

His Biggest Weakness

# Grissom Curbs Strength

by Rick Brewer  
Special to the DTJ

Bud Grissom has finally overcome his biggest weakness—his great strength—and because of that has developed into one of the finest defensive linemen in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Grissom, a 6-1, 236-pound junior, starts at left defensive tackle for North Carolina's Tar Heels. His development into a top-flight star is one of the big reasons Carolina is allowing its opponents only 76.0 yards per game on the ground this year.

In fact, it is felt by many observers that Grissom's emergence as a blue-chip

performer gives UNC the best front four in the ACC. Right tackle Flip Ray and ends Bill Bradford and Judge Mattocks are top candidates for All-ACC honors.

But, Grissom has been the big defensive star in Carolina's last three games. He made eight individual tackles against Vanderbilt, three times dropping Commodore quarterback Tom Miller for big losses as he tried to pass. He also came up with superb performances in Tar Heel losses to South Carolina and Tulane.

Although coming to Carolina as one of the most sought-after high school linemen in the South, Grissom did not break onto the Tar Heel scene with a bang. He was injured much of last year and when he did play, he was not as effective as had been expected.

"Strength was my problem," says Bud now in looking back to a frustrating

sophomore year. "I tried to overpower everybody. I was concentrating too much on trying to outplay the offensive blocker, beat him individually."

"Now I've learned that it's not so important to knock the blocker down as it is to get around him and get to the ball. This year I'm using my hands more to push the blocker out of the way instead of wasting time trying to run over him."

Grissom credits much of his improvement to his running mate at tackle, Flip Ray.

"I don't think there is any doubt but that Flip is the best tackle in the conference. I've learned quite a bit just talking to him and playing beside him."

Ray, however, refuses to take any credit for Grissom's improvement.

"Bud has improved because of hard work and dedication," says Flip. "He's no longer trying to overpower his man, but is learning to push or throw him out of the way, this is improving his pass rush greatly."



Bud Grissom

Grissom turned down scholarship offers to Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina to come to Carolina. His brother Richard is a UNC sophomore and, in fact, is playing behind Bud at tackle.

Has he ever regretted coming to Carolina?

"Not unless you count spring practice when I had to play against Don McCauley," Bud laughs. "He's the best football player I've ever seen. He attacks tacklers. His strength is just unbelievable."

You can take Bud Grissom's word for that. Strength and when to use it is something he knows all about as Carolina opponents are finding out.

# Heels Schedule National Powers

Intersectional games against such national powers as Notre Dame, Illinois, Tulane, Ohio State, Florida, Kentucky and Missouri will highlight Carolina football schedules in 1971, 1972, and 1973.

UNC Director of Athletics Homer Rice announced the three-year schedule Friday and said, "These schedules are another indication that Tar Heel teams will continue their tradition of playing the best opposition available in America."

The Tar Heels will play 11 games each of the three seasons. After playing six home games this year, there will be five home games in 1971 and 1972 and six home contests in 1973.

In addition to the top intersectional games, Carolina will face its rugged Atlantic Coast Conference opponents. The Tar Heels will meet all seven ACC foes in 1972 and 1973. Next year's schedule calls for six Conference games with South Carolina not on the card.

Intersectional games next year find the Tar Heels meeting Richmond, Illinois and Notre Dame on the road and battling

Tulane and William and Mary in Kenan Stadium here.

In 1972, the Tar Heels will travel to play Ohio State and Florida and will battle Richmond and Kentucky at home. The 1973 schedule finds Carolina going against Kentucky and Tulane away while meeting Missouri and William and Mary here.

The games against Illinois and Missouri will be "firsts" for the Tar Heels. Carolina never has met either of those schools in football.

Carolina is in the midst of a rebuilding program under Coach Bill Dooley. The current Tar Heel team has a 4-2 record and is in the race for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

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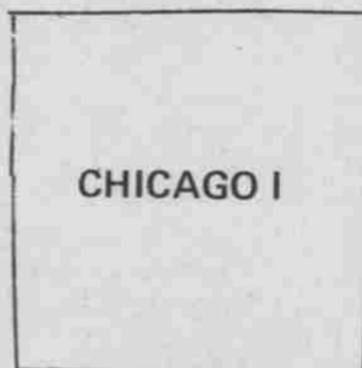
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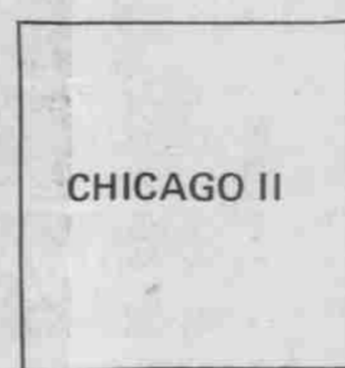
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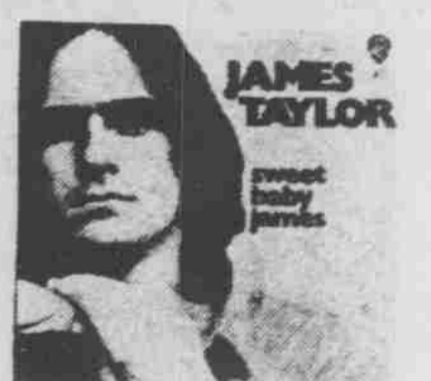
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