

Duke-UNC Game Has Rich Past

by Al Thomas
Asst. Sports Editor

Carolina and Duke will continue their intense rivalry here at Kenan Stadium this afternoon, with the battle expected to be as hard-fought and unpredictable as always.

Today's game has the earmarks of being one for the record books in the long 78-year history of the two schools' football feud.

Events during the week, from the Heel Howl to the "Beat Duke" parade, help ensure that everyone's adrenalin will be rapidly and almost uncontrollably flowing.

While most fans in Kenan Stadium today will be thinking only about what's happening on the field, the tradition of the rivalry—the long history of it—will be playing as big a part in the game as anything.

The feud began in 1891 when football was emerging as a national sport. Duke won that first game, 6-4.

The Tar Heels rebounded the next year with a 24-0 victory, however, and in 1922 began an eight-year period of complete dominance.

After losing two years in a row to the Dukes, the Tar Heels decided to regain superiority as the country was emerging from the darker days of the depression.

Coach Car Snavelly was in his first year of coaching at UNC in 1934, while Duke

with Wallace Wade at the coaching helm, a powerhouse.

The day of the game, the DTH's main headline read: "Carolina Rooters Yell. Shout 'Beat The Devil Out of Duke.' Act Like Gentlemen, Asks Harper Barnes."

Barnes asked in the story that "Carolina students act like college men and not like a group of high school boys."

The Tar Heels won the game, 7-0, and the Daily Tar Heel was not modest about the victory.

"Coach Snavelly's inspired Tar Heels rose to their greatest heights yesterday afternoon when they outplayed and outscored a mighty Duke machine, 7-0, in one of the finest and hardest-fought grid battles ever staged anywhere."

"A record-breaking crowd of something over 30,000 packed every bit of available space within looking distance of the ball game and not a person whether Carolina or Blue Devil rooter, left the scene of play without being satisfied that he had witnessed a super-natural demonstration."

On that same page, a wire service story from Jackson, Miss. read, "King Huey Long I, emperor of Louisiana, turned rah-rah today and led the LSU cheering section in a few yells as his team defeated Mississippi."

The Tar Heels suffered for most of the next twelve years, winning only twice and tying once.

With the emergence of Charlie (Choo-Choo) Justice in the late 1940's, Carolina suddenly awakened from its coma.

Snavelly, back as coach after a nine year lapse, was favored to bring his Tar Heels to victory. He did. In 1948 the DTH wrote:

"...Bow-hound Carolina, held in check for more than half the game by a determined Duke eleven, roared back in the second half to trounce their ancient Durham rivals, 20-0 before 44,500 fans yesterday, largest crowd ever to witness a game in Kenan Stadium."

The rivalry see-sawed for the next decade, with one of the most memorable games, as far as Carolina fans are concerned, coming in 1958.

The game was played on Thanksgiving, with the first issue of the DTH after the holidays sporting a six-inch high "50-0" and a five inch high picture of Jim Hickey at the top of the front page.

A column by sports editor Elliott Cooper read:

"From the winners points of view the contest was definitely the most. Conversely, for the losers it was the worst. Even if you had come to all the Duke-Carolina games since they started in 1888 you would never have seen anything like what happened this time."

"Out on the field, Carolina was Midas reincarnated."

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