

# Linemen will key offense



Jerry Sain



Ken Huff

## Offensive workers will make or break runners

by Dan Collins  
Assistant Sports Editor

It's been said a football game is won or lost in the trenches and if the old adage carries any truth, then the 1972 Tar Heels should have their share of victories come Christmas.

The key to Carolina's chances of picking up their second consecutive conference crown doubtlessly lies in the offensive line, where all five starters from last year's squad return.

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Add two experienced veterans in Bob Walters and Bob Pratt plus an outstanding newcomer Ken Huff, and you've got as good a college line as you'll find anywhere.

Needless to say pressure will plague the starting five, the unit expected to carry most of the load until the rest of

the younger and less experienced Tar Heels get the necessary game experience.

New offensive line Coach Pat Watson, however, feels the squad has the poise to cope with the added pressure.

"Any time there's a lot of attention on one part of the team," Walter admitted, "then there is going to be pressure. But these guys are all tested, they're great competitors and I really don't think the pressure is going to affect them."

Watson replaced last season's line coach, Bud Moore, who resigned last spring to return to his Alma Mater Alabama as an assistant to head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. It is Walter's second stint at Carolina after serving as graduate assistant in 1967 and 1968 before coaching at Furman and Mississippi State.

"Basically it is the same line from last season," he said, "just a little older and more experienced. There may not be as much experience as last year but there is enough."

The tackles are set, with Sain and Pratt gaining the starting assignment against Richmond in the season opener Saturday. Sain, a 6'2" senior from Lincolnton, N.C., has great mobility and rates as one of the best blockers on the team.

Pratt, a converted high school fullback, won a starting berth last season as a sophomore and turned in outstanding performances game after game. At 6'3" 253 pounds, he looms as the team's biggest offensive starter, but he too has the speed to open the line for the Tar Heel backs.

Rusnak, a 6'1" 223 lb. senior from Prince George, Va., has been rated as one of the best blockers to ever play at Carolina. Last season he finished second to fullback Geof Hamlin in voting for the Jacobs Blocking Trophy, but has an excellent chance to win the award this year.

The other guard position has been a dog-fight between Huff and Walters, with the former gaining the starting assignment in opening game.

Huff has accomplished the impossible dream of breaking into the veteran line-up as a sophomore and is expected to keep the Carolina tradition of outstanding linemen intact. The 6'4" 238 lb. native of Coronado, Calif., was recruited after an outstanding career at Deerfield Prep School in Massachusetts.

The middle is secure with Thornton starting at center for the second straight year.

# Olympic hero Mark Spitz swims to seventh medal

MUNICH (UPI) — Mark Spitz got his record seventh swimming gold medal and fellow American swimming stars made another clean sweep Monday to give the United States a commanding medals lead despite an impressive 200-meter victory by Valery Borzov of Russia in track and field.

Borzov held off Larry Black of Miami, Fla., to win the 200-dash in 20 seconds, two-tenths of a second off the world record. He became only the seventh athlete in Olympic history to win both sprints and the first one to do it in 16 years.

While Borzov was the hero of track and field, it was the young American swimming stars, most of them in the 14-to-16-year-old range, who were extending early every world record to what many thought were unreachable heights only four years ago.

Spitz, the "old man" of the group at 22 and competing in perhaps his last race, swam the butterfly leg on the winning men's 400-meter medley relay team anchored by Jerry Heidenreich of Dallas, Texas, with Mike Stamm of San Diego, Calif., and Tom Bruce of Sunnydale, Calif., they carved out a world record 3:48.2.

It was the seventh gold medal for Spitz

— an unprecedented accomplishment — and his seventh world record in what may be the most brilliant individual performance in Olympic history.

It was the fourth American gold medal in swimming on the final day of the competition and the fourth world record.

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THERE WILL BE a paid clinic for tag football officials on Wednesday, September 6 at 4:00 p.m. Applications are still being taken for officials. All students are eligible. Officials will be paid at a rate of \$1.68 per hour this year.

There will be a managers meeting for all Residence Hall, Fraternity, and Graduate intramural managers on Wednesday night in 304 Woollen Gym at 7:00 p.m. Applications for the paid

position of intramural manager for certain residence halls are still being accepted. Contact Sammy Parker in the Intramural Office sometime on or after Monday.

Tag Football entries are due on Wednesday, September 6. Play begins on Monday September 11.

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THE CAROLINA RUGBY Club will hold an organizational meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the South Gallery Meeting Room of the Student Union. The meeting is for all returning players and those interested in joining the club.

Last fall's club had a record of 8-3 while the Spring club finished with a 9-1 record to tie for the Carling Cup, the highest award in Southeastern Rugby.

## Winston Cavin Sparky fires NY

On hot summer nights, New Yorkers leave the comforts of their seedy homes to travel the steamy, dirty streets of the city. They risk muggers, homosexuals and warring mobsters to take a 30-cent subway ride. And they jam into one of New York's many run-down neighborhoods and ancient Yankee Stadium. Their request: watching the New York Yankees play.

The Yanks are one of America's oldest surviving enterprises, or so it seems. But the new, improved version of an aged legend is drawing big crowds once again. The Yankees are in a pennant race.

They hardly look like pennant contenders, but something has brought the team out of eight long years of obscurity and into baseball's limelight once again. That special intangible ingredient is probably Sparky Lyle.

Lyle is a mystical character. He lacks a Mays-like charisma, but he has a flair for excitement. He is also one of the best relief pitchers in the game.

His statistics include an incredible 29 saves, a mark that would look good even if the Yanks were playing .800 ball. And he has won eight games in relief while losing only three. Several times he has successfully protected one-run leads.

Many New Yorkers flock to the Yankee showplace just to watch Lyle's entrance. He rides in a pin-striped Datsun, spits some chewing tobacco and proceeds to take over a ball game.

Not that the Yanks have a lousy pitching staff. In fact, they have four good starters in Steve Kline, Rob Gardner, Fritz Peterson and Mel Stottlemyre. Mike Kekich is there, too, just to give the others a day off.

Lyle has a somewhat touchy job of relieving people like Kline even when they're having a good day. Some pitchers might resent being replaced after throwing eight innings of shutout ball, for instance. But everyone, it seems, loves Lyle, and that includes the starting pitchers.

The Yanks' moody and taciturn manager, Ralph Houk, is also a Sparky

fan. In fact, two weeks ago he decided to give him a few days off, and the Yankees proceeded to drop three games in a row to the lowly Kansas City Royals.

But Sparky is back now and the Yanks are still hoping to pull a Metlike miracle and win the Eastern race. Such an occurrence is hardly likely, but should the Orioles or the Tigers falter (a good possibility) the Yanks will be right there. Lyle's value to the team can be measured by the success they have had since he came from Boston earlier this year. Since 1964's pennant year, the Yanks had been relegated to oblivion, mostly as a result of their own ineptitude. Additional problems probably kept them from realizing their own potential, and they needed an inspirational, colorful character like Sparky. It was one of the Yanks' best deals in a long time.

So now, the Yanks have a chance to bring a baseball powerhouse back to New York. The future is bright, as the team has plenty of young players. Sparky himself will probably save a few more games before he burns himself out. He's only 28 years old.

The Yankee comeback could be good for baseball in general. It will have to be good for New York City. The Mets have fallen farther and farther away from prominence since their 1969 championship.

Meanwhile, with the crosstown club slipping and sliding, the Yankees will probably continue to draw larger and larger crowds. Bobby Murcer will continue to belt home runs and New Yorkers will have more encouragement to leave their homes and risk the dangers of the night.

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