

# The Daily Tar Heel

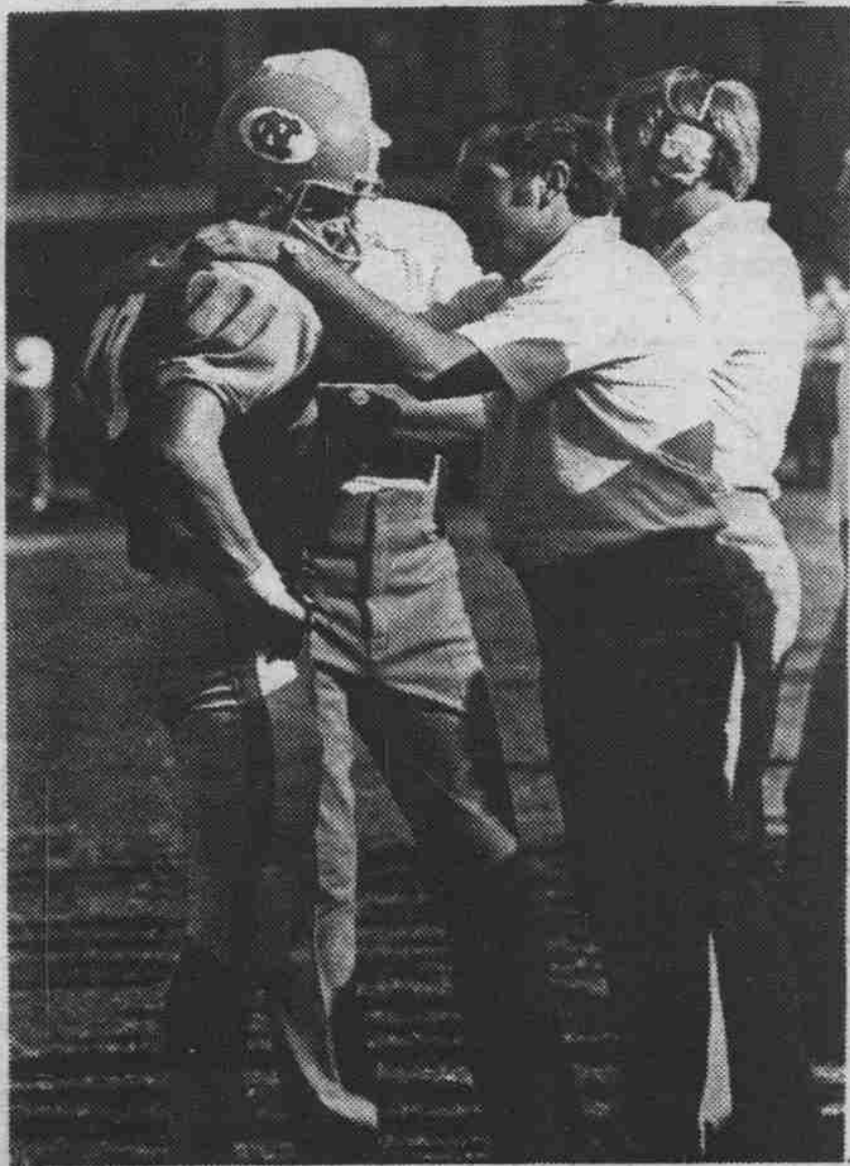
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## Carolina opens '74 season today with Ohio University



Billy Paschall gets some advice

by Elliott Warnock  
Sports Editor

So, it has come down to this.

*"This is the toughest season opener we've had since I've been here."*

All the work-outs, all the practice, all the game films...

*"People hear too much about the Mid-American conference..."*

It all boils down to a little football placed on a kicking tee at 1:30 this afternoon in Kenan Stadium.

*"...but just look at the records and you can see what a tough league it is."*

North Carolina's football team will get a chance to redeem itself after waiting an entire year with a 4-7 season hanging over the players' heads.

*"Just about every year, some Mid-American teams go up and knock off Big Ten teams."*

4-7... 4-7?

How in heaven's name did a team which won 15 straight Atlantic Coast Conference games and two league titles fall to a 4-7 record?

*"Miami of Ohio last season whipped South Carolina then toppled Florida in the Tangerine Bowl."*

As you can tell, there has been a lot of jaw-boning going on about the North Carolina opener with Ohio University.

No... these guys (dubbed the Bobcats) are not to be confused with Ohio State's Buckeyes, or even with Miami of Ohio.

Naw, hell no, these guys are the Mid-American Conference, Ohio University Bobcats; nice, good, clean American kids... until you get them onto a football field.

They're still good and clean, good and clean hitters. They like that style of play which Darrell Royal of Texas says "does your heart good."

Translated into laymen's terms, the Bobcats will be giving away a lot of size and weight to the hosting Tar Heels, but still pack enough of a punch to knock your socks off.

Bill Dooley says they're the toughest home opener he's faced.

He's probably right.

True, Dooley has done a lot of bad-mouthing during his tenure as head coach of the Heels; he likes to build up opponents and lament all the problems facing North Carolina each week, but he's not kidding when he calls Ohio "tough."

Ohio brings a team loaded with vets to Kenan, returning 18 of 22 starters from last year's club, which won four of its last five games. In that winning spree, the Bobcats lost only to powerful Miami of Ohio, 10-6.

The Heels have a lot of problems to cope with, all bad-mouthing aside. After all, even ardent optimists shouldn't be too quick to forget that 4-7 record from last year.

With an All-American candidate anchoring the interior line from his guard spot, the offense has an average advantage of 20 pounds a man over the Ohio defense.

Ohio does have one major problem: losing senior QB Rich Bevely to a sprained ankle.

Bevely is the mainstay of the Ohio offense, but is now listed as a doubtful starter, leaving the ball in the hands of soph Greg Brooks. Even if Bevely does start, he probably will be severely handicapped with the injury.

## Kupec or Paschall: you guess

by Susan Shackelford  
Assistant Sports Editor

The eye of a hurricane is the calmest part of the storm.

And at Carolina it's no different. For the past several weeks and perhaps as early as last spring, a storm of speculation has surrounded the central football slot of quarterback.

A former occupant, Nick Vidnovic, is gone and today's starting honors against Ohio are a toss-up between junior Billy Paschall and senior Chris Kupec.

Yes, they make up the storm's eye. But don't get the situation wrong. Both are anxious to play, to prove themselves and to substitute a winning record for last year's 4-7 disappointment. The calmness rests with a mutual admiration, respect and preparedness.

"It would be nice to start," said Kupec, a native of Syosset, N.Y. who missed most of the last two seasons with injuries.

"It would be the first time in a long time. The injuries are all behind me. I feel the best I've felt in a long time. I'd just like to play—that would be nice enough."

Paschall, who did most of the UNC quarterbacking last season, said, "I never really thought that much about starting. It's Coach Dooley's decision. It doesn't really matter to me because we're both going to play a lot during the game."

"Chris is a super quarterback," he added. "I have confidence in him and respect him. Coach Dooley's been watching practice and who moves the ball. I don't talk to him (Dooley) personally, but I really haven't seen that much difference (between us)."

Paschall smiled. "I don't know if you're trying

to find a personal conflict between Chris and I...there isn't any."

Kupec, who also hurt his knee as a sophomore, is openly nonchalant about the possibility of usurping Paschall and seeing the first major start since his freshman season.

"It's just about a debut," the 6-3, 190 performer began with a twinge of sarcasm. "I hope I'm not coming off too bitter, though I guess I am a little. You don't expect people to thank you for coming back, but it was pretty tough."

Because of the injuries, some people, including teammates, have made comments implying he was soft. "A lot of frustration builds up," Kupec said, "but if you don't get frustrated you don't belong here."

Kupec admitted academics have been an outlet for him at Carolina. Now carrying a 3.6 (4.0 is all A's) point average, he's majoring in history and seriously considering law school.

Paschall hasn't had the injury problems plaguing his career. Last year after both Vidnovic and Kupec were sidelined, the Virginia Beach, Va. native stepped in to pass for 56.0 per cent, 837 yards and seven touchdowns. The team, however, finished the season 4-7.

Compared to Kupec, who is a strong passer, Paschall said, "I'm more of a runner. I'm not a great runner, but fairly quick."

After I've gone 20 yards and you see a big tackle pull me down from behind—you'll see how slow I am. I've got quickness, can throw, but speed—I don't have."

"I'm probably a better short passer (compared to Kupec)," the 6-0, 175-pounder noted, "but the reason they don't talk about my passing is because I didn't complete 75 per cent for 2000 yards. In my opinion, I don't have a strong arm. I did an adequate job."

Paschall doesn't compare style. "Style comes from play-calling and we don't get to call plays. So style is basically the same thing for whoever is out there."

But one yardstick of comparison will be the veer offense, which is virtually new to the Carolina backfield.

"It's a good offense," offered Kupec, who chalked up a 62.3 per cent passing mark for over 800 yards and nine touchdowns in a five-game frosh season.

"I'm not the best runner in the world but it (veer) really doesn't bother me," he continued. "It's not ideally suited to me but I can do it."

Paschall said, "There's better people to run the veer than me—usually someone who is fast. I don't have speed but I can get 10 or so yards inside. But we've got speed in the backfield and it helps us to get outside."

"It (veer) opens up our offense and makes the defense think a little more," he analyzed "...instead of our running so much, 'look here we come.'"

"Mel Collins will be a different thing for Carolina," Paschall said concerning the freshman speedster expected to split time with backs Mike Voight and James "Boom Boom" Betterson.

"Don McCauley and Sammy Johnson were so fast they would run over you. But it looks like Mel can run just as fast sideways. He's good laterally...shifty."

Specifically from Ohio, Paschall anticipates a fast defensive backfield that uses a lot of man-to-man coverage and lines up close to the line of scrimmage. From Carolina, he looks for a more unified confident approach.

Kupec, who thinks the Heels are a little looser this year, said, "I'm just expecting the basics."



Chris Kupec