

Big Shootout III?

Heels, Sun Devils in Peach showdown

by Chris Cobbs
Sports Editor

boot-camp he operates in the spring and fall to get his players ready.

And he gets them ready, make no mistake about that. So ready that 20 of them are now playing professional football; so ready that he stands fifth in the country among active coaches in lifetime winning percentage; so ready that Arizona State won all of its 10 games this year and a bid to the Peach Bowl on Dec. 30.

The Sun Devils averaged six touchdowns and 515 yards in total offense per game to win recognition as the best team in the West.

The wire services ranked A.S.U. eighth in the country, but the highly-respected Sports Illustrated accorded Kush's team ahead of Nebraska, which was branded the nation's third best squad by the polls. All of which would seem to leave the Sun Devils behind (which no one is going to do in a footrace) plodding but powerful Texas.

Now then, since Carolina has been selected as the dude to maintain order in the saloon when the Sun Devils come east to Atlanta and the Peach showdown, what is to be done by high sheriff and Coach, Bill Dooley?

The Tar Heel mentor says his team is "faced with a heckuva challenge. Arizona State has unbelievable speed. They run every play in the book and run them all well. They have terrific balance in their attack."

Of course, Dooley's stable of defenders is not exactly barren or decrepit. The Carolina defense ranked sixth nationally in rushing defense, permitting an average of but 95 yards a game on the ground.

Braced by All-Atlantic Coast Conference tackle Flip Ray and linebackers Bill Richardson and John Bunting, who barely missed that honor, the Tar Heels yielded overland yardage at an average of about two-yards a snap.

The UNC pass defense, much maligned after Carolina lost to South Carolina and Tulane, snapped back from injuries to key personnel and developed into a competent unit by the Tar Heels met Duke's explosive Leo Hart to Wes Chesson combination.

Hart, who broke virtually every ACC passing record, completed just 13 passes against UNC as the Blue Devils lost 59-34. The Carolina secondary, even with stars Rusty Culbreth and Richard Stilley injured, was a mature and cohesive unit as the season ended.

As Dooley says, however, the Tar Heel defense has hardly met a backfield whose every member runs the 100 in under 10 seconds. With quarterback Joe "Spagheti" Spagnola, running backs Monroe Eley (of Nashville, N.C.) and Bob Thomas and wingback J.D. Hill, the Sun Devils are the fastest in the West.

Another threat is part-time tight end and part-time wingback Steve Holden, an

all-conference choice who led the nation in punt returns with an average of 19.3 yards and scored touchdowns of 94 and 79 yards.

The line is medium-sized and quick, like its defensive counterpart, according to Dooley. Staunchest members of the Sun Devils defense are Junior Ah You, a ferocious rusher, tackle Bob Davenport and safety Windlan Hall.

If the Tar Heels have never met a faster team than Arizona State, it is doubtful that the Sun Devils have ever had to deal with Don McCauley's equal either. Assuredly not, if you listen to Dooley, who has repeatedly called the UNC halfback the greatest running back in the country.

McCauley, in making every All-America team one could list, rushed for 1,720 yards, averaged 5.3 yards a carry this season. He picked up over half of Carolina's ground yardage, which is to say he accounted for over a third of the team's total offense, and scored 126 of its 346 points.

The 3rd annual Peach Bowl, scheduled two weeks hence in Grant Field, Atlanta, promises to attract a near capacity crowd of 60,000 to witness this match of Western speed and Eastern power.

It is a game that has all the makings of a "Big Shootout," which would be the second of those in a month and a fitting finish to collegiate football in the calendar year 1970.



Choo Choo Justice, left, and Ken Willard, Tar Heel running stars of the 1940's and early 1960's, preceded current All-American Don McCauley on Carolina bowl teams.

Gator victory only Heel bowl win

by Mark Whicker
Sports Writer

As the Tar Heels prepare for the Dec. 30 Peach Bowl game with Arizona State, they don't really have tradition behind them.

Carolina was unsuccessful in three bowl tries before Ken Willard, Chris Hanburger and Co. defeated Air Force 35-0 in the 1963 Gator Bowl.

The Tar Heel losses include one rout, one close game, and one that the referees helped decide. Charlie (Choo Choo) Justice, UNC's most famed back, was involved in all three.

UNC's first bowl appearance was after the 1946 season, when Choo Choo was a freshman. Coach Carl Snavely had two other great runners in Walt Pupa and Hosea Rodgers, plus promising freshman end Art Weiner, who joined Justice on the All-America teams.

Georgia was the Sugar Bowl opponent that year, with All-American Charlie Trippi and quarterback Johnny Rauch, now coach of the Buffalo Bills.

But Snavely's eager Tar Heels took a 7-0 lead on Pupa's plunge, and after Rauch scored, they upped their margin to 10-7 on a field goal by Bobby Cox.

Then Joe Terreshinski passed 60 yards to Dick McPhee to set up Georgia's go-ahead score. The Tar Heels protested that the pass was really a forward lateral, and really started booing when referee Gabo Hill ruled that end Ken Powell was pushing off while catching a touchdown pass.

The Daily Tar Heel said, "We sincerely hope Mr. Hill never officiates another Carolina game." Georgia won 20-10. The 1948 team started off with a vengeance, ripping Texas 34-0 in the

Kenan Stadium opener, then beat Georgia 21-14.

Weiner caught two touchdown passes in UNC's 20-0 win over Duke, and Snavely directed Carolina to New Orleans once again, this time against Oklahoma.

UNC drove smoothly to the Oklahoma 14 on the game's first drive, where Myrtle Greathouse intercepted a Justice pass and took it back to the Heels' 14. Jack Mitchell's touchdown was soon equalled by a plunge by Hosea Rodgers, but the extra point failed and the Sooners led 7-6 at half.

Weiner, usually sure-handed, dropped a sure TD pass as the half ended, and the breaks continued to favor Oklahoma in the second half. Mitchell's pass to Frank Anderson was deflected by Bill Flavis, and dropped into the Sooners' hands to set up OU's second touchdown.

Oklahoma won 14-6 on those two near-misses, defeating one of the best Tar Heel teams in history.

Weiner, Justice and quarterback Bill Hayes led Carolina to another bowl bid in 1949.

The Heels lost three games that year to the country's finest. LSU stopped UNC 13-7 in Baton Rouge, Tennessee smothered Carolina in Kenan 35-6, and the invincible Notre Dame machine pulled out of a sticky 6-6 halftime tie to win 42-6 in Yankee Stadium.

Weiner pulled the Heels past Duke 21-20 when he blocked a Mike Souchak field goal attempt with four seconds remaining.

So Carolina went to its third major bowl in four years, and suffered its most decisive loss, 27-13, to Rice.

Blocking back Paul Rizzo scored both UNC touchdowns after 80-yard drives,

but this came after the Owls had opened up a 27-0 lead.

Tobin Rote, future pro star with Detroit, Green Bay and San Diego, passed for one touchdown and Billy Burkhalter ran for two others.

Twelve seasons went by before the Tar Heels had another team worthy of bowl status, but the 1963 team was certainly worth waiting for.

The running of Willard and Eddie Kesler was beautifully balanced by quarterback Junior Edge's passing. Edged led the conference in total offense with 1413 yards and outduelled Georgia's Larry Rakestraw in a 28-7 Tar Heel win.

Carolina tied for the ACC crown and beat the other co-champ, State, 31-10 in Kenan Stadium. An 11-7 loss to Clemson in Death Valley kept Jim Hickey's crew from winning the title outright.

The only other loss for Carolina was a 31-0 disaster at Michigan State.

Sophomore Max Chapman's 42-yard field goal gave Carolina a heart-stopping 16-14 win over Duke on Thanksgiving

Day and enabled Hickey to accept a Gator Bowl date against Air Force.

End Bob Lacey caught 48 aerials for 533 yards that year, while Willard and Kesler combined for 940 yards on the ground.

The Falcons had the nation's second-leading scorer in quarterback Terry Isaacson, and most forecasters thought that Isaacson would rip the Tar Heel defense to shreds in Jacksonville.

But Terry suffered the same treatment Duke's Leo Hart got this year. Rarely was he allowed to get his passes off, and one he did throw was intercepted by Ronnie Jackson to give UNC its second touchdown.

Willard, Edge and Kesler all scored on short runs, and sub QB Gary Black ran for one score and hit end Joe Robinson for another. The Falcons were plucked 35-0, with the mechanical Tar Heel ground game accounting for 251 yards.

Although Carolina has lost three of four bowls, two of their losses could have easily gone the other way.

The Daily Tar Heel Bowl Preview

Erickson confident that Heels can win

by Howie Carr
Sports Writer

"This team can hold its own with anybody on any given day. Their potential is great, and I don't think they've realized it."

That's the way Chuck Erickson, former athletic director (1951-68) describes the Peach Bowl-bound Tar Heel football team.

Erickson, who has seen every previous Carolina bowl game, ranks this year's edition as equal to or stronger than any of the other teams that played in post-season games.

"They have just as much talent as any team, and with McCauley they're probably stronger," he says. "This is the strongest bowl team. The 1947 team was as good as this year's, but they didn't go to a bowl."

Erickson rated the 1947 Sugar Bowl game against Georgia, which Carolina lost 20-10, as the most exciting game.

"On their record, Georgia was the strongest team we ever played in a bowl game," he recalls. "We played a wonderful game. It was close right through, but there were some questionable calls against us."

"As far as satisfaction goes, the 1960 Gator Bowl was the best," Erickson says, remembering UNC's 35-0 victory over Air Force. "It was a lot easier to relax in the press box with Willard and Edge and the others out there."

The catalyst which propelled the Tar Heels into the Gator Bowl that year was

the victory over Duke, an event which Erickson describes as his "single happiest moment in football. It was when that kid from the western part of the state (Max Chapman) kicked a long field goal to beat Duke 16-14."

"The 1949 Sugar Bowl against Oklahoma was a good game, too," he explains of the 14-6 loss to the Sooners. "There was more defense in that one. Our team has worked so hard they peaked a couple of days before the game."

Erickson doesn't really think that the two stars who led their teams to bowl games, Charlie Justice and Don McCauley, can be compared because of their different styles.

"Justice was a tremendous passer, kicker and runner. He was more of a breakaway threat," he says. "I've never seen a stronger runner than McCauley. He knows what to do when he gets the hole. 'McCauley is very dedicated,'" continues Erickson. "He's worked hard, and it shows. When considering the two, you've also got to remember the weight difference. Justice was only 168 pounds, while McCauley's about 210."

Erickson, who was athletic director when Bill Dooley was selected as head coach in 1967, is pleased with the football program's progress.

"What Dooley has done is to bring in a lot of local boys," he says. "This has built a lot of state-wide pride in the team. Our whole athletic program is in good shape. There's a healthy situation here."

Sun Devil coach demands sacrifice

by Howie Carr
Sports Writer

Kush's teams became famous for their great running backs, who were developed by a unique process.

"They've got to run tough, so we make them into blockers first," says Kush, outlining his program for running backs and receivers. "You've got to be aggressive to block somebody, 'cause if you're not they'll take your head off. When they learn to block and be aggressive, then we give them the ball."

Sidelines frustrating to injured Culbreth

by Mark Whicker
Sports Writer

"I've been a cheerleader instead of a player the last couple of months, and it's pretty frustrating," says Carolina safety Rusty Culbreth.

Although he has been testing his injured knee with workouts and running with the Tar Heels in practice, Rusty is doubtful that he'll see any Peach Bowl action Dec. 30.

"It's on a 'maybe' basis right now, and even if the knee is okay there are a lot of guys who have been playing all year that would probably see action ahead of me," estimates Culbreth.

He suffered his injury while hustling for extra yards on a punt return against State Sept. 19 in Kenan Stadium. His roommate, Greg Ward, replaced him and Culbreth started working out last month.

"I can run at just about full speed going straight ahead," says Culbreth, "but I don't know about cutting yet. Also, I haven't been doing any hitting, of course, and I don't know what a direct hit might mean to the knee."

"I really want to play next fall. I could graduate in June, but I'm going to hang around for the games next year. We play Notre Dame and several other good opponents."

"So I don't know about this Peach Bowl game. It's doubtful that I will play," concludes Culbreth reluctantly.

Since safety Richard Stilley suffered a shoulder separation in the Duke game, the Tar Heels may need Culbreth in the defensive backfield against the bombs of Arizona State quarterback Joe Spagnola.

Lou Angelo, Greg Ward, Richard Garrett, Tracy Bridges and John Swofford are the other deep backs available.

Linebacker Jim Webster, who injured an ankle against Virginia, should play against Arizona State.

Culbreth, at 5-9 and 167 pounds the smallest man on the team, describes himself as "drowning in my own self-pity" after his injury.

The Tar Heels' state of mind was no better. Carolina managed to beat Maryland and Vanderbilt, but South Carolina and Tulane both burned the Tar Heels with long bombs and won 35-21 and 24-17.

After Carolina was beaten by Wake Forest 14-13, the team regrouped for four wins in a row, and one big reason was an improved secondary. Ward, Stilley and Angelo matured into an adequate unit.

"I used to think I was pretty strong individual," says Culbreth, "and could handle just about anything myself."

"Then I got hurt, and it was my first experience with an injury of any kind. I was in pretty bad mental shape for a while until I realized that I needed other people. They really pulled me through."



Safety Rusty Culbreth

"What other people? Your teammates?" "Not just them. It was just a conglomerate of other people—everybody in general. They put all the letters that I had received on a big table."

Culbreth doesn't feel he deserves a lot of attention for his plight.

"There are a lot of other players that are actually out there on the field that deserve it more than me," he says. "I just feel more like a prop to them now, rather than one of them."

Like a forlorn Brooklyn Dodger fan on the season's last day, Rusty Culbreth has little to say or think except "Wait 'til next year."