

Magnificent Elevens of '92, '98, '05, '16 Brought Fame to Carolina and Loss to Virginia

Southern Championship Held by Tar Heels in 1892 and 1898—Eleven Year Jinx in Virginia Clashes Broken in 1926.

When Tar Heel and Cavalier meet on Thanksgiving day to celebrate the gridiron classic of 1926, among the spectators there will be many loyal hearts who were once potent factors in adding laurels to the pages of Carolina football history.

Still vivid in the memories of many prominent alumni is the laudable Blue and White eleven of 1892—champions of the South. This fast-working aggregation met leading teams from all sections this side of Mason-Dixon's line, and returning victorious in five out of six contests, tallying 196 points to 30 for opponents. The only defeat came in the second game of the season when Virginia administered a 30 to 18 thrashing at Charlottesville. To definitely settle all claims to Southern Championship honors, Carolina met Virginia again on November 26, when Carolina secured sweet revenge by trouncing the Cavaliers 26 to 0.

In the backfield of this team were such men as Hoke (Captain), Barnard, Devin, and Shaw; in the line were Murphy, Snipes, Kirkpatrick, Pugh, Little, Gibbs, and Biggs.

Team of '98

Six years later, Chapel Hill again harbored an eleven which carried first honors in the Southland. Led by captain Rogers, the team of '98 defeated Virginia 6 to 2 in a memorable fray. Fighting to offset numerous fumbles and a strong head wind, Carolina was outplayed in the first period, except for an offensive spurt in the last few minutes. Following an exchange of punts, the Tar Heels started a march from their own 30-yard line which was not halted until Howell had crossed Virginia's goal after a magnificent sprint of forty yards. Carolina played defensive ball for the remainder of the contest, and the Cavalier lads' frantic offensive thrusts only resulted in a safety and two points.

The Hellenian, University year book, said of the 1898 team: "The team of '98 not only will be remembered at champions of the South, but also a team strong in every department of the game, with great resources of attack and impregnable system of defense, and as a team composed of gentlemen."

Straight "Yale Football"

Athletic records of 1905 tell of a team which has probably never been excelled at Carolina for physical driving power. This team did not resort to the aerial route. It did not go around Virginia; neither did it go through Virginia; but it went over Virginia in an unimpedable manner to run up a score of 17 to 0. The game was played at Norfolk.

Straight "Yale Football" was the system employed by the Tar Heels that year, according to the *News and Observer* of Friday, December 1st, 1905. The paper gives Joe Whitaker and Abernathy first honors in the Vir-

ginia class, and also states that Carolina outplayed Virginia in every department of the game. An interesting phase in the "write-up of this game is the statement that "Abernathy was pushed through the line for several yards to register a second touchdown." Things have changed since those days.

Folger Hero of 1916

Next the pages are turned to the year 1916. At this period conditions had become critical in the Tar Heel football camp. Year after year, Blue and White elevens had battled their very hearts out in an effort to turn back the crack teams from Charlottesville. And year after year, Carolina had left the field second best to Virginia.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1916, a huge crowd assembled at Richmond to witness the yearly clash of Tar Heel and Cavalier. Fourteen thousand people saw Folger, sturdy halfback for the Blue and White, break through the Virginia line and throw off numerous would-be tacklers as he weaved his way 52 yards for the only touchdown of the game.

In this game Carolina was victorious through sheer merit of play, and the Blue and White superiority was greater than is indicated by the score. Captain Tandy and Ramsay were luminaries of this contest.

Richmond Celebration

Richmond was the scene of a great celebration that day. A story in the *Greensboro Daily News* gives a vivid account of the Tar Heel exultation. "The dream of Carolina alumni and the hope of North Carolina students was realized when Folger, sturdy halfback for the Blue and White, broke through the line and went fifty-two yards for a touchdown and a victory that was eleven years in coming. Men of mature years, those who had grown gray in watching the vanishing hopes of the Tar Heels, wept. Great big strong men just cried like babies."

Throngs of Carolinians crowded the Monticello lobby that night. Never have Tar Heels been more happy, nor in finer spirits. Eleven years had been a long time to wait and hope for victory; but never has a triumph brought more true and sincere delight to the hearts of The Old North State than did that memorable game of November the thirtieth, nineteen hundred and sixteen.

Other great and noble teams have carried the Blue and White colors to victory since those triumphs of years long gone. Other true sons have carved their names among the gridiron heroes of Carolina. But never to be forgotten are those dogged teams of the years that are growing dim. Around them was built the traditions of fight and pluck which have characterized each succeeding Tar Heel eleven in victory or defeat.

LOOKING BACK

Extracts from Tar Heel of November 7, 1912

Chapel Hill Gathers to Hear of Wilson's Triumph

"Election night was too much for sleepy Chapel Hill. She abandoned her usual role and became for once city-like in appearance. Up at Gerard Hall where the returns were coming in, one might easily have imagined himself in a big city before some newspaper office." * * *

"* * * After several reports had been made beginning with, "The New York Times says," "The New Herald says," and "The St. Louis Globe-Dispatch says," some one called out, "What does the Tar Heel say?" Back came the reply, "The Tar Heel says it's time to subscribe."

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