

Bowl hopes rest on downing Devils

Fourteen seniors close out Carolina gridiron career

by Grant Vosburgh
Sports Editor

For 14 Carolina seniors, today's appearance on the Kenan Stadium turf will be their last. The Tar Heels close out their regular season with an all-important battle with neighboring Duke (5-4-1).

What a way to go.

Today's game is a fitting way for the seniors to end their UNC football careers. After a rather disappointing season in 1973, when Carolina went 4-7 and the freshmen gained little varsity playing experience, these 14 players contributed in varying degrees to the Heels' 7-5 record in 1975 and a holiday trip to El Paso and the Sun Bowl.

But injuries, bad breaks, frustration and inconsistency in execution teamed up to produce a dismal junior year for these Tar Heels. The season ended with a 3-7-1 mark and a morale as low as the pines around Kenan are high.

On occasion, UNC Coach Bill Dooley had stated that the few number of seniors on the '75 squad (five) caused team leadership to suffer. And with the difficult times that the Tar Heels faced, it was an apparent absence.

However, something happened in early February. Attitudes improved, spirit picked up and spring practice took a positive turn. Dooley later called it the best spring since his tenure began in 1967.

He attributed much of the enthusiasm to the rising senior class. The seniors-to-be carried this enthusiasm into August's preseason.

Despite being picked to finish 6-5 at best, the Heels enter this final game with an 8-2 record and bowl scouts among the press box VIPs eating hot dogs and chicken.

And the seniors are among the reasons.

Offensively, tackle Mark Griffin, center Mark Cantrell, tight end Mike Corbin,



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

guard Craig Funk, fullback Brian Smith and tailback Mike Voight have played key roles in the Tar Heel attack, which has gained momentum during the past four weeks.

On defense, defensive backs Ronny Johnson, Russ Conley and John Daw, linebacker Chuck Austin and linemen Mike Duffy, Brian Hughes, Bill Perdue and Duke Thompson are members of a much-improved unit.

(Offensive tackle Tom Burkett and defensive noseguard Roger Shonosky suffered early-season injuries that put them out for the remaining games.)

The outcome of this finale, however, will mean more than just a successful ending to a collegiate career.

A victory? A loss? The predictor's

dilemma is heightened by these particular Duke and Carolina teams involved. Duke is the classic unpredictable team, performing the up-and-down inconsistency of which yo-yos and see-saws are all about.

Carolina has been slightly more predictable. Although experiencing unevenness of play throughout the early half of the season, the Tar Heels have managed to keep the weekly scoreboard in their favor, with the exception of a 24-3 loss to Missouri and a 21-13 defeat at the hands of N.C. State.

Duke is led by sophomore quarterback Mike Dunn, a threat to run or pass. His running has been the norm, however, and it has been effective. His 627-yard total rates a close second to tailback Art Gore's 635. Only thousand-yard rushers James McDougald of Wake Forest (1018) Ted Brown of N.C. State (1088) and Voight (1146) have gained more rushing yardage than the two Blue Devils in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

With Dunn and Gore in the backfield are fullback Tony Benjamin (580 yards rushing) and slotback Chuck Williamson. Wide receiver Tom Hall leads the league in pass receptions with 41 and center Billy Bryan is probably the finest center the UNC defense will have faced all season.

The Blue Devil defense features all-conference candidates Jeff Green (defensive end), Carl McGee (linebacker) and Bob Grupp (cornerback). Grupp was an All-ACC selection a year ago.

Stated simply, Duke has the material.

That material was solid against Tennessee, Virginia, Miami of Florida, Georgia Tech and N.C. State. But between each of these wins, has come a time of total confusion.

Players from these schools would use totally opposite adjectives in describing Duke than would members of the South Carolina, Pittsburgh, Clemson, Maryland or Wake Forest teams.

Duke Coach Mike McGee would like a winning season. Carolina's Dooley would like a bowl invitation.

The fans should get a whale of a compromise.

On the cover

Staff artist Lee Poole painted this picture of Carolina's bowl hopes. The Peach Bowl in Atlanta, the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville and the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando are among UNC's possibilities.

Use
DTH
Classifieds



It's Gonna Taste
So Good

There's just
one word
for
beer.



And you know it.

Distributed locally by
DURHAM DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.
Phone 596-9395

©1976 JOS. SCHLITZ BREWING CO., MILWAUKEE, WIS., AND OTHER CITIES.

Simply beautiful,
beautifully simple.



The eltron shavers by Braun, A.G.

The eltron intercontinental and the eltron 660 shavers with the superior foil system made by Braun, A.G., West Germany.

Their platinum-coated, paper-thin foil heads make possible an extremely close, comfortable shave. A shave that is a compliment to the rest of you.

The rechargeable eltron intercontinental makes such a shave possible anywhere in the world.

The eltron intercontinental and the eltron 660 shavers. Backed by a full, three-year international warranty. Now available in America for the first time.

We are proud to have these shavers in our store. Come in and see them, today. eltron shavers

another offering for the hedonist by

SOUNDHAUS

113 N. Columbia/942-3162

SOUNDHAUS SOUNDHAUS 113 N. COLUMBIA STREET