

# Davis-led Tar Heels building up for future

## New era begins for UNC football

BY MIKE EHRLICH  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Entering the 2007 season, there was something abuzz surrounding the North Carolina training camp, something that hasn't been seen in Chapel Hill in years: optimism for the future of the football program.

And this newfound optimism arrived along with and largely because of a new head coach with big-time experience. Butch Davis, who had a successful coaching career at Miami before moving up to the NFL's Cleveland Browns, returned to the college game this year at UNC.

And with him he brought a staff rich in NFL experience and a talented recruiting class featuring a number of blue-chippers.

But along with all the good feelings also came a little bit controversy. Rumors began to circulate midseason that Davis could possibly leave UNC to return to his alma mater and coach Arkansas.

In the end, Davis opted to remain in Chapel Hill, at least for a little longer. After the season, he accepted a one-year contract extension through 2014 worth \$291,000 annually.

## Close-game woes lead to 4-8 record

Even with Davis, the Tar Heels still managed just one more win

*"It's the springboard that helps you get into recruiting and into (the) offseason."*

BUTCH DAVIS, ON BEATING DUKE

than the 2006 campaign and a 3-5 conference slate. But even with the eight losses, UNC stuck with most of its opponents — it just couldn't win the close ones. Six of those eight losses were by seven points or less, including four tight ACC defeats.

The highlight of the year came in a 33-27 victory against Miami, in which the Tar Heels jumped out early and held off a second-half 'Cane rally to preserve the win. It was one of the few times all year UNC was able to effectively put an opponent away in a tightly contested battle.

## Skilled trio emerge as playmakers

The strongest play for the Tar Heels came from the skill positions. Sophomore standout wide receiver Hakeem Nicks amassed 74 catches for 958 receiving yards and caught five touchdowns. His 6.2 receptions per game ranked third in the conference, and his 79.8 yards per game was good for second.

The past season also marked the development of junior Brandon

## Key returners for 2008

**Defensive tackle Marvin Austin** (returning as sophomore)  
► Named first-team freshman All-America by scout.com and rivals.com

**Safety Deunta Williams** (returning as sophomore)  
► Named first-team freshman All-America by scout.com and rivals.com

**Wide receiver Hakeem Nicks** (returning as junior)  
► Set UNC single-season record for receptions with 74

**Wide receiver Brandon Tate** (returning as senior)  
► Emerged as a receiving threat with five touchdowns to go along with return skills

Tate as a threat who can affect the game more than merely on special teams. Long regarded as a threat to score on punt and kickoff returns, Tate notched 25 receptions in 2007 — five of which went for touchdowns.

Tailback was a big question mark for the 2007 Tar Heels. Davis used a running back-by-committee system for most of the season until freshman Greg Little took over the role at the end. Little, recruited as a wide receiver, gained 243 rushing yards in the last two games and scored the game-winning touchdown in overtime against Duke in the finale.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

# Record fundraiser concludes

BY MATTHEW PRICE  
STAFF WRITER

When UNC ushered in the new year, it marked the end of the Carolina First Campaign, an eight-year, \$2.3 billion fundraiser.

From its July 1999 beginning, Carolina First collected more than \$2.3 billion in pledges and donations for the University before it ended Dec. 31, giving UNC the 11th-largest fundraising campaign in the history of higher education.

The campaign's \$2 billion goal, which was increased from \$1.8 billion in 2005, was reached in February when Dennis and Joan Gillings gave a \$50 million gift to the School of Public Health.

"We don't have all the final numbers quite yet," said Matt Kupec, vice chancellor for University advancement. "There was a lot of holiday giving, and we're still counting the last dollars."

Carolina First set goals in several categories including building needs, faculty support and strategic initiatives. The program also created undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships and added money to the University's endowment.

After surpassing the \$2 billion mark, officials added an extra \$100 million goal to faculty salaries and support.

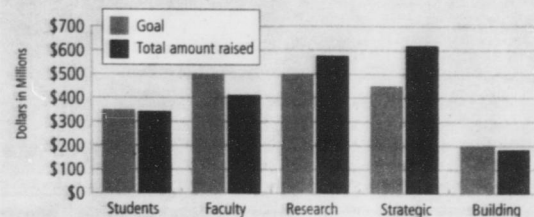
But UNC fell short of raising that extra money during the campaign.

Although the campaign did not satisfy every objective, some noted that the final year was stronger than expected.

"It's not uncommon at all to see a bell curve with fundraisers — flat on both sides with a peak in the middle," said Elizabeth Dunn, senior associate vice chancellor for development. "But the line on

## An unofficial final tally of Carolina First

After about eight years, the Carolina First campaign raised \$2.33 billion by its Dec. 31, 2007, end date, though not every group reached its fundraising goal.



SOURCE: OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT

DTH/REBECCA ROLFE

this graph just kept going up."

The program came close to meeting stated goals in most cases and surpassed stated objectives for research and strategic initiative fundraising.

Officials said that fundraising for important issues would not stop just because the Carolina First Campaign is finished.

"Even though this campaign is over, we will continue to make faculty support and salaries a top priority," Kupec said.

Dunn also stressed the importance of continued fundraising.

"A lot of money raised during the campaign comes to be expected by departments," Dunn said. "Unmet goals allow you to go back to donors and say that there is still work to be done."

Dunn said fundraising programs often set high goals for categories such as faculty salaries and merit scholar initiatives

because they are so valuable to the University.

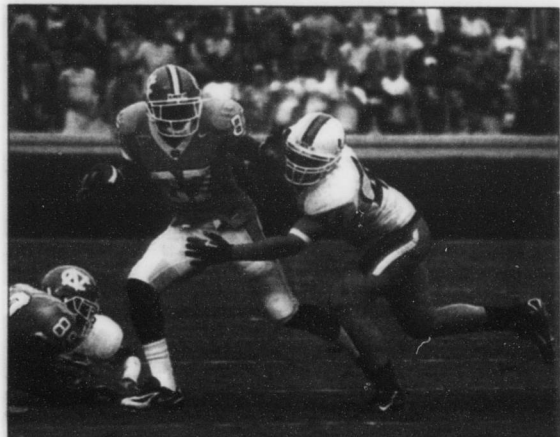
"We wouldn't say that we couldn't raise any more money for scholarships just because it won't be done by midnight on Dec. 31," she said.

Overall, the 2007 fiscal year set a record for donations to UNC, with more than \$250 million in gifts and pledges. The 2008 fiscal year has seen \$122 million in gifts so far.

Dunn said this year is on pace and has potential to equal or surpass last year, even without the Carolina First Campaign.

"You have to look at it like Roy Williams," she said. "We're not going to relax our game just because we had a good season. We're just going to play for even better scores in the future."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



DTH FILE/LAUREN COWART

North Carolina wideout Brandon Tate brushes off a Miami defender during UNC's October ACC win. Tate tied for the team lead with five TD catches.

## CHAMPIONS

FROM PAGE 18

battling to be done for North Carolina. It was a different feeling for these Tar Heels, who were always too focused on the next barrier to stop and look back at how far they'd truly come this season.

"It meant the world because there's always that doubt in your head," Dawson said. "That seed of doubt that says, 'Maybe you're just not able to. Maybe you're just not cut out to do it. Maybe it's just not meant for you.'"

"The fact that it did — whew, I'm happy now."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

## BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 18

their minds and ended 2007 with just one loss between them — an 83-79 loss when the women's team visited top-ranked Tennessee.

The men's team spent most of the end of 2007 blowing out opponents en route to a No. 1 national ranking and an undefeated record.

However, neither team ended the year completely unscathed.

On the women's side, senior point guard Alex Miller went down for the season against Coppin State in November. Freshmen Cetera DeGraffenreid and Italee Lucas filled in, and the tandem leads the team in assists with 55 and 49, respectively.

The men's team was beleaguered by injuries, as well. Bobby Frasier's season ended early when he tore a ligament in his left knee against Nevada. Frasier's injury, combined with Quentin Thomas' ankle sprain, left the Tar Heels with their once-formidable bench looking skimpy.

"I feel like we've got six starters ... but the seventh, eighth and ninth guys, we've lost them during the last couple of weeks," Williams said. "It's been a little difficult, but that's the reason you try to have more than five or six players."

It will remain to be seen how these injuries affect either Tar Heel squad's chances of redeeming last year's NCAA mishaps. The only thing certain is that a degree of difficulty has been added for future success.

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Bank of America: Corporate Workplace, Finance Management Associate Intern Program (deadline 1/18/08)  
Capital One: Finance Internship Program (Resume Collection Only) (deadline 1/31/08)  
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