

Edwards' stellar play earns him award, start

Sophomore LB has 'statement game'

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
STAFF WRITER

As the ball deflected off the hands of North Carolina defensive end Melik Brown, it quickly became apparent the ball wasn't going to find its intended receiver.

Linebacker Larry Edwards cut in front of N.C. State tailback T.A. McLendon and snatched the ball out of the air with nothing but green ahead of him.

A flying tackle by Wolfpack wide receiver Richard Washington at the 3-yard line saved a touchdown, but UNC quarterback Darian Durant found Jon Hamlett in the end zone on the very next play.

"I know that I had an opportunity in front of me, and I just took advantage of it," said Edwards, who made his first start of the season. "I was just like, 'Got to make a big play,' and I had the opportunity to be blessed. One came to me, so things came out for the better."

A game-turning interception in the fourth quarter, a fumble recovery in the third and general havoc wreaked from start to finish — it all added up to ACC Defensive Back of the Week honors.

"This was a statement game for me," Edwards said. "It was like my coming back. I feel like I just have

to build on this and step my game up to a different level."

The sophomore had appeared primed for a break-through season after an 89-tackle freshman campaign.

But a lackluster offseason left Edwards overweight and buried in the depth chart in the Tar Heels' first five games. He entered Saturday's game with just 19 tackles on the season, good for seventh on the team.

As Coach John Bunting grew progressively dissatisfied with his linebackers, though, Edwards seized his opportunity.

The weak-side linebacker learned Wednesday that he would be starting Saturday's game ahead of junior Mahlon Carey.

Carey was second on the team with 32 tackles entering the game, but Edwards claimed the starting job with a strong week of practice.

"It was time to give him a chance to play," Bunting said. "He earned the right to play because he practiced well."

Along with the interception and fumble recovery, Edwards finished the game with eight tackles.

Two of those stops came on N.C. State's final drive.

He stopped Wolfpack halfback

Tramain Hall with a big hit at his own 14-yard line to force a third-and-6 situation.

He came back two plays later and combined with cornerback Jacoby Watkins to stop McLendon at the 4-yard line, setting up the N.C. State tailback's controversial rush that ended just shy of the North Carolina goal line.

For all of Edwards' big plays, though, it was his technique that impressed his coach the most.

"Larry played good at the point of attack," Bunting said. "He had most of his reads down, and he played with his hands, which is so important as a linebacker."

But if Edwards is to establish himself as a consistent impact player, he'll have to continue the progress he showed Saturday.

"Each week, I have to step my game up to the next level," he said. "I have to build from this statement game."

And with the corps of linebackers depleted by the indefinite suspension of middle linebacker Fred Sparkman, Edwards likely will start again this week.

"Based on his performance, yes, (he will start)," Bunting said. "But he has to go out there and practice well again."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Campuses prone to ID theft

BY NATALIE HAMMEL
STAFF WRITER

Identity theft is a rampant problem that has become the fastest-growing financial crime in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The N.C. Department of Justice Web site states that about 286,000 North Carolinians are victims of identity theft each year, and victims typically spend an average of \$800 and 175 hours over a 23-month period to clean up their credit and erase \$18,000 in fraudulent charges.

During the last two months, there have been 12 break-ins in professional offices, some resulting in hard-drive theft, that could enable identity thieves, according to The Chapel Hill News. Padgett Business Services is the latest victim to report a missing hard drive containing Social Security numbers.

For college students, their casual practices with privacy and money matters make them perfect targets for identity theft, according to the California-based Identity Theft Resource Center.

The rate of instances on college campuses surpassed the 80 percent

increase experienced by the total public from 2002 to 2003.

"College students tend to be tunnel-visioned," says Linda Foley, co-executive director of the ITRC.

Many universities use Social Security numbers as student identification numbers and grades or class lists often are posted by these numbers, making students easy access for anyone wishing to steal an identity.

Jay Foley, co-executive director at ITRC, students also are more willing to fill out a credit card application at a football game, where the application could easily be stolen or bought.

"Unless students have astute parents, they typically don't understand credit," he said.

Jay Foley said additional preventative measures can be taken at college campuses.

"Every dorm should have, per student, a safe or locking device to hold stuff that could cause great havoc," he said. "You have no clue what your roommate is doing in your room when you're not there. You need the ability to protect your valuable information and your laptop."

Sgt. Robert Carden, who works

with investigations at the Chapel Hill Police Department, said he knows a lot of students who have had their identities stolen.

"People will take mail out of mail boxes and use that information to apply for credit cards," Carden said. "Grind up all your mail."

Carden said typical identity theft cases involve laptops or company desktops being stolen. "People can download hard drives filled with personal information and sell that information two or three different times," he said.

Identity theft is sometimes difficult to prosecute because it can be done online and across state jurisdiction boundaries.

"Is a person going to fly out to California to testify against a person? Probably not," Carden said.

The ITRC currently is working on legislation to protect consumers.

"We need better communication between credit industries and government industries," Linda Foley said. "We are already talking to a couple senators about legislation."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Report outlines area goals

BY SAM SHEPARD
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill and Carrboro are familiar with change.

But a report issued recently by a county task force says the area has more to do to protect its future.

Led by former N.C. Sen. Howard Lee, the Council on a Sustainable Community was formed in August 2003 by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce to examine the state of the area's economy and promote social and environmental health.

Its plan, presented Oct. 5 to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and Monday to the Chapel Hill Town Council, includes eight steps the towns can take for the area to become more self-sufficient.

"I think the concept of this council is of primary importance," said Alderman Diana McDuffee when the report was received by the board.

Among the document's suggestions are building mixed-use developments; encouraging businesses to practice fair economic, social and environmental practices; fostering learning opportunities for everyone in the area; and ensuring that residents can have "meaningful jobs" close to their homes.

These and other suggestions address the social, environmental and economic concerns of county leaders.

"The report is a product of lots of hours by community leaders," said Charlie Fisher, vice chairman of the council.

James Carnahan, a member of the committee and owner of Matrix Design, said the report deals with issues that affect the entire community.

"We are at the beginning of an era of transition," he said.

The report, which has been in the making since last fall, details the long-term goals of the community. But many steps already have been taken toward its realization.

David Stancil, director of the county's Environment and Resource Conservation Department, has helped create several initiatives that protect the county's natural resources.

The Lands Legacy program, which Stancil heads, was created four years ago to acquire preservation areas, parks and farmland. The program has been able to protect more than 2,000 acres of land in Orange County since it began.

On a long-term scale, the department has a goal of acquiring

10 percent, or 25,000 acres, of the county land by 2011, Stancil said.

The report also cites a need for healthier forms of transportation to reduce reliance on individual vehicles and promote cleaner air.

It specifically touts Chapel Hill Transit's fare-free busing, which began in 2002 with support from the town and the University. Mary Lou Kuschatka, town transportation director, said yearly ridership has gone from 3 million people to 5 million since then.

In order to further improve the program, the report suggests, the town should work with other municipalities and the General Assembly to get funding for more routes. It also should work with the Triangle Transit Authority to improve transportation between the area's major urban centers.

The sustainability council has recommended that local officials discuss its report in further detail and implement steps toward creating a sustainable community.

It also has suggested hosting a round-table discussion to track the progress of reaching sustainability.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Colleges may ease transfer process

BY BROOKE ERICSON
STAFF WRITER

Students in community colleges could find it easier to pursue further education as colleges across the state increase recruiting efforts from two-year institutions.

"We have a large number of students that transfer, and the number is increasing every year," said Wanda White, director of student development services for the N.C. Community College System.

She said there are more opportunities to join four-year institutions because of articulation agreements.

"Once students receive an associate of art or associate of science degree, they can enter a four-year college at the junior level," White said. "This is a lot more economical for the students."

N.C. Central University is one school in the UNC system that recently took steps to actively recruit students from two-year programs.

"We are trying to constantly increase community college students' enrollment in our university," said Janice Harper, interim assistant vice chancellor at N.C. Central. "Here, students will receive scholarships, easy access to registrations and a smooth transition."

She said transfer students are excited, focused and know what their goals are.

"Community college students are older individuals and are interested in getting their degrees," Harper said. "They often have families, jobs or both and are generally very mature and focused."

She added that financial programs created to help community college transfer students would not interfere with those aiding four-year college students.

"Community college students can apply for scholarships of their own," Harper said. "Nothing will hinder or take away from four-year college students."

She also said the school is working to create a more definitive outline of general college requirements. This would benefit all students but is meant to have a more significant effect on transfer students.

"We want to really outline their plan for them so they can get their college degree in a very timely manner," Harper said.

N.C. Central is not the only college stepping up its programs in transfer recruiting.

"Community college transfers are one area that Fayetteville State University is trying to target in order to increase membership,"

said Jeff Womble, director of public relations at FSU.

And Brenda Holcombe, associate director of student admissions at Western Carolina University, said transfer students from two-year programs increased by 52.6 percent this year.

"We've gone a step beyond the normal articulation agreements and set up specific programs for transfers," she said.

UNC-Chapel Hill also is taking steps to increase enrollment of community college transfer students. Rebecca Egbert, assistant director of admissions, said recruiting students from community college is one of the University's highest priorities.

By allowing more students to further their education, she said the state is increasing the number of people with college degrees.

"We are here to attract the best and brightest around, even if that includes transfers."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily

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- ACROSS**
- Fixed
 - Relative by marriage
 - Bargains
 - Hurler's stat
 - Watered fabric
 - Spread rumors
 - Escort's offer
 - Korean seaport
 - Mea (my fault)
 - Two high-rankers
 - Informal language
 - Horse's pace
 - Fed the kitty
 - Down cake
 - Actor Parker
 - Actress de Carlo
 - Book before Nah.
 - Two TV advice-givers
 - Supermarket grp.
 - Of teeth
 - Exxon, once
 - Enter!
 - Wound yarn
 - Halt
 - Clothes lines?
 - Two diet-food claims
 - Like a wild crowd
 - Use elbow grease
 - Smelter input
 - Musical beat
 - Alternative to a steam
- DOWN**
- Chairs
 - Actor Flynn
 - MacDill AFB city
 - Call into question
 - Part of speech
 - Framed Mona
 - Island off Galway
 - George of "Cheers"
 - Infamous 1971 air pirate
 - Becomes violently active
 - "Lang Syne"
 - Ancient Chinese poet
 - Men only
 - Crunch and grind

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RAISE YOUR VOICE Daily 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:25

SHARK TALE Daily 12:50, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:20

LADDER 49 Daily 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45

THE FORGOTTEN Daily 1:00, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

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