

BLUE DEVILS

By GENE UPCHURCH
Sports Editor

Last in a series

Duke has the premier quarterback in the conference; must overcome inconsistencies that plagued it in '76

DURHAM — One of the most unpredictable teams this year in the Atlantic Coast Conference is the Duke Blue Devils.

Picked to finish anywhere from third to sixth in the conference race this season, the Devils have the potential to have an outstanding season — or a disastrous one.

A good indication of the way the Duke season will go comes this Saturday here when East Carolina tries for a 2-0 record against ACC opponents this season. The Pirates defeated N.C. State last weekend 28-23 and would love nothing more than to go undefeated against ACC foes this year by downing Duke.

But, despite what might happen against ECU, the Devils the very next week must travel to Michigan, ranked as one of the top teams in the country, to play before 101,000 screaming Wolverine fans in Ann Arbor.

"If it turns out that we're 0-2, that'll just be water under the bridge," says Duke linebacker Carl McGee. "We have to look ahead. If we play good ball and they outclass us, we'll just keep looking ahead. If we start 2-0, we'll be right on schedule."

One reason for the unpredictability of the Blue Devils this season was their unpredictability last season. Duke did not win two games in a row nor did

they lose two games in a row. The team opened the season last year by doing the impossible — defeating Tennessee at Tennessee en route to a 5-5-1 season record.

The Duke team scored 31 points last season against eventual national champion Pittsburgh, the second highest number of points the Blue Devils scored all season (the highest was 38 in a losing effort in the season finale to Carolina). Yet the team could muster only a tie against Clemson, last place finisher in the conference.

Duke is led this season by quarterback Mike Dunn, selected by conference sportswriters as the preseason all-conference quarterback in a conference packed with experienced, talented signal callers. Dunn himself constantly is a threat to opponents and personally slithered to four touchdowns against Carolina. His high game in total offense also was against Carolina when he picked up 239 yards in one of only five performances where he had 200-yard plus afternoons. He led the ACC in total offense with 166.8

yards per game and led the nation in scoring for quarterbacks with 80 points.

Teams will be keying on Dunn more this season in an attempt to shut down his running, so he has spent much of the preseason trying to improve his passing. More pressure will fall on the offensive line to protect Dunn, but many veterans return to shoulder the responsibility.

"The offensive line is more experienced," says senior center Frank DeStefano, one of the co-captains. "We got a lot of experience just being out there last season. Last year we were a good line and this year we're going to act like a good line should. Our experience is rubbing off on the younger players."

"We've always felt we've had a good team," he says. "We're going to prove it this year. We've always played tough and strong. Now we must be consistent. We've got to take each game one at a time. Once you get into preseason, you have to look at one game at a time."

DeStefano says one of the big problems that hindered the Blue Devils last season was "mental lapses" where the team would forget they were in a

game for just a minute and allow the other team to score or make a big gain.

"We've got to be more consistent," he says. "Everybody's fairly experienced now, especially on offense. You've got to adopt a certain attitude. Like, I'm not worried if a guard will get his block, I'm just worried about myself. We've got to get rid of our lapses."

The other co-captain for the team, defensive end Jeff Green, says he was disappointed in last season's record and says the first game this season is crucial.

"Last year, before the season, I looked at our schedule and predicted we would go 9-2, maybe 8-3," he says. "Then at the end of the season, I looked at our final record and saw losses where I was sure there would be wins. Well, it hurt."

Green says the defense also will be more experienced.

"The secondary is the best I've ever seen it," he says. More than just the won-loss record is riding on the success of this season's team. Coach Mike McGee's head is on the chopping block.

Several reports from within the Duke athletic administration say that if McGee doesn't have a winning season, he will be replaced after the season is over. Other reports are that the team must win at least seven games for him to keep his job. McGee's record at Duke, a dismal 28-34-4, is not acceptable to many Blue Devil supporters and this is reflected in dwindling ticket sales. For example, when Duke played Pitt here last year, tickets were sold for as little as \$2 near gametime, but Wallace Wade Stadium remained unfilled.

"Students ask us why we aren't doing as good as State or Carolina," Green says. "We hear the static around campus and know the bigger wheels are turning."

"The seniors discussed it. We decided it was the media. We haven't been losing, but we haven't been winning. We came in winners and would like to leave winners. We feel we are representing him. We are doing his work. We are the instrument that makes him stay or leave."

"All that is, is a rumor," says linebacker Carl McGee. "It never fell into our minds because why should it? We're just concentrating on our season. We can't let anything like this deter us from preparing for the season."

In addition to the opening games against East Carolina and Michigan, Duke faces nonconference opponents Navy in Durham, South Carolina in Columbia and Georgia Tech in Atlanta as well as a full slate of conference games, with road games at Virginia, Maryland and Wake Forest.

New soccer head has much experience

Dorrance says coaching change to be minor

By TOD HUGHES
Staff Writer

Few coaches are so completely involved or so totally dedicated to their sport as Anson Dorrance, Carolina's new head soccer coach.

Dorrance was born and raised abroad, having been born in India and spending his youth in such places as Kenya, Ethiopia, Singapore, Belgium and Switzerland. He first picked up the game of soccer in Kenya, and then developed his skills in a Swiss high school. But at that time, soccer was not foremost in his mind.

"The school I went to was a small prep school," Dorrance said, "and you played all sports. We only had 20 seniors in our class, and I played everything from football to volleyball, softball to tennis and skiing, and all of us were on all the teams. So it wasn't as if I took any particular interest in soccer."

Dorrance then came to the United States to attend college, first at St. Mary's in San Antonio, Tex. He planned to focus on tennis, although he did start at fullback on St. Mary's 15-1 state championship soccer team that year. He transferred to Carolina after one semester, coming to UNC as a second semester freshman in the spring of 1970.

That fall he was ineligible because he had transferred, so he worked out with the varsity, played rugby, and did a lot of intramurals; he was named Intramural Athlete of the Year as a sophomore.

Dorrance broke into the starting lineup the following fall, and in his three years of eligibility made all-conference each year, as well as being an All-South selection, captain of the team, and the Educational Foundation Award winner as the most outstanding soccer senior in his final season.

Dorrance has coached on both the youth and club levels, having been involved with the Rainbow Soccer program and the Chapel Hill Soccer Club. He assisted Marvin Allen last season, and was made head coach following Allen's retirement.

"I played for him for three years," Dorrance said. "I know his coaching style, and a lot of the stuff that he has done I have also adopted in my system. I developed

under him, so I don't think the transition is going to be that dramatic in terms of coaching style. I don't feel the least bit self-conscious about replacing an institution like Dr. Allen because I'm basically a product of the very institution he stood for."

"I want to be a very aggressive team, and very fit, but at the same time extremely skilled. The emphasis in the past, because we couldn't recruit outstanding players because we didn't have scholarship money, was that Dr. Allen would recruit good players and develop a competitive team by encouraging fitness and aggressive play. Now that we've got some skilled players, we can continue to encourage fitness and aggressive play, but now we can add another dimension, skill."

The new facet of scholarship help for soccer players will bolster the UNC program and make it nationally competitive in years to come, helping to balance out the advantage the north has always had in soccer.

"A lot of the ethnics settled up there and they brought the game in a lot earlier," Dorrance said. "They've been organized much longer and they do play a full year, whereas down here the average player plays three months and then plays baseball or something. In a game like soccer it's so difficult to learn how to use the ball properly, you've got to play it year-round just to understand how the ball works."

"The only way the team here is ever going to be a national contender is for the North Carolinian to be a national-caliber athlete. As soon as the North Carolinian develops and as soon as his caliber of play gets better, so will ours as a school. We can use scholarships right now, but we can't use very many. We have enough to make us regionally competitive. To make us nationally competitive we have to bring in these big guns from out-of-state and then fill in all the spaces around them with local athletes that are outstanding but don't need scholarship help."

Despite the demands of a full-time head-coaching position, Dorrance finds time to be involved in many facets of North Carolina soccer, the development of which is one of his major interests. He is the president of the N.C. Soccer Association, which is the governing body for soccer in the state.



Anson Dorrance, Carolina's new soccer coach, is familiar with the soccer program because he was a player while a student here and an assistant to Marvin Allen before Allen retired from coaching at the end of last year.

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