

Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Carolina tailback Mike Voight will be the workhorse in the Tar Heel backfield today as the Tar Heels host the Wolfpack.

# Carolina-State game pigskin roulette again

by Grant Vosburgh  
Sports Editor

The late Jim Croce left the pop music world with three maxims to heed. First, he said, you don't tug on Superman's cape. Second, you don't spit in the wind. And finally, you don't pull the mask off the Lone Ranger. Good advice to follow.

But it is obvious that Croce wasn't a resident of the Triangle Area, because he omitted a most important rule of conduct.

Folks around here know it.

You don't bet hard-earned money on the Carolina-State football game.

It's the 11th commandment.

Now there are those brave souls who will wager a substantial sum on the outcome of this annual rivalry, but it is money that can be spared. If gambled away, it's not missed. If successful, the winner can use the profit to purchase those tiny luxuries of life—be they new bib overalls or shiny top-siders.

It all boils down to those famous words, "Don't bet it if you can't afford to lose it."

Today's game is a classic example of the typical Carolina-State match-up. Each team's season is based on the logic of which roulette wheels are made.

There is Carolina, a team that preseason predictors figured would be fighting a losing season at this point in the schedule. The Tar Heels are 4-1.

There is State, a team that preseason predictors figured would be fighting for a national ranking at this point in the schedule. The Wolfpack is 1-4-1.

Something happened between then and now. And now, Carolina is favored—and eager to avenge its heartbreaking 21-20 loss of last season.

The Wolfpack is led by running back Ted Brown, the 1975 ACC Rookie-of-the-Year. Although slowed by an arm bruise last week against Maryland, Brown said he'll be ready when the starting offensive unit takes the field.

But Brown won't be able to carry the total burden for State. Help must come from quarterbacks Johnny Evans or Kevin Scanlon, the former being a hard-running junior and the latter, a sophomore considered an exceptional passer. Speedy receiver Elijah Marshall poses a deep threat to the pass-prone Tar Heel secondary, while tight end Ricky Knowles has pulled down nine receptions.

Defensively, State Head Coach Bo Rein has conducted a game-to-game shuffle reminiscent of a grade school fire drill. End Ron Banther, who became a national figure last fall with his Mohawk hair cut, leads the line-up for this week. Bright spots are freshman Bubba Green, a 272-pound tackle and senior linebacker Bill Cherry.

The scene is set and the wagers are made. What is at stake is a year of bragging rights along Tobacco Road, sweet memories for the victorious participants and catchy bumper stickers across the Old North State.

Jim Croce never saw a State-Carolina football game. Had Croce been so lucky, Superman, the Lone Ranger and that old, gusty wind would have had some company.

*joe morgan*

## UNC gridders on State: emotions peak for Pack

Every time Carolina meets State on the gridiron, one team is logically favored to win while the other, usually with the worst record, is considered extremely dangerous. Folks are probably sick of hearing "you can throw out the record book." But it holds true, especially this year.

Let's face it. UNC hasn't exactly crushed its opponents in compiling a 4-1 record while State has beaten itself a couple of times en route to a 1-4-1 record. The Pack is hungry and desperate for a win and the Tar Heels know it.

"They have nothing to lose so they'll be trying everything and taking chances. It's gonna be a tough game 'cause they're pointing for us," senior defensive back Ronny Johnson said.

On the other hand, Carolina well remembers last year's bitter 21-20 loss to the Wolfpack. Secondly, this game is pivotal for the whole season.

"Last year's loss to State was the biggest loss of my life," said fullback Brian Smith, who was the center of controversy on the extra point that decided the game. Smith was the intended receiver on the conversion, but could not get open. UNC fans argued that he was held at the line of scrimmage by a State defender.

"This game is a turning point for us because we can get back on a good note going into the next half of the season," he said. "We're not taking the game for granted. Everybody will have to do their own job since injuries have hurt the team."

UNC's injury problem has generated different feelings among the players as they prepare mentally for State.

"Last year I started the game and mental preparation was no problem. This year is my last, but I'll be watching," said Smith, who has been replaced by Bob Loomis because of injuries. "Not being able to do anything about last year's loss really hurts me, but at game time, I'll be excited."

David Simmons, however, couldn't be more excited. The sophomore from Goldsboro will be starting at middle guard because Roger Shonosky suffered torn knee ligaments in practice last Friday.

"I was down at first when Roger got hurt—we all were—but I'm really up now that the game is approaching. Knowing that I'll be in the middle of the action is great but I'll also be out to prove that I'm no rookie," Simmons said.

Any UNC player with blood in his veins doesn't have to try to get psyched up for State. The rivalry runs deep and every loss to the Wolfpack makes the intensity a bit more extreme.

Red-shirted quarterback Clyde Christensen, a junior college transfer from Fresno, California, has yet to play a varsity game at UNC and would have a right to be a little disconsolate. But he maintains that the State rivalry has got him jittery.

"I'm really excited. I had never been in the East before coming here, so the rivalry was new to me. But I've heard and read so much about it that I know it's special. My teammates talk about the game and I sense the electricity."

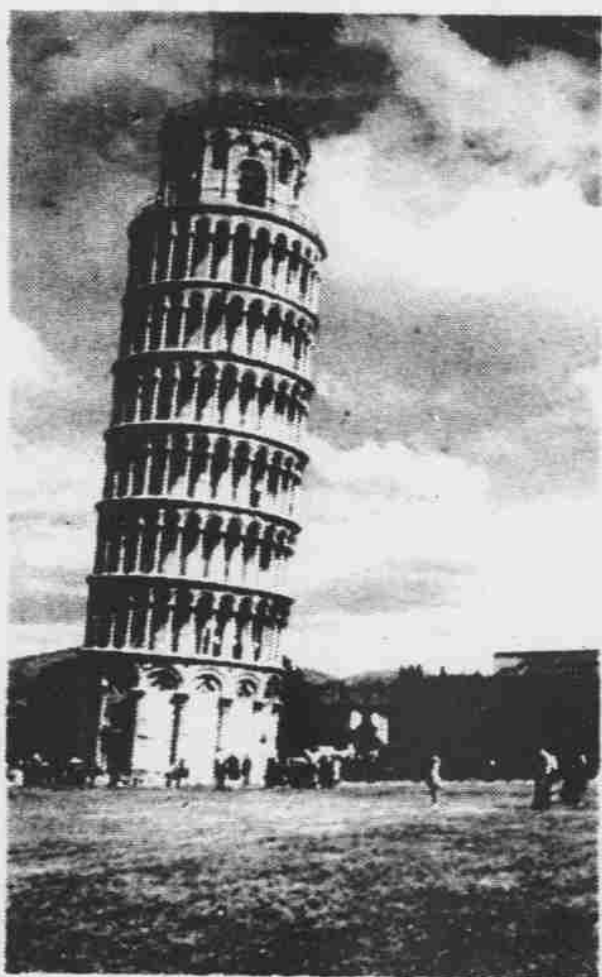
Christensen noted that the State rivalry isn't the only reason for UNC players to get psyched.

"It's State and there's extra excitement, but we don't have to get excited; we're already excited because we have a good team. If we win, I think we'll be really hard to stop the rest of the season," he said.

Because of the intense rivalry, the players might hit a little harder and talk on the field more than usual. Senior tailback Mike Voight, however, believes that the stimulus for the rivalry and animosity toward the opponent comes from the students and alumni.

"In actuality, the game itself is no different than any other," Voight said. "We'll go after them and they'll come after us. The crowd intensity is what makes the difference. The rivalry is more or less the people in the stands, then it pours down on the field."

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