

Center Of Attention

Hicks Stars In Movies

by Ken Tilley
Special to the DTH



Center Keith Hicks

Carolina's football coaches spend a great deal of their time watching movies. The films feature the Tar Heels in action. While it is doubtful that any of the performers viewed on the screen will win an Academy Award, the coaches find ample reason to praise the "actors."

One such star of Carolina's two opening victories is Keith Hicks, the Tar Heels' rugged offensive center. UNC coaches hope that he will continue to score well in the movie ratings when Carolina travels to Maryland to face the Terrapins Saturday.

Against N.C. State last Saturday, Hicks was faced with one of the greatest challenges of his career. It was his responsibility to stop the rush of the Wolfpack's outstanding middle guard George Smith, a pre-season all-conference lineman.

Tar Heel Coach Bill Dooley notes that in last year's loss to State, "Smith broke through our offensive line so many times that we thought he was a fifth man in our backfield. But this year Keith and our offensive guards kept Smith from wrecking us as he had done in the past."

Hicks prepared well for the encounter with the Wolfpack. "I really psyched myself up for the State game," he says. "It was a personal challenge and was the first time I had faced Smith. (Ron) Grzybowski and (Jim) Hambacher gave me a lot of help. We double-teamed Smith frequently, and it seemed to wear him down."

Carolina's two initial victories are very satisfying to Hicks, but the senior lineman from Fairfax, Va., is not resting on past successes. "All the seniors will be particularly fired up for Maryland," he forecasts. "We still have a bad taste from the game with them our sophomore year (a 33-24 defeat which ended a 16-game Maryland losing streak). We want this one real bad."

Another important game for Hicks will be the contest with South Carolina. "I was born there, and still have relatives in the state. They really gave me a hard time when we lost last year. I can't wait to play them this year," he continues with a smile crossing his face. "A victory over South Carolina will be sweeter because of my personal motives."

The 6-0, 215-pound anchor man of the Tar Heel offensive line is not going to overlook the other teams on the Carolina schedule, however. "Football is a crazy game—so much of it is emotional," he observes. "We can't take any team too lightly."

Inside The ACC: State In Trouble

By Al Thomas



Even though Coach Bill Dooley and his Tar Heels refuse to belittle their upcoming skirmish with Maryland, a battle being waged only a cow pasture or two from Chapel Hill will grab the spotlight as the Atlantic Coast Conference's game-of-the-week.

The high-riding South Carolina Gamecocks will be at Carter Stadium ready to play Saturday afternoon—and if State doesn't look out, the Wolfpack could find themselves holding a miserable 0-3 record by Saturday night.

Prospects for Earle Edward's chargers are just that discouraging. State has had an almost impossible time lighting up the scoreboard, and in the first two games has compiled a total of six points. The Wolfpack defense, at the same time, has allowed the opposition 40 points.

Last week against the Tar Heels, State totaled 133 offensive yards, a paltry 11 of which came on the ground.

For a coach who has always stressed a strong ground attack and an imposing defense, these overly-hot September days have become almost unbearable.

To make matters worse for Edwards and his State squad, their opening game conquerers, the Richmond Spiders, suffered humiliating defeat at the hands of West Virginia last week, 49-10. State could manage only six points against this same Richmond team.

Now the Wolfpack are forced to take this unusually meager record into battle with what may be the strongest team in the ACC.

After losing a squeaker to Georgia Tech in their first outing this year, the Gamecocks rebounded with a convincing 43-7 win over hapless Wake Forest. The Gamecocks rushed for 300 yards while holding the Deacons to six.

Tommy Suggs, South Carolina's lightning-quick quarterback who was named the ACC back-of-the-week this week.

connected on 12 of 27 passes for 207 yards.

The Gamecocks actually gave Wake Forest a more severe beating than Nebraska did a week earlier, who allowed the Deacons 222 total yards. Nebraska won that game 36-12.

For the Wolfpack, all this means trouble.

If State is able to come out of Saturday's game still intact as a team, Edwards should consider himself lucky. If State is able to come out of Saturday's game with a victory, Edwards should be too stunned to consider anything.

Duke Tries Again

At Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, the Blue Devils will be out to prove last week's game with Maryland was no indication of their true strength.

The Blue Devils appeared to be shaping up as a contender for the conference title after narrowly losing to Florida 21-19 in their first game of the season. Last week, Duke threatened to crumble and had to come up with a dramatic, last second field goal to edge Maryland.

Duke was totally ineffective on the ground against Maryland, picking up only 104 yards.

Virginia, meanwhile, has come through with two respectable performances, topping Virginia Tech and losing a tough battle to Clemson. The Cavaliers are having trouble in their defensive secondary, however, which is developing as their biggest problem spot.

Virginia's defensive line, headed by Randy Lestyk, will be much too tough for the Blue Devils to be effective on the ground.

Duke will therefore undoubtedly play a passing game, and, if Leo Hart is on target, could regain the spark which was lost sometime during the week between the Florida and Maryland games.

Back to the Winning Tar Heels

The third major game in the

ACC this week pits undefeated North Carolina against winless Maryland. After the Tar Heels' convincing wins over Kentucky and State and Maryland's losses to Duke and Villanova, the Terrapins, at least on paper, shouldn't have a chance to win.

Dooley, however, thinks otherwise.

Speaking at his weekly press luncheon after enjoying a thick, juicy rib-eye steak, Dooley said the Tar Heels are taking the Terrapins very seriously.

"On any given Saturday," Dooley said, "Maryland can whip anyone on their schedule. At any rate they improved from their showing against Villanova to their showing against Duke, they could be very tough."

With Rusty Culbreth sidelined for the rest of the year because of a knee injury, Dooley's words take on additional meaning.

Maryland is a good passing team, with quarterback Jeff Shugars often looking to tailback Art Seymore for passes down the middle. Seymore led the Terrapins' freshmen squad last year with 282 yards rushing and a 4.8 average.

The Terrapins' first score against Duke was on an 80 yard pass play, down the middle, from Shugars to Seymore. Although three Blue Devils were within tackling range, no one could come close to Seymore as he blasted his way into the in-zone.

With Culbreth, the only experienced player in the UNC defensive secondary, out of action, the Tar Heels could have trouble if Maryland elects to take to the air.

At Week's End

When, or if, the dust settles and the air finally clears, by Saturday night ACC sports enthusiasts should have a reasonably intelligible picture as to the true strength of the eight conference squads.

With just a few miscues by any of the teams, it could be a very surprising picture.

Harriers Set For USC

Better depth should give Carolina one of its strongest cross country teams in recent years when the Tar Heels open their season next Monday at South Carolina.

"We should be much stronger up and down the line than we have been in the past," says Coach Joe Hilton. "Several freshmen are coming along very well. We will not have to rely on just four or five runners as we did last year."

Heading the list of returning lettermen is junior Larry Widgeon of Norfolk, Va., top man on last year's team. Sophomore

Pat Grady of Medford, N.J., number two man last season, is also back.

Hilton says the summer improvement of junior Zack Osborne of Greensboro, N.C. is another plus factor for the Tar Heels. Hilton also is hoping for good showings from David Collins, Bill Harwood and Bruce Hafemeister.

The most impressive freshmen have been Tony Waldrop of Columbus, N.C., Mike Caldwell of Charlotte, N.C., Mike Garcia of Fayetteville, N.C. and Steve Grathwohl of Charlotte, N.C.

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