

Heels 'stronger last year' UNC fails to awe

by Dan Collins
Assistant Sports Editor

The Richmond football team left Saturday's 28-18 loss to Carolina with a feeling of respect for the victorious Tar Heels.

The feeling, however, fell far short of awe.

Barty Smith, Richmond's All-Southern conference fullback: "I do think they have a good football team, but I don't think they'll go to another Gator Bowl."

Pet Keeley, the Spider's premier defensive standout at linebacker: "They weren't near as good offensively as they were last year. They weren't as quick and they didn't hit as hard."

Frank Jones, Richmond head coach: "We just didn't get too many breaks out there. Give us that touchdown that was called back and it might have been a different game."

Could this be the sound of a defeated team trying to get their shots in when the time is easiest, after the game? Or could it be that Richmond expected to face a Tar Heel squad that came much closer to resembling last year's team that drubbed the Spiders 28-0 in Richmond?

For instance, when Kelley was asked to rate the Tar Heel backfield, he automatically referred to last year's backs.

"The backs are not as good as last year," he said. "Jolley was a lot better.

He was the one that really impressed me when we played them last year."

"The quarterbacking wasn't as strong either," Kelley continued, "but of the two that did play I thought Vidnovic was better. I thought he was quicker and moved better."

"He just needs a little more experience."

Coach Jones, however, had reservations about trying to compare Klise and Vidnovic with Paul Miller, last year's signal caller.

"Miller was an old head," Jones said, "he was a real veteran quarterback. I think it would be unfair to compare them to Miller. I thought they both did play a good game, it's just that they need some more experience."

Barty Smith, who was less than full strength due to an illness and consequently gained only 27 yards in five carries, rated the Tar Heel defense as inferior to last year's unit.

"They're weaker in the linebacker spots," Smith said, "and the pass rush isn't nearly as good as it was last year. I definitely think we could have beat them. We just made too many mistakes and got some tough breaks."

The Richmond squad was agreed in admitting that one of their biggest problems was getting started. In the opening minutes of the game the Spiders seemed entirely outclassed as the Tar

Heels scored the first two times they had the ball. With 11:20 remaining in the first period the visitors were down 14-0 and apparently out of the game.

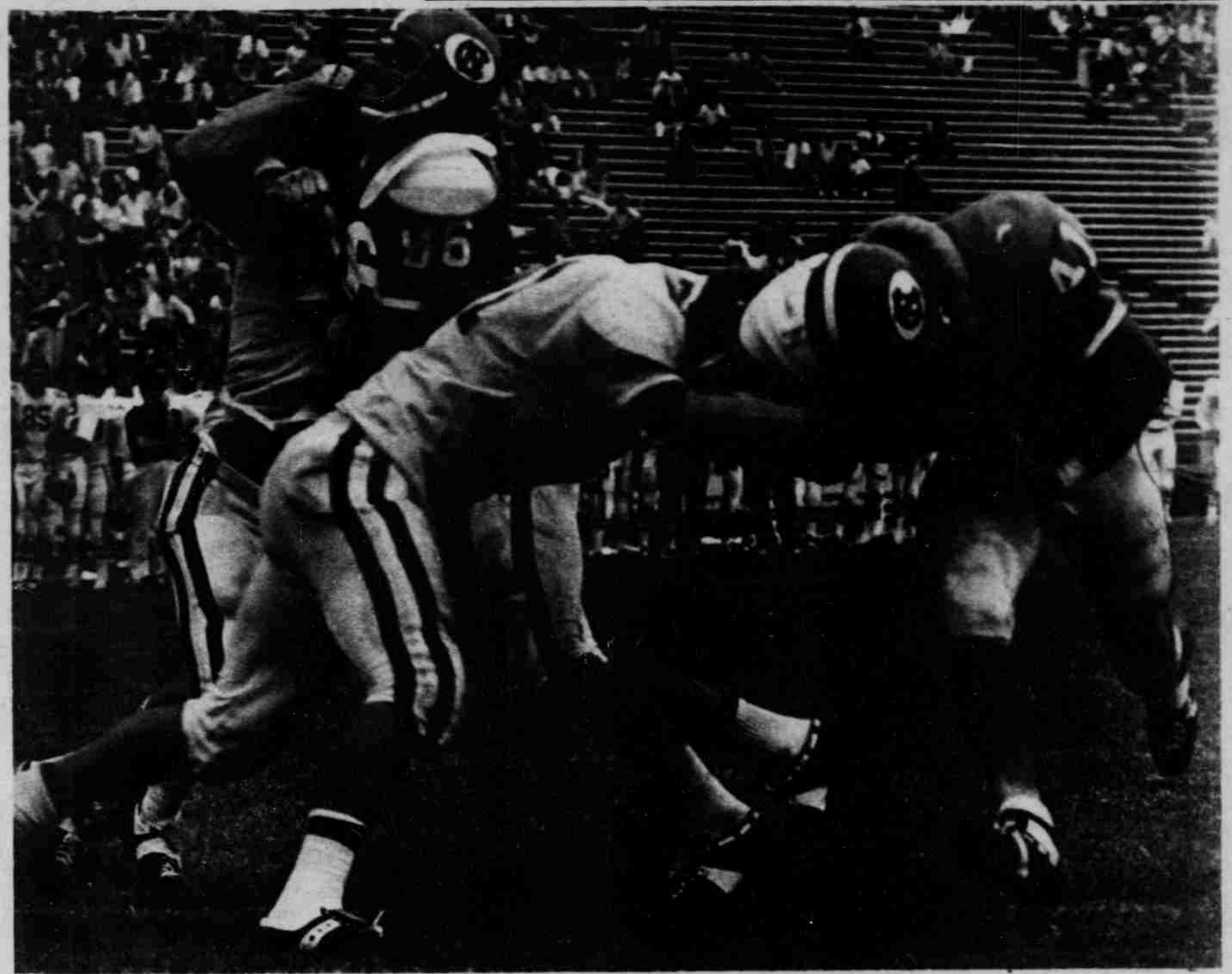
From that point on, however, Richmond out-scored Carolina 18-14, including a 18-0 edge in the second half.

"I just wish we could have gotten started earlier," said Harry Knight, one of the two quarterbacks Richmond used in the game. "I think we would have made it a better game. It was just that we were really nervous at first and it took us a while to get going."

Knight alternated the entire game with starter Dave Yount and both quarterbacks improved increasingly as the game went on. At halftime Knight had completed only three of ten passes and Yount one of three but in the second half, Knight completed three of four passes and Yount was good for three completions in eight attempts.

"I don't mind alternating," Knight admitted. "As long as I get to play. We were both in and out most of the time so it wasn't like going into the game cold."

Knight was responsible for the Spider's biggest offensive play of the day late in the game when he connected with tailback Weldon Edwards for a 69 yard touchdown pass. It was Knight's second touchdown pass of the game, the first coming on a similar play in the third quarter.



Tailback Billy Hite crashes through a Richmond defender for Carolina's fourth touchdown Saturday afternoon as teammate Ken Taylor takes a fist in the face from Richmond's Pat Mahoney.

Hite finished the game as the leading Tar Heel runner with 86 yards on twenty carries. No one kept count of the indignities suffered by Taylor.

(Staff Photo by Cliff Kolovson.)

Duke only ACC loser

by Al Thomas
Sports Writer

Mistakes, bungling and occasional spurts of offensive imagination marked the beginning of the 19th Atlantic Coast Conference football campaign Saturday.

None of the seven teams turned in consistent, impressive performances, but for the ACC it was one of the most successful opening weekends on record. Only Duke lost to a non-conference opponent, and that was to powerful Alabama in Birmingham.

Written-off as losers and relegated to the bottom of the league in pre-season prognostications, Don Lawrence and his Virginia Cavaliers turned in the only surprise of the day. Repeatedly capitalizing on South Carolina miscues and fumbling, the Cavaliers roared to a 24-16 victory.

For a Virginia squad long void of an opportunistic offense, the demonstration served notice of the possible end to a long losing era.

For the Gamecocks, who withdrew from the ACC to "strengthen" their athletic program, the defeat was but one more slap in the face by a former sister school.

Virginia wasn't the only team to unveil an improved offense, however, with both State and Maryland providing glimpses of brilliance moving the ball. The showings offset each other, though, as State faltered near the end and allowed the Terps to knot the score at 24-all.

There was some consolation for State and the 31,000 Wolfpack followers assembled in bland Carter Stadium.

With Willie Burden and Charlie Young breaking through the middle and around end, and with Bruce Shaw repeatedly filling the air lanes, State amassed 466 total yards in a long-awaited show of strength.

The other four ACC teams were guilty of exercises in mediocrity:

— Wake Forest burst into a quick 13-0 lead and appeared headed for an easy win over 20-point underdog Davidson. The Wildcats unleashed John Weibel on the ground and quarterback Scotty Shipp's passing in the second quarter, however, with the Deacons lucky to finally escape a mere six points ahead at 26-20.

— Duke shocked 71,000 Alabamians in Birmingham by trailing the powerful Crimson Tide by only two points at halftime. As so often happens when an ACC team meets a national power, the

Blue Devils wilted after the break and allowed "Bear" Bryant's chargers to surge into a 34-12 win.

— Clemson was picked second in the conference pre-season, but the Tigers' showing Saturday cast grave doubts on their chances. Clemson's offense managed only 13 points against the military academy, but there was solace in their defense holding Citadel scoreless.

— Carolina failed to impress their demanding followers, but a 28-18 win over Richmond is still better than losing.

Mediocrity or not, the ACC can now face the second week of the season proud owners of a 4-1 mark against outside competition. Although the caliber of opposition was far from good, the record is not only comforting but manages to provide just enough room for hope.

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