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"You'll be grinning ear-to-ear on the way out. The food-and I don't just mean the steaks, but pretty much everything that comes out of the kitchen—is that good.

> -Greg Cox, Food Critic Raleigh News & Observer



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Tar Heels' run will be key to Homecoming matchup

Game and Time: Maryland at 245-pound Ryan Houston. If UNC North Carolina. Kickoff is at 3:45 p.m. Saturday.

Site: Kenan Stadium

TV/Radio: The game will be televised regionally by ESPNU. Radio coverage will be provided by WCHL 1360 AM, WRDU 106.1 FM.

Records: Maryland is 4-4. North Carolina is 2-6.

Series: North Carolina leads the all-time series 67-34-2. The teams last met in 2005, when Maryland won 33-30 in overtime at Kenan.

The key matchup: North Carolina's running backs against Maryland's run defense.

Only conference bottom-feeders Duke and N.C. State give up more rushing yards per game than Maryland (165.1). While North Carolina is by no means an elite rushing team, they certainly will try to take advantage of that.

Maryland linebacker Erin Henderson leads the ACC in tackles with 12.3 per game, and his fellow LB Dave Philistin is not far behind either. While they are two exceptional linebackers, they get a lot of work when running backs break through the defensive line.

A big, bruising back could wear down the Maryland defense and control the clock - someone like the

can control the clock and keep the defense off the field, it has a serious chance at bringing in the win.

Final Analysis/Prediction: It needs to be said that UNC has not beaten the Terrapins since 1998. It's a trend that should change Saturday. The Terps are by no means an ACC powerhouse, and UNC has had too many games go against them this season - the time has come for some breaks to go their way.

The Tar Heel running game should pound away at the Maryland defense as Butch Davis attempts to instill balance in UNC's attack. The Tar Heels must succeed in controlling the ball, something they are becoming more competent in (barring last week's debacle in Winston-

Salem) as the season progresses.

But if UNC can't get its running attack started, Maryland will score on a defense that can't seem to get off the field when it needs to.

But the Terps are statistically similar to UNC, and when the two teams meet, home-field advantage has to carry the day.

The Bottom Line: North

Carolina 24, Maryland 17.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

