

# Tar Heels look to strengthen grasp on ACC lead

## UNC alum directs lowly Cavs against bowl-seeking Tar Heels

By LEE PACE  
Assistant Sports Editor

For two consecutive years in the early 1950s the University of Virginia drubbed the University of North Carolina so thoroughly in football that the Tar Heels no doubt wished someone would hurry up and invent rock 'n' roll so they could dance their troubles away. Provided, that is, that the Heels were physically able to move after losses by scores of 44-13 and 34-14.

The UNC starting left guard in the 1950 massacre, as chronicled by the *Daily Tar Heel*, was a young man named Dick Bestwick. The lineups a year later listed him as a second team guard. Subsequent issues in both years failed to mention how Bestwick performed, but one can guess that he and his teammates cursed Virginia and its football players regardless of how they played in the embarrassing losses.

Twenty-six years later Bestwick is a successful man in his profession. And like all graying UNC grads, he still thumbs through the yellowed pages of his *Yackety Yack* and remembers his college days. But unlike other Carolina alums and football players, his allegiance, as far as football is concerned, has shifted.

When Carolina and Virginia kick off at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Charlottesville, Bestwick will pull harder for the Cavaliers than anyone. As Virginia's head coach, he has little choice.

"Not really," the second-year head coach said after being asked if it meant anything

special to him to be facing his alma mater. "I have a great deal of affection for Carolina since I was a student there. I'm a lifetime member of the Alumni Association. An upset would be a great feeling, but it wouldn't be any different if it were against Maryland or Clemson or any other good team."

The Virginia upset that Bestwick would love so much is quite unlikely to unfold before an expected crowd of 24,000 in Scott Stadium. The Tar Heels, apt to be a bit cranky after last Saturday's 13-13 tie with Clemson that left their record at 6-2-1, realize they must beat Virginia and then Duke to win the ACC title outright and remain in contention for a postseason bowl bid. That should be plenty of incentive even if the opponent only owns a 7-1 record. And if it weren't for a midseason quarterback change, the Cavs likely would be 0-9.

Virginia scored seven points while allowing 157 in its first five games — one of them against No. 1 Texas — with freshmen quarterbacks Bryan Shumock and Ted Manly splitting time. "The freshmen just weren't ready to cope with the problems they were running into," Bestwick said. "So after the fifth game we put Chip Mark in, and he's done a fine job. We execute a lot better with him in there."

In his first start, Mark watched as the Virginia defense allowed Virginia Tech to come from behind with 30 seconds to play for a 14-14 tie. The next week the Cavs collected their lone win of the long season,



Carolina's defense still ranks first in the ACC in total, rushing and scoring defense. Two players who have helped contribute to those rankings include Bobby Gay (54) and Bernie Menapace (16). Staff photo by Allen Jernigan.

downing hapless Wake Forest, 12-10, and then came within three points of upsetting Syracuse.

"Since Mark's been at quarterback they haven't made the mistakes that put their defense in bad position," UNC Coach Bill Dooley said this week. "He's done a good job."

But after three good weeks in a row, the Cavs went back to their old ways last Saturday, losing 30-6 to VMI. Mark's 20-for-33 passing performance was the only bright spot in what Bestwick termed his team's poorest performance in his two years at Virginia. "It was very disappointing after playing three pretty good football games."

Virginia gained eight yards total rushing against VMI, a mark that likely would make NCAA record books if "least" records were kept. And having to face the second best scoring defense in the nation has Bestwick quite concerned.

"But even if we'd rushed for 180 or 200 yards I'd still be worried," he said. "Carolina has an exceptionally fine team overall, particularly on defense. They have every bit as good a defense as Texas, if not better. And a good friend of mine that coaches at Northwestern says that Carolina has a better team than Ohio State. They could easily be undefeated."

John Choma, a senior tackle, will lead UVA's efforts in blocking Dee Hardison, Rod Broadway et al., while tackle Sam

Pfabe and cornerback Derrick Gasper will direct the defense's efforts to stop Amos Lawrence and the rest of the Tar Heel offense.

Dooley said he probably wouldn't know until near gametime Saturday whether Matt Kupec, who severely bruised a shoulder against Clemson, would be well enough to start Saturday. If he isn't, P. J. Gay and Clyde Christensen are likely to split time at quarterback. But regardless of who directs the offense, Dooley is looking for a better performance from his unit that has sputtered on and off all season.

"We would have liked to put more points on the board (against Clemson)," he said. "Give Clemson some credit — they pressured us into passing situations and made us throw in a hurry. But we controlled the ball for seven minutes and 18 plays at one point. That's better than the four corners in basketball. We should've gotten some points."

"We've just had a breakdown here, a breakdown there. The offense has been inconsistent, and I'm not pleased with that. We have to play better Saturday, be more consistent."

The Tar Heels remain first in the ACC in total, rushing and scoring defense, with Clemson second in each of the three categories. The Tigers are tops in pass defense, leading the Heels by nine yards per game.

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