AARON FITT

Game and time: Georgia Tech at North Carolina. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m.

Site: Kenan Stadium

TV/radio: The game will be televised on ABC. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM.

Records: Georgia Tech is 3-1, 0-1 in the ACC. North Carolina is 1-2, 0-0 in the ACC.

Series: Georgia Tech leads 18-16-3.

Personnel update: Georgia Tech — RB Tony Hollings, right knee ACL (out for season); RB Sidney Ford, concussion (out); DE Greg Gathers, kidney disease (out). North Carolina — DT Eric Davis, left knee ACL (out for season); DE Isaac Mooring, broken right hand (doubtful); WR Jarwarski Pollock, strained right shoulder (probable).

The key matchup: Without Hollings, the nation's leading rusher and second leading scorer, and Ford, his backup, Georgia Tech will be forced to start true freshman Ajenavi Eziemefe.

Translation: The Yellow Jackets will have to rely on their inconsistent passing attack to move the ball against UNC.

Senior wide receiver Kerry Watkins is talented enough to carry the load, but only if shaky quarterback A.J. Suggs can get him the ball.

"Their quarterback has got plenty of arm strength," said UNC coach John Bunting. "His timing has been off at times, some of it due to rain, some of it due to some pressure. We hope his timing remains off."

The bad news for Suggs is that there's more rain in Saturday's forecast, and there will certainly be an abundance of pressure from a UNC defense that likes

to blitz and let its corners go one-on-one with receivers.

With a depleted running game, Tech will have to capitalize on those single coverages in order to score.

"If we're going to be a blitz team, which we're going to do some, then we're going to give up a big play or two every once in a while," Bunting said. "But if you miss a tackle then that's really hurting your team, really hurting your defense. We can't afford that."

One player who missed a few notable tackles against Texas two weeks ago was North Carolina corner Michael Waddell.

The senior played well against good receivers from Miami (Ohio) and Syracuse earlier in the season, and he will be heavily relied upon to contain Watkins, who ranks second in Tech history in career touchdown catches, third in receiving yards and third in receptions.

"I've challenged our secondary all week long," Bunting said. "They've got to be able to work disguises, play multiple coverages, and we've got to tackle, whether it's Dexter (Reid) making 14 tackles or (Waddell) making a tackle in space."

"Every team's going to complete passes, so you've got to tackle the catch, minimize the gain."

Final analysis/prediction: The Yellow Jackets have played well this season, but Hollings is an overwhelming



Georgia Tech RB Tony Hollings leads the nation in rushing, but will miss the rest of the year with a torn ACL.

reason for a lot of their success. Without him and standout defensive end Gathers, Tech will likely be overmatched.

Suggs looked downright bad against Brigham Young last week, throwing three interceptions. Georgia Tech will be asking a lot by putting the game in his hands against an experienced UNC secondary.

But Tech's defense will ensure that UNC doesn't run away with the game. The Yellow Jackets rank first in the ACC

in points allowed, yielding just 15 points per game, and they limited a potent Cougar offense to only 19 points last week — 16 below its average entering the game.

Somewhat, though, Tech will have to get into the end zone itself if it wants to win. And that's where the Yellow Jackets' luck will run out.

UNC 17, Georgia Tech 9.

—Compiled by Aaron Fitt



Texas' Roy Williams (4) jumps over Michael Waddell to attempt a catch Sept. 14. Waddell faces another challenge against Ga. Tech's receivers.

DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

UNC Faces Overmatched State in ACC Opener

By DAN BLANK
Staff Writer

Ask anyone on the North Carolina volleyball team, and she will say the team's record is 0-0.

Forget for a second that the Tar Heels have won 12 of their first 13 games and are ranked 15th in the nation, the highest in the program's history.

Tonight is the beginning of the real season — the first ACC game.

"To be 12-1 is a great accomplishment, but there's still room for improvement," said UNC coach Joe Sagula. "You know what our record is now? It's not 12-1, we're 0-0. And that's the way we're going to approach it."

But Sagula said he knows being the favorite means every opponent will bring its best game to the gym.

"There's a target on our back, and that bull's-eye is huge," he said. "Everybody is gunning for us."

The first ACC team to take aim at the Tar Heels will be N.C. State at 7 p.m. today at Carmichael Auditorium.

The Wolfpack has struggled this season, limping to a 2-15 start.

State carries a three-game losing streak into tonight's game and has

dropped its last five ACC openers.

In contrast, the Tar Heels are riding a four-game winning streak and have won their last six conference openers. UNC has also won its last 10 matches against its archrival.

Two Tar Heels will be aiming for individual accomplishments tonight.

Setter Eve Rackham is 10 digs away from hitting 1,000 for her career.

Outside hitter Laura Greene, who is third in the ACC in kills, is 10 digs away from moving into third place all-time at North Carolina. At her pace of 3.81 digs per game, she will become the all-time leader in a few matches.

But the team is not looking forward to tonight for individual achievements. Before the season, the team set goals of winning the ACC regular season championship and the postseason tournament.

"When we start ACCs, that's pretty



Junior middle hitter Aletha Green leads the Tar Heels in kill percentage this season, hitting 1.72 kills per game.

much the start of our goals," said middle hitter Aletha Green.

She added that she thinks the team has yet to play its best ball of the season.

"I definitely don't think our team's reached its full potential yet, which is a good thing, because we're 15th now," Green said.

Sagula said Green, the team leader in kill percentage, has made the most significant improvement on the team this year.

Sagula also said he would like to see the team improve its ability to put teams away but acknowledged that it is difficult to play at a high-intensity level throughout an entire season.

"It is a difficult thing to stay focused for 30-something matches during a season, but we have to learn how to do that," he said.

If the team plays the game it wants to, UNC will start the focal part of its season 1-0.

"State's a team (that) if they come in emotional and spirited and aggressive on defense, they'll make it a match," Sagula said. "If we control the momentum and we control the spirit of the match, I think it'll be a quick night."

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



Tar Heel defensive specialist Carolina DeRoek bumps the ball against Davidson on Sept. 17. DeRoek has 110 digs this season.

DTH/JOSHUA GREER

UNC Supporter Starts Football Endowment

Named fund 1st of its kind in ACC

By JENNY IMMEL
Staff Writer

UNC football coach John Bunting will become the first head coach to receive a named endowment at the University.

The Joe Maddux Endowment was created in honor of Greensboro's Joe Maddux, a 1952 graduate of the University and an avid supporter of Tar Heel football.

Bunting is also the first coach in the ACC to receive such an endowment.

However, this is not a new idea. Similar programs exist in other conferences, such as the Big Ten and the Ivy League.

The UNC Educational Foundation proposed the idea for the endowment, which was formally announced in July and already

has received \$500,000 in pledges from friends and family of Maddux.

John Montgomery, president of the Educational Foundation, said he intends to continue raising funds for the endowment until the foundation reaches its goal of \$1 million, which could happen in the next six months.

"Mr. Maddux is so special to the program and a big supporter of John Bunting," Montgomery said. "This couldn't have come at a better time."

Bunting said he has gotten to know Maddux well recently because Maddux has attended a number of events, fund-

raisers and both of his signing parties.

"He is a huge supporter of Carolina football, and I am extremely honored to have this endowment in our name," Bunting said. "His extended family is definitely Carolina football."

The money for the endowment is not yet in place because donors usually have between three to five years to pay off their pledges. Montgomery said he intends to have the endowment fully funded within five years.

The interest earned from the endowment will go toward salary increases, program development and operating expenses for the football team.

"The endowment will support the program forever," Montgomery said.

Bunting added that this endowment gives him a lot of flexibility. "It means that in times of number-crunching and budget problems, we can get some things, like new programs and facilities, without having a big fund-raiser," he said. "We could possibly use it to retain a coach."

In addition to the endowment, the Charlie Justice Era team made a \$1 million pledge to UNC football last November. Justice was a tailback for UNC from 1946-49 and led the team to two appearances at the Sugar Bowl and one at the Cotton Bowl.

The Justice Era Endowment is meant to benefit the entire football program.

Director of Athletics Dick Baddour said, "The Joe Maddux Endowment is a portion of the major endowment for football."

The entire football endowment already is up to \$1.5 million.

Following the football program's recent success, a campaign is being designed to create endowments for all UNC sports. "What we're trying to do

... is to endow all of our sports programs," Baddour said.

He said that although an endowment would not cover all expenses, it would secure the sports programs in the future.

So far, the athletics department has received major contributions and pledges for baseball, men and women's tennis, swimming and golf. There is also

potential for a major pledge in wrestling, Baddour said.

"Endowments will help maintain competitive levels in all areas, such as recruiting, maintenance, travel and general operational procedures," he said.

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