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Tar Heels to host N.C. State today in traditional rivalry

by Elliott Warnock
Sports Editor

Nobody has to tell Carolina fans what today means.

Every seat in Kenan Stadium has been sold out for weeks; 47,000 fans are expected to jam into every nook and cranny of the Chapel Hill arena and everyone's eyes will be focused on the playing field where North Carolina and N.C. State will clash.

The Tar Heels will host the 6-0, nationally ranked Wolfpack at 1:30 p.m. today in Kenan Stadium.

The game is crucial for both teams. State, 4-0 in Atlantic Coast Conference competition this year, must win to keep its drive for undisputed first place in the ACC alive.

Carolina, which lost to Maryland and defeated Wake Forest in league play, must win to have a shot at the title.

Coaches for both teams agree that the main factor in today's game is defense. Carolina's Bill Dooley says, "the team that plays the best defense will win the game."

Lou Holtz, State's head coach, agrees and adds, "we must play more consistently and make less mistakes if we are to win."

The games between the two rivals have been a straight split over the past ten years, each team winning five of the last ten. Scoring between the two has also been close over the last ten years. Carolina, 155-State, 157.

That two point spread can be traced to last year's meeting between the two



Carolina's offense ...

... has been potent in the past five games. Among the leaders of the Tar Heel attack are tailback Mike Voight (upper left),

tailback James Betterson (upper right), wingback Jimmy Jerome (lower right) and quarterback Chris Kupec (lower left).



The Carolina offense was awesome last year in Carter Stadium

schools in Carter Stadium. The Pack carried away a 28-26 victory in that one to break a three game UNC winning streak.

State has won 14 ACC games in a row. A win today would tie Dooley's ACC record of 15 straight set in 1972.

The last time the Pack lost an ACC battle was in that same year when Carolina won a 34-33 squeaker over State in Kenan Stadium.

Carolina and State rank one-two in three of the four ACC offensive categories: total, rushing and scoring offense.

The Pack leads the ACC in total yardage with 454.8 yards a game; Carolina is second with 419.4 yards.

State also leads the rushing category with 269.7 yards a game while UNC averages 244.0 yards.

The Tar Heels have scored the most points in the ACC, a 31.6 point per game average. State is second in the league totals with 28.8 yards a game.

With some of the best talent in the ACC on both teams, fans can expect to see high-powered offense and crunching defense when Carolina and State take the field.

As Dooley put it Tuesday afternoon, "Kenan Stadium will not be a place for the weak-at-heart. Saturday afternoon."