

# Tar Heel Football Scrimmage: The Key Word Is Baby

By J. A. C. DUNN  
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A scrimmage is like a football game between four or five teams at the same time which is not reported on the sports pages, does not count in ACC standings, and at which nobody sells hotdogs.

Still, scrimmages leave their few non-combatant witnesses with an in-on-it feeling, as if they had seen the future Kentucky Derby winner run a time trial on an empty track.

The personnel on the field at scrimmages give the occasion military overtones. Everybody has a uniform. Coach George Barclay's freshmen wear red jerseys. Coach Jim Hickey's Varsity wear blue. Coaches wear blue T-shirts, light blue Bermuda shorts, and jaunty little baseball caps with nylon net crowns. Support troops, like trainer John Lacey and the team managers, wear T-shirt and short, but in different color combinations: some of the T-shirts were white, some of the shorts tan.

Spectators are allowed to wear mufti.

Things began with calisthenics, co-captain Ward Marstender and Joe Craver calling the shots. The team, lined up in formation, called the cadence in unison. Coaches wandered among the benches exhorting the slow.

"One-two, one-two," the team boomed, eagerly touching its toes.

With much shouting from coaches and the muffled rush of countless feet, the scrimmage began. Coach Barclay's men stood on the sidelines. The fifth and sixth Varsity strings were used as guinea pigs. They wore red sleeveless pullovers over their blue jerseys and impersonated State, running the ball.

In each huddle assistant coach Joe Popp, a new addition from Mooresville, held up a chart of a State College play. The guinea pigs studied it, lined up, and ran the play. The Varsity defensive team tried to stop the advance, shouting "Wing right!" and

"Wing left!" and "Reverse!" with desperate urgency.

The crash and smack of shoulder pads filled the stadium. A ring of coaches and waiting players stood right behind the plays, analyzing moves. Sometimes they had to move quickly themselves when a mound of tangled players rolled among them.

The coaches' whistles shrieked, and there were belted instructions and criticisms.

The week before the State game the guinea pigs wear red pullovers. Before the Michigan game they will wear green pullovers. Before the Duke game they will wear dark blue pullovers. This acclimates the players to getting the red ones, or hitting the green ones, somewhat like training mastiffs to attack anybody who points anything, such as a pistol.

Some players sat on the sidelines, tensely waiting to hear their names called. While waiting, they kept up a running commentary on the scrimmage, none of it specific, most of it unintelligible. The basic word in players' commentary is "baby," a highly inappropriate term considering the size of those to whom it is applied, but still an accepted and, apparently, effective form of encouragement.

There is a formula for sideline commentary. Start with "baby" and build on both sides of it: "Attaway, Big Lace, baby, attaway"; "Look sharp, baby, look sharp"; "Move 'em out, babe, move 'em out." Most of this is slurred to the point of being gibberish, but it keeps the pads crashing on the field and gives the sidelines a feeling of being part of it.

A simple "hurray" would be unthinkable.

"Run that team, Big Runc, baby, run that team." Big Runc would be John Runc.

Red-faced, puffing players trotted away from the line of battle and threw themselves down in the shade. The blacking under their eyes was smeared.

There is no listlessness about this year's team. In fact, morale is so high and physical condition so good, that in contact practice the players have been hitting so hard that tempers have flared occasionally. In general, this is considered a good sign, though it has its drawbacks.

The three-team system seems to be developing nicely, but, like the players' good physical condition, it has presented a problem too. The all-around team, the wild cards, have been named the Blues. The offensive team is called the Rams, and the defensive team the Tar Heels.

"They've put up a caution signal on that," said UNC sports publicist Bob Quincey, the team's writer-in-residence.

The "caution signal" results from possible confusion among sportscasters and cheerleaders with the three teams' names and the entire team's name.

For instance, a radio announcer reporting "The Tar Heels have the blues now," when UNC is behind could be puzzling for people who think of the Tar Heels as defensive players and the Blues as all-around players. Cheerleaders chanting "Go, Tar Heels, go," when the defensive team is on the field could confuse matters considerably.

"They don't know what they're going to do," said Mr. Quincey.

"I think Hickey is considering taking the 'Heels' off Tar Heels and calling them the Tars. That suggests sticky and hard to get through, and they're defensive. A, B, and C teams would be good enough for me. It's hard to think up good names, though. A lot of colleges are going to this three-team system, and you don't want names like Maryland's Gangbusters or M-Squad. That's comic book stuff. LSU's Chinese Bandits is good, because that's a first and it suggests the toughest Chinese warriors in the world, you know, the Tong boys. Rams is all right, I guess. Maybe you could just call the Blues 'The Team.'"

He stood back from the thun-

dering rush of play and offered an interesting explanation for the team's improvement this year in morale and physical condition.

"Leadership is a lot of it, of course. But this year I think we have more good citizens, if you know what I mean. These boys want to excel at anything. It doesn't make any difference whether it's football, it could be grades or anything, they just want to be better than the next man."

Scrimmages are not held every day. ("They couldn't stand up under that kind of work," said Mr. Quincey. "They're working harder this year than I've seen them work in six or seven years.") Sometimes practice is held on Navy Field. After the University opens, practices will be closed. Many people think the canvas is protection against

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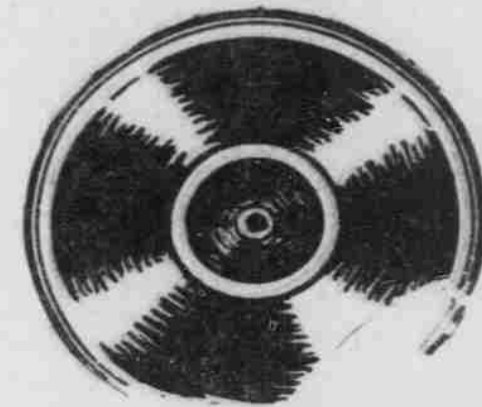
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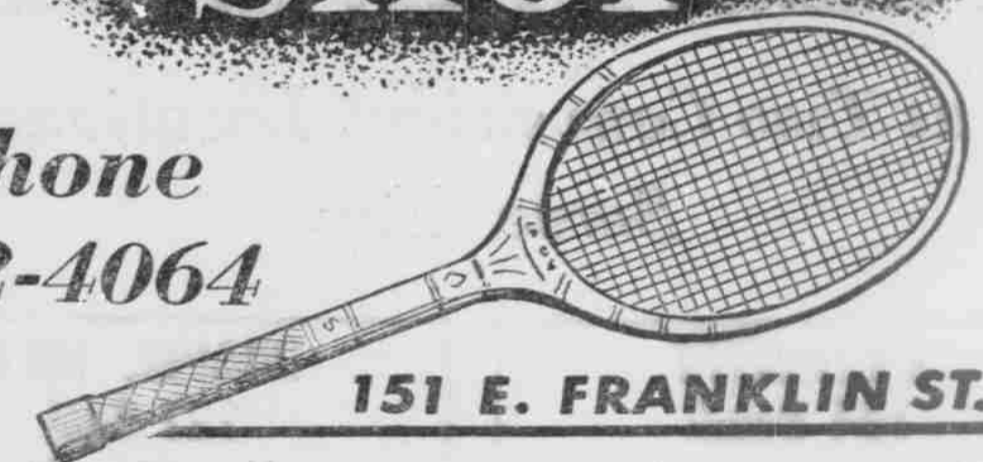


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