



Tar Heel defensive tackle Rod Broadway (70) contributed to the Tar Heels' fine defensive effort last Saturday, with one of his best plays coming when he threw

Kentucky quarterback Derrick Ramsey (12) for a loss.

Staff photo by L. C. Barbour

Home opener Saturday against Richmond

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"We've got to stop their run," Hardison says. "Then we've got to stop the pass. We need to work on our running plays and blocking. We really don't have that many problems, but need to work much more. We all have the concept of how to do it (play defense) and we are learning the different ways to be effective. Like on third down and 10 situations. The other team basically is going to put it up (in the air) so we have to get off the ball quick and get to the quarterback."

"We played well enough to win against Kentucky. We haven't lost any of the intensity we had going into that game. We'll have to play hard and prove that we're a good team."

Even though Richmond started out on the wrong foot in its first game coming off a 5-6 season last year, and is expected to do no better against Carolina, the team definitely is one to be reckoned with — particularly its defense, which has eight of 11 starters from last year returning.

Jeff Nixon, a junior free safety, tied for third nationally in interceptions last year with 22 and was named to the third team Associated Press All-America team. UNC head coach Bill Dooley said he compares Nixon to Wake Forest's Bill Armstrong, who graduated last year.

Another defensive strong point for the Spiders is linebacker Orlandus Branch, who was a national Lineman of the Week last year and led the team in tackles with 182.

"He's very strong," Dooley said of the big (6-3, 230) Branch. "He didn't look that good in the films against West Virginia. But last year in the films, he was all over the field."

If Richmond's players at skilled positions on the offense can come together quickly, Richmond could be a threat offensively. Coach Jim Tait likes to throw the ball and if quarterbacks Dave Taylor and Larry Shaw, who split time last year, have

another effective season, the Spiders could have a good running and passing attack.

Sophomore Tim Thacker is the fullback while Buster Jackson, Demetri Kornegay and soph Mark Philip are the running backs.

"They like to throw the football," Dooley said. "They run the pro-type pattern and have some good running backs. They have the potential at the skilled positions to have a good passing game."

Carolina's offense, which had more success against Kentucky than Richmond did against West Virginia, showed last weekend that it could have a diversified attack by throwing the ball 19 times for 84 yards, as opposed to the running attack in past years.

"I was pleased with our offense," Dooley said. "They were able to put the points on the board when they needed to and enabled us to go out in front. But that just wasn't enough against Kentucky."

"Our players played well enough to win," he said.

Dooley said he wished every position on the Carolina team was in good shape like the quarterback spot. The position is deep, and all three quarterbacks — Matt Kupec, P.J. Gay and Clyde Christensen — saw action against Kentucky.

"Kupec did a tremendous job under pressure and Clyde gave the team a big lift," Dooley said. Kupec received little pass protection from the inexperienced offensive line against the Wildcats and was sacked several times.

"Kupec deserves the purple heart," Dooley said. "Sometimes those hits might've been a little late, but I'm not sure."

Christensen's 23-yard run sparked the team to its touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Kupec was slowed some during practice early this week because of soreness but is expected to start Saturday.

Tailback Phil Farris had a good game coming out of the backfield against Kentucky. The sturdy sophomore led Carolina rushers in the game with 41 yards gained on nine carries. He saw more action than starter Billy Johnson, who carried six times for 21 yards. Freshman Amos Lawrence did not play.

"I thought we might play Lawrence," Dooley said. "But Farris had a hot hand and was having a good game so we went with him. I was hoping Kentucky would like to see more of Johnson, too. But we tried to be a little more diversified."

The kicking game was the biggest disappointment against Kentucky for Dooley. Punter Johnny Elam had trouble early in the game getting off deep punts, but late in the game the punts were going higher and deeper. One reason for the shallow punts, Dooley said, was the wind blowing through the top part of the stadium. Carolina had the wind to its back during the second half of the game. Elam finished the game with eight punts averaging 33.5 yards per punt.

Wingback Wayne Tucker will miss action for an indefinite period because of an infected jaw.

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