

Defense Key For Tar Heel

Lacrosse Opens Against Ohio State

By PETE GAMMONS
Asst. Sports Editor

The lacrosse team opens its season at 3 tomorrow afternoon against the Ohio State Buck-

eyes. The Buckeyes were 3-4-1 last year but are looking for improvement on that mark this year.



Lacrosse Captain Harvey Stanley

"I really don't know what to expect from them," said coach Cony Steele, "I don't know too much about that Ohio lacrosse, but I do know how we fare depends on a lot of things.

"First, it depends on how much practice Ohio State has been able to get in because of the weather. Secondly, we have to find out how well our sophomores have matured and jelled in with the rest of the team.

"Also, we don't know how much we can score, because much depends on the defense. The defensemen have pleased me, but I am concerned about the defensive play of the midfields. They must come through, and at the present I must honestly say I am dissatisfied.

"Finally, a lot depends on the penalties. The ball control depends on them and we can control the game if we keep them to a minimum."

The only physical ailment on the varsity is star attack Jeff Parker, who has a sprained ankle, but he should be able to play.

Leading the Tar Heels will be captain and star goalie Harvey Stanley. Hopefully he will have better protection than last year, when he was besieged by as many as 55 shots in one game.

Playing in front of him on defense will be Andy Culpepper, Jim Bischoff and John Ward. Steele feels they have improved considerably with a season under their belts, but the extent of their improvement has yet to be shown under fire. Backing them up will be Chan Muller.

The attack should be well handled with Parker and sophomores Jake Hubbard and Sandy Reider. The 6-6 Parker is one of the top stars in the ACC while both sophomores show good potential. Bud Adams, who started last year, re-joined the team Thursday after not coming out earlier, but will only see limited action because he hasn't been with the team long enough.

As Steele points out, the fate of the team may ride with the midfields. On the first midfield are sophomores Tim Balch and Bob Morrison and senior Tom Thayer. Balch played attack last year, and it may take him awhile to get used to the intricacies of the new position.

CONY STEELE IS IN HIS THIRD YEAR AS A LACROSSE COACH.

MATTER OF FACT, IT IS ONLY HIS THRD YEAR HAVNIG ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SPORT.

WHEN LACROSSE WAS BEING ORGANIZED AS A CLUB IN 1963, CONY STEELE BECAME COACH, ALTHOUGH HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT.

BUT THE WEST CHESTER STATE ('58) GRADUATE SUDIED UP DILIGENTLY ON IT, AND HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB.

"READING HAS HELPED," HE SAYS, "BUT THE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IS INVALUABLE.

"I KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT THE GAME NOW THAN ANY OF MY PLAYERS, BUT THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM. THE BIG OBSTACLE IS TRYING TO GET BOYS WHO HAVE LEARNED UNDER DIFFERENT SYSTEMS TO RELY ON THEIR NATIVE ABILITY AND THEN BLEND TOGETHER."

SINCE THE PLAYERS COME FROM A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT LACROSSE BACKGROUNDS, THEY NATURALLY HAVE LEARNED UNDER DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, AND OFTEN FEEL THAT WHICH THEY LEARNED PREVIOUSLY IS THE BEST.

"THIS SOMETIMES CAN BE A BIG PROBLEM. WE ARE EXPERIENCING IT SOMWHAT RIGHT NOW WITH THE SOPHOMORES, MANY OF WHOM HAVE YET TO BLEND IN WITH THE REST OF THE TEAM.

Team In Second Year

This year is only the second that lacrosse has been recognized as a varsity sport, although two years ago it start-

ed as a club.

In the 1963 season the club played a seven - game schedule, defeating the Duke freshmen twice and Randolph - Macon once, while losing to the Virginia frosh twice and once each to Amherst and Washington and Lee. All four losses were in overtime.

In the first year of regular ACC and varsity competition UNC defeated Duke 14-0, while losing to Maryland, Virginia, Washington and Lee, Swarthmore and Washington (of St. Louis). The Tar Heels were outscored 43-21 in the ACC and 81-41 overall.

Maryland and Virginia are perennially two of the top teams in the nation. The Cavaliers walked away with the conference championship last year and in 1952 shared the National title with RPI. The Terps were National Champions seven times, in 1936 - 37, 1939 - 40, 1955 - 56 and 1959.

This year, besides Maryland, Virginia, Duke and Ohio State, Amherst, Swarthmore, Hartwick and Washington and Lee.

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