

Terps vs. Heels: it could be for the title

QB Dick faces tough defense

By GENE UPCHURCH
Sports Editor

Larry Dick is a marked man, and he knows it.

Saturday, when he walks up behind his center to take the game's first snap, he will be facing one of the top defenses in the country, one that has allowed fewer points against it than any other in the nation. The Carolina defense will be pawing at the ground, itching to get to him.

"They're a big defensive line," quarterback Dick said this week from College Park, the site of the Carolina-Maryland clash on Saturday. "They're very good, and they're improving."

Dick has seen and read about what Carolina's defense has done to people and knows what it feels like himself.

"I've gotten sacked several times already this season," he said. "But it always happened late in the game when we're trying to catch up. That's tough. The other team knows you're going to be passing and they unload on you. It's tough on your offensive line."

When Maryland and Carolina square off in one of the biggest conference games this season, Dick will be substituting for an injured starter — Mark Manges. It was Manges whom all of the reporters huddled around during preseason interviews, not Dick. It was Manges who received all the preseason accolades, not Dick. But it is Dick who has had to carry the load and the responsibility for the Terrapins as they have struggled to a 4-3 season so far, after coming off an undefeated regular season last year.

"We haven't had any problems adjusting to Mark being out," Dick said. "I've worked with the guys a lot and split practice time with Mark."

"There has not been any one aspect of the Terrapin's game that has broken down, and that's what's really puzzling," Dick said. "There have been different parts of the game breaking down. And that's one of our biggest problems. You lose ballgames when you have breakdowns. This Saturday it's pretty much a question of who has the fewest breakdowns."

Dick definitely is no stranger to the role of



Larry Dick (above) is the Maryland quarterback whose job it will be to diagnose the Carolina defense Saturday. South Carolina's Johnnie Wright found the going tough (right) against Tar Heel defenders Buddy Curry, 57, Bobby Gay, 54 and Rod Broadway, 70.



starting quarterback for Maryland. The fifth-year senior made his first collegiate start against Carolina in 1975 after Manges was injured. He completed nine of 12 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown in the 34-7 win over the Tar Heels.

Dick's first start this season was against West Virginia in Maryland's second game. Manges suffered a minor foot injury during preseason practice and then broke a small bone in his hand during the season opener with Clemson. Dick came in in the third quarter and has been starting ever since.

"The players have confidence in me and I have confidence in them," he said. "In past games there has been no letdown. They're very confident because we've played together."

Carolina's defense has dominated the offensive lines of several opponents, particularly South Carolina last week and N.C. State the week before. Dick said he is somewhat concerned because the offensive line which protects him has some inexperienced players on it.

"They've played very well so far," he said. "There's a lot of potential there. One of these weeks they might just could dominate a team."

Maryland's varied attack takes some pressure off the offensive line. Dick is

completing over 60 percent of his passes to such capable receivers as split end Chuck White, wingback Dean Richards and tight end Vince Kinney. But Dick also can depend on two strong running backs to add diversity to the Maryland attack.

Tailback Steve Atkins will give the Carolina defense plenty of problems. He is coming off a knee injury that sidelined him against N.C. State in the fifth game last year and again leads the Terps in rushing yardage. George Scott and Alvin Maddox back up Atkins at tailback. Maddox, with his ability to get outside quickly, keeps opponents' defenses honest.

Maryland still runs the old wide-tackle-six defense, which most teams have trouble dissecting because it's rarely used anymore. Coach Jerry Claiborne takes pride in the defense and will diagram it for anyone who wants to see how it works.

The wide-tackle-six cuts down on outside running, so UNC quarterback Matt Kupec will be charged with seeing that the Tar Heel running backs take advantage of the defensive scheme for big plays up the middle.

"Not many teams still play it," UNC coach Bill Dooley said this week. "All of a sudden the blocking schemes change with different blitzes and stunts. It's something completely different from what you're used to seeing all season and different techniques are needed to play against it."

Maryland, which lost three games in a row this season to West Virginia, Penn State and State, is fighting this week to stay alive in the battle for the ACC championship. Another loss to an ACC school would put it out of contention to defend the crown it won so easily last year.

"UNC is undefeated in the conference," Dick said. "And they're playing good football. We've worked pretty hard to establish ourselves and win the conference championship last year. It's not something we want to lose. If you put a lot of work into something, you don't want to lose it."

"Another loss will put us out of a post-season bowl. It would be a real disappointment for the seniors on the squad to end this way after doing so well. We don't want to go out like that."

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