

UNC Dominates Football Recruiting Effort In ACC

By LEW HEGER

The 1983 college football season is five weeks away, and as usual, the top recruiting team in the ACC was North Carolina.

In recent seasons, only Clemson has managed to hold its own with UNC in recruiting. Clemson was placed on probation last winter and had its worst recruiting campaign in five years, leaving Carolina as the king of the hill in recruiting.

Why do the Tar Heels outrecruit State, Duke, Wake Forest and its other ACC rivals every year? There are several reasons for this trend.

First, the UNC program has stability. Bill Dooley established that in his tenure as Tar Heel coach, and with the exception of one off year, Dick Crum has continued that characteristic of the UNC program.

By contrast, State has changed coaches four times in the last few years. After Lou Holtz turned the Wolfpack program around, he vanished. Bo Rein brought stability to the State program and won the school's last ACC title in 1979. He resigned and took the LSU job, only to die in an airplane crash soon after. At the suggestion of Holtz, State then hired Monte Kiffin (instead of Pat Dye). Kiffin was a disaster and wrecked the program that Holtz and Rein worked hard to build. State then hired Miami (Ohio) coach Tom Reed, it's fourth head coach in seven years.

Duke's record is worse than State's. The Blue Devils tolerated Mike McGee for too long. After years of poor coaching management, McGee was fired and former Elon coach Red Wilson was handed the job. The Devils made vast strides in its program, and even accomplished the miracle of beating Carolina last year. For this achievement, Wilson was fired. Steve Sloan was a loser at Mississippi, not the worst situation in the country to be in. In his infinite wisdom, Duke AD Tom Butters hired Sloan.

Wake Forest occasionally pulls an upset or two, but the norm for the Deacons is a record in the 3-8 range. A couple of years back, former coach John Makovic gave eight "win one for the Gipper" speeches, and the Deacs lucked their way to an 8-3 record. After that brief period of pride, the Wake Forest program returned to normalcy. The Deacons get whipped in recruiting each year and that will continue to lead to changes in coaches every three or four seasons.

With State, Duke, and Wake Forest mired in administrative problems—the door is wide open for Carolina to dominate the state in recruiting.

Added to this fact is the beauty of the UNC campus. The State grounds pale when compared with those in Chapel Hill. Duke and Wake Forest both have beautiful campuses, but those two don't have the in-state recruiting clout of UNC and State.

East Carolina must be mentioned in any discussion of in-state recruiting, since the Pirates

get some of the best players down East. When Dye coached the Bucs, they were a solid football team on the rise. But Ed Emory is no Pat Dye, and the ECU program is floundering. It will be many years before the ECU program reaches the level of those at State and Carolina.

While Carolina has benefitted from the ineptitude of Monte Kiffin at State, the future doesn't look as rosey now that Tom Reed is the State coach. For every year that Kiffin was at State, their program fell behind UNC's by two years.

At the time Carolina hired Crum, State had the opportunity to dash ahead of the UNC program. They blew it and have paid for their mistake dearly.

It will take Reed four or five years to bring the Pack program up to par with Carolina's. Crum is now established in Chapel Hill, but within a year or so, he will have a battle on his hands in recruiting against Reed. Look for State to return to Ohio for talent, where the Pack got center Jim Ritcher and some others a few seasons back.

Duke fans shouldn't expect any miracles with Sloan. He's not a bad coach—not as good as Wilson however. Sloan was ticketed to replace Bear Bryant at Alabama (Sloan's alma mater.) But his poor record at Ole Miss eliminated him from the Bama job. Duke is a step down from Ole Miss, make no mistake about that. Al Groh will hang around Wake Forest for a few seasons, then go the way of the other Deacon coaches.

THE TOP RECRUITS: Carolina got the top QB in Mark Maye of Charlotte, but also signed All-America lineman Donnie Wallace (240) of Everetts. The Heels got quality depth in recruiting, including TB Norman Becton of Cove City and TB William Humes of Asheville. UNC also got DB Howard Feggins of South Hill, Va., and LB Noel McEachern of Fayetteville. The Heels class was tops in the league.

State got FB Bobby Crumpler of Newton Grove, DT Sandy Kea of Clinton, and DB Haywood Jeffries of Greensboro—all blue chip players. The Pack desperately needs a quarterback and signed four, including Bruce Porter of Findlay, Ohio. Transfer QB Bob Guidice of Phoenix, Ariz., may start.

After three seasons of instability with Tol Avery and others, State has a horde of quarterback's from which only one is needed to give them stability. They need one like Scott Smith, who led the Pack to the ACC title in '79.

North Carolina product Joe Greene, who starred at Chowan last season, signed with the Wolfpack. Greene is a 191-pound tailback with speed. Of course, State will rely on a fellow named Joe McIntosh for the yards this year.

Wake Forest got ace wide receiver James Brim, a 6-3, 190-pound All-American from Mt. Airy. Senior QB Gary Schofield will look to Brim often this year. If Schofield gets hurt, Wake Forest is in trouble. Scott Roberts is a top LB from Asheville. Other than those two, the Deacs got its usual assortment of bargain basement leftovers.

Duke had to battle a coaching change and its stiff entry requirements. All of the Duke recruits can work calculus problems, but can they play football? Tops among the new Blue Devils is Pat Lov, a 270-pound all-State lineman from Portland, Texas. Sol Gresen, 265-pound lineman from Las Vegas is another blue chipper to sign with Duke. Both want to be surgeons.

The only blue chip back inked by Duke was RB Mike Peacock (195) of Clifton Park, N.Y., who led his prep team to the state title last year. Peacock lacks speed and that may place in the "average" category in college.

OTHER ACC SCHOOLS: Outside the Big Four, Clemson overcame its criminal record to make a decent showing this year. That's no surprise. The Tigers will get the same type of player, whether they win 10 games or two. Any player that's going to Clemson probably hasn't read the papers anyway.

Top Tiger recruit is DB Bo Holloman of Myrtle Beach, who verbally committed to South Carolina on a Monday, then signed with Clemson three days later. QB Randy Anderson of Cowpens pulled the same stunt. WR Terrance Rouhlac of Jacksonville, Fla. didn't trust Florida coach Charley Pell and inked with the Paws.

As usual, Georgia beat the daylights out of

Georgia Tech in in-state recruiting. The Jackets got the hamburger in Georgia and eight players from outside the state. Tops is WR Kevin Arthur of Cincinnati Moeller and WR Toby Pearson of Morristown, Tenn., the player of the year in that state.

Virginia made strides in its program under coach George Welsh. The Cavaliers got QB Kevin Ferguson of Appomattox and WR Kevin Gould of

Hampton, two blue chippers. Virginia signed 19 linemen, but most are too light to play major college football. It will take years and steroids to build this crop up to the level of those who play for UNC and Clemson.

Maryland had an off year, but got a few huge linemen. The Terps failed to get a QB to replace Boomer Esiason, who'll graduate next year. It looks lean for UM.

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