

Tim and Ron Johnson Brother versus brother

"JOHNSON, YOU SAY? WELL, STATES GOT ONE, TOO!"
Heels' Ronny and Pack's Tim clash in brother duel.

The word's out. Ronny Johnson has a brother that plays football for State.

And, oh yes, like eldest brother Sammy, little brother can run with the football...and well.

Any Tarheel fan is well aware of the correlation between the name "Johnson" and Carolina football. Therefore, the natural question to ask is "Why didn't Tim Johnson follow suit?"

Ronny, two years older, defends Tim's decision with several explanations.

"First of all," the 5-10, 184 lb. cornerback points out, "is that State runs the same type offense (veer) that Tim's high school (High Point Andrews) did. He felt he had an advantage there."

Ronny also cites the addition of H-P Andrews' head coach, Bob Boswell, to the State staff as a major influence.

"Coach Boswell was to be an offensive backfield coach at State, so he took Timmy and (quarterback) Johnny Evans with him."

The final motive, Ronny confesses, was the possibility of Tim being switched to another position at Carolina. "Timmy's a lot like Sammy; he likes to run the ball and after what happened to Sammy and me...well..."

Exactly what happened to them was that Sammy played quarterback, linebacker and fullback before settling in at tailback where he achieved a 1,000-yard season and All-ACC honors his senior year. Ronny, likewise, was moved around upon his arrival at UNC—linebacker, wingback and finally, cornerback, where he is a proven starter in

his sophomore year of eligibility.

In comparing the threesome, Ronny contributes power and greater strength to Sammy's success whereas he and Tim have quicker feet and better speed. (Both run around a 4.7 second 40 yard dash.) He admits, too, that Tim may be the best ballplayer yet.

"He's going to be really good. He needs to add a few pounds (6'0, 180 lbs.). Of course, I think he's good already, but playing behind (Roland) Hooks (at halfback), he hasn't seen a whole lot of action," Ronny said.

Ronny cites the two elder Johnsons as being partly responsible for Tim's quick development. "As kids," he recalls, "Sammy and I used to make him play with our friends, even though he was younger and smaller. He learned fast."

Besides football, the trio compete regularly in golf and tennis, where Ronny boasts his superiority.

"It doesn't take this brother thing to get me up for the State game," he remarks, "but playing against Timmy will make it more fun. It's always more fun playing against someone you know."

Concerning the possibility of a head-on match-up between the tandem, Ronny reflects on State's offense.

"(State) runs a power sweep and, if Timmy's in there, he'll be blocking me." He quickly amends that statement. "He'll be trying to block me."

"Trying" may be all that the younger Johnson or any State blocker will be doing. According to Ronny's back-up, Johnny Daw, the chief thing that Ronny has going for him is that he makes "few mistakes." "When we changed our defense this year," Juice (a nickname he gave to Johnson) was one of the first to pick it up. He always knows what he's doing."

Let's hope so, because in addition to this being the State game and his brother being one of the Wolfpack, Ronny also has to cope with some fifteen relatives who are invading Kenan Stadium. When asked on what side they were planning to sit, he smiled. "Dad said he would sit on one side and Mom could sit on the other..."

"And spread the rest of 'em across the football field," Daw quipped.

Don't laugh. If the last name is "Johnson," they'll feel right at home.

Grant Vosburgh

Lamens likes fullback

Not many people get their kicks from running through brick walls, but the Tar Heel fullbacks Dick Oliver and Ed Lamens can look forward to running through a red brick wall this Saturday afternoon when the Carolina offense meets the red jerseys of the Wolfpack defense.

Football coaches and other experts tell us this is going to be a game where the winner will be the team with the best defense. But neither Oliver nor Lamens are too worried about the State defense.

"I know we're going to move the ball," said Oliver. "Speaking offensively, we've had a good year. We've moved the ball every game except Maryland."

Lamens got more personal. "I've only been in North Carolina for five years," said the native New Yorker. "but I can honestly say I don't like State. It didn't take me long to get this opinion." Pausing to shrug his shoulders, Lamens added, "You don't have to play ball to hate State, it's just the general consensus around here."

This confidence and emotion displayed by the fullbacks are all to the advantage of a tailback like James "Boom-Boom" Betterson. For it's Oliver or Lamens who

make the blocks that open the holes for a Betterson to run through.

Betterson concedes that most of the time the fullbacks come through. "Dickie will turn around and tell me to follow him and he will cut off the block," explained Betterson. "He lets me know where he'll try to cut, and that can make the difference when going for the touchdown."

Sending the tailback up the middle has been called Carolina's "bread and butter play" because they use it consistently with good results. "Everyone knows what we're going to do," Oliver admitted. "We just have to be physically stronger, hit the hardest and move the other guy out."

The life of a fullback isn't limited only to blocking. On occasion they are asked to carry the ball, and in this respect both Oliver and Lamens have delivered. Oliver has moved the ball 85 yards in 19 carries so far this season. One of these carries went right into the end zone for a touchdown against Pittsburgh. Lamens has carried the ball five times so far, four of them occurring last week against Georgia Tech, for a total of 23 yards. Neither Oliver nor Lamens have lost an inch of ground while carrying the ball.

But to beat State "we're going to have to

eliminate mistakes," said Oliver, thinking of the two fumbles and missed field goal of the Georgia Tech game. Oliver thinks the Tar Heels may go with more passing this afternoon because with a quarterback like Chris Kupec, "you just can't let an arm like that go to waste."

Oliver believes it will be up to the defense to stop the Wolfpack. But Oliver firmly believes State is beatable. "They're good, but not that good."

Lamens agrees. "Any team can beat any other team on any given day. The one who wins will be the one who makes the least mistakes."

The Tar Heels' practices have been going along much the same as usual, according to Lamens. Coach Dooley probably knows that his team will be ready for the State game, the problem being to keep them from getting too psyched too early in the week. "We want to peak for the game," explained Lamens, "and not before."

Thus the Carolina-State rivalry lives on. In the words of Ed Lamens, this is going to be a "bang-up game from the field up to the stands."

Jane E. Albright

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