

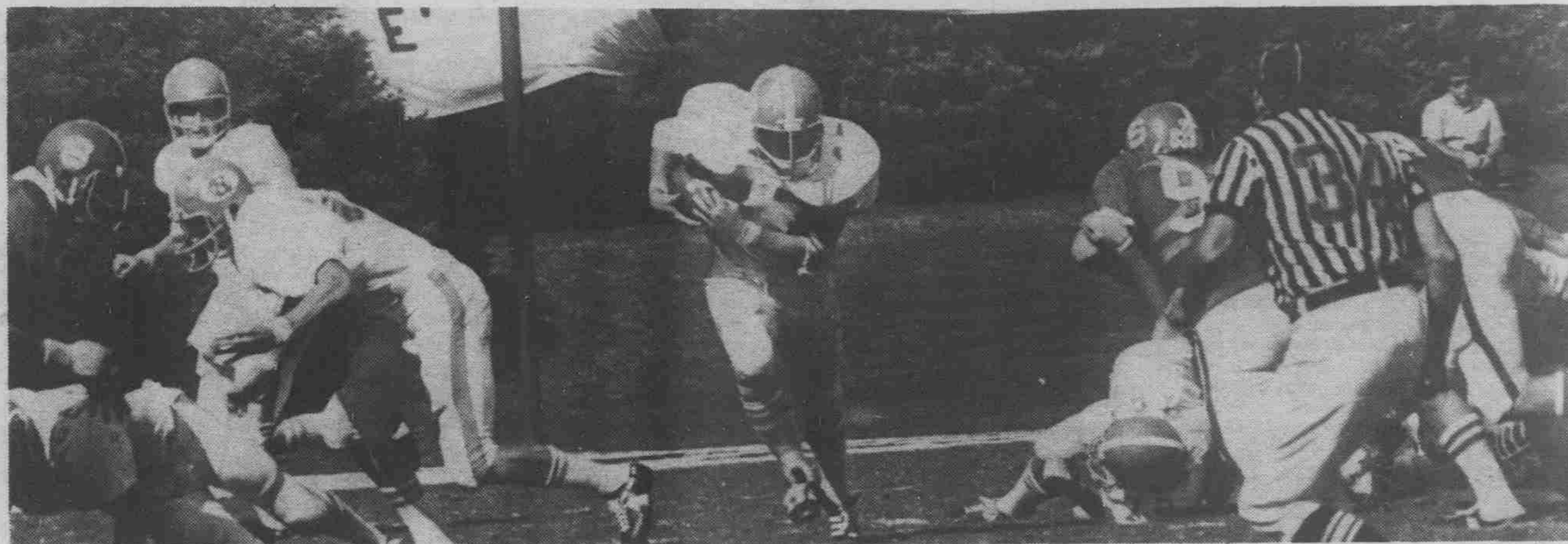
The Daily Tar Heel

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Weather: good for football

Tar Heels host ECU on UNC Band Day



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Tar Heel fullback Brian Smith finds gaping hole in last week's game against N.C. State. Smith had 68 yards on 14 carries.

by Kevin Barris
Staff Writer

"Everybody in the world knows that wasn't pass interference."

Sonny Randle, October 27, 1973

On that note, East Carolina's football team left Kenan Stadium two years ago after a heart breaking 28-27 loss to UNC. The winning touchdown came after a controversial pass interference call with less than 2 minutes left in the game.

Today the Pirates return to UNC under a different head coach (Pat Dye) to take another shot at the team they've failed to beat in two prior encounters.

ECU will face a team that is coming off two losses. In both losses, the Heels were leading at the start of the fourth quarter. Carolina took a 14-0 lead into the final period against Notre Dame only to lose 21-14. Last week UNC led State 14-13 at the start of the fourth quarter but dropped a 21-20 heartbreaker.

Carolina will be looking to improve its 2-4 record when it faces the Southern Conference Pirates in front of a Band Day crowd of over 46,000. ECU has a 4-3 record, coming off a 42-14 blasting of Western Carolina last week.

UNC Coach Bill Dooley said he is concerned about his team's ability to come back after the two losses. "It will be a real test of our character to see if we can bounce back from

adversity against a team which is going to be sky-high for us."

East Carolina has an offense that has given the Tar Heels fits during the last two years. The Pirates run a wishbone, and run it well. The last time UNC matched up against a wishbone offense was in a 29-28 loss to Georgia Tech last season.

In the wishbone the Pirates have ground out an average of 211 yards a game rushing, and have also managed to pass for an average of 114.

The backfield leaders have been Willie Hawkins and Ken Strayhorn. Hawkins, a 5-11, 190-pound sophomore is averaging 5.7 yards a carry, having gained 354 yards on the season. Strayhorn is averaging 5.9 yards a carry and has gained 296 yards this season.

East Carolina splits the quarterbacking duties between junior Mike Weaver and sophomore Jimmy Southerland. The Pirates spend most of the time running the ball, but when they do throw today, it will be testing the weakest part of the UNC football team, the defensive secondary.

Injuries have plagued UNC's defensive backfield. Ronny Johnson is a doubtful starter, while John Daw will probably see action today for the first time in two weeks. Carolina's opponents have connected on better than 55 percent of their passes, and the Heels' last two losses can be directly attributed to their inability to stop the pass.

Against the run the Tar Heels have played well recently. Billy Murphy, Bill Perdue, Roger Shonosky, Dee Hardison

and Rod Broadway have had success shutting down the opponent's rushing game, and today will face a small, inexperienced ECU offensive line.

The Tar Heel offense is led by tailback Mike Voight, the leading rusher in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) with 526 yards this season, an average of 155 yards a game. His usual partner in the backfield, James Betterson, has missed the last two games with a charley horse above his right knee, and it is unlikely he will play today.

UNC quarterback Billy Paschall will be throwing against what Dooley calls "the best defensive secondary we've faced this year." ECU's defensive backfield has picked off 16 passes this season, seven of them coming last week against Western Carolina. Jim Bolding, Reggie Pinkney, Ernest Madison and former Tar Heel Bobby Myrick anchor this tough defense.

Carolina's leading receivers are wingbacks Mel Collins and Charlie Williams, who between them have amassed 400 yards on 16 receptions and five touchdowns. The Tar Heels have scored seven touchdowns on the ground, and today will face a defensive line containing three all-star candidates, Cary Godette, Willie Bryant and Jack Dove.

The outcome of today's game may be decided on how well the Heels can avoid fourth quarter blues. In the six games this season Carolina has outscored its opponents 93-74 in the first three quarters, but disaster has struck in the final period with the Heels being outscored 69-19.

Rameses IX kidnapped; ECU Pirates suspected

by Ford Worthy
Staff Writer

A ram with blue horns leads a hard life. Early Friday morning, at approximately one or two o'clock, Rameses No. 9 was once again the victim of kidnapping. Make that ramnapping.

Rameses IX is the Carolina mascot and every year during football season he has to watch out for prowling Wolfpackers, sneaky Blue Devils, or sly Demon Deacons. Yesterday though, it was probably a Pirate that got away with him, or at least that is what Bob Hogan, who keeps the ram on his farm between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough, thinks.

"Yeah, we had him hidden last night behind one of the farmhouses, but to tell you the truth I sure didn't think boys from East Carolina would come up here and steal him away, you know, with East Carolina having a losing record and all," said Hogan.

"We think we know just who it is that

took him. There are some boys from Chapel Hill that go to school down there (at East Carolina) and they vowed that they would get him."

And apparently they did. Hogan says he heard some movement around the house last night and discovered Rameses' disappearance at 6 a.m. According to Hogan, Duke students swiped the ram (actually a sheep) two years ago before the Duke-UNC game at Durham. And a long time ago, remembers Hogan, some N.C. State students pulled off the trick.

Hogan believes that the thieves will show up with Rameses today, but he has no idea how they plan on smuggling him into the stadium.

"I would speculate that he is right here in Chapel Hill somewhere, but they could have carried him all the way back to Greenville. If they do come into the stadium, they are going to have some kind of a problem getting him in.

The pirates are alleged to have been seen on the UNC campus Thursday night.



"The campus police called me and told me that they had seen these boys that we think are the ones," said the easy-talking Hogan, who has kept the whole Rameses' line, from the first mascot "sometime in the '30's."

"We put him on the trailer—a big cattle trailer and hid him behind one of the farmhouses, not where we usually keep him. So probably it was someone from around this area who knew the layout here.

"We aren't really looking for him now. Where would you look for a sheep? But we expect him to turn up after the game somewhere. The can't hurt old Rameses. But, I'll tell you this, if I don't get that cattle trailer back, I'll go looking for that myself."

So, if anybody sees a ram with blue horns—or just possibly purple and gold horns now—at the ballgame today, it is probably poor Rameses.