

Duke looks to upset UNC's ACC title bid

By GENE UPCHURCH
Sports Editor

The tall, lean quarterback walked away from the football field, two minutes after his teammates trotted to the locker room. His helmeted head hung down, and two short friends patted him on the shoulder pads, consoling him. One of them looked toward the Kenan Stadium scoreboard. It read: 39-38, Carolina.

Duke's Mike Dunn held his head low that afternoon when, despite his best efforts, Carolina came from behind to win the most exciting college football game probably ever played. But it wasn't Dunn's fault the Blue Devils couldn't win the traditional year-end rivalry.

Dunn, a sophomore then, shocked the capacity-plus Kenan crowd with 239 yards on offense and four touchdowns. But Carolina countered all Dunn's efforts with a quick pitch to Mike Voight, who ran in untouched in a two-point conversion for the final score.

This year, the scene of the Duke-Carolina game shifts to Durham. Dunn, who seems to be able to do almost anything he wants with Duke's option attack, will meet the strong Carolina defense and speeding-bullet running back Amos Lawrence.

And the fireworks ignited by Mike Dunn and Amos Lawrence could rival those over Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium every fourth of July.

Dunn is the kind of quarterback who takes matters into his own hands, like the come-from-behind victory over Georgia Tech three weeks ago.

"If things aren't going good, or there's low-key atmosphere in the huddle or things just aren't crisp," Dunn said this week from Durham, "I'll just try to break for a long run or throw a deep pass. I just try to completely change things around and keep the level up."

Dunn said his offensive line is giving him good protection. It will face Carolina's tough defense, which has allowed only as much as 14 points in a game this season.

"We're trying to watch every bit of film we can to find weaknesses in the defense," he said. "We've played some great defenses this season. All we can do is watch all the film and see how they play."

Duke's 37-32 loss to N.C. State last week dropped the Blue Devils to a 5-5 record this season, and was painfully reminiscent of the Carolina game last year, Dunn said.

"It matched two high scoring offenses against one another," he said. "We felt we had the best offense, but it was a good shootout and a good game."

Carolina's game against Duke will again match two potentially explosive offenses. With Dunn directing the Blue Devils, Duke is capable of doing anything. And now Carolina's offense, struggling throughout most of the season, has emerged on Lawrence's heels as a force to deal with.

Lawrence broke freshman records right and left against Virginia Saturday, rolling up 286 yards in 35 carries and boosting his season total to 1,072 yards. His quick acceleration and slithering, sliding moves make it difficult for opposing defenses to stop him.

"He's very durable," UNC Coach Bill Dooly said this week. "He's not big in stature like some others, but when you have his ability to accelerate, the defenses don't get a good shot at him."



Virginia's Billy Harris is pulled down by Carolina's Rod Broadway (70) as Dave Simmons (84), Ken Sheets (89) and Bobby Gay (54) close in, during the 35-14 Tar Heel win. Carolina's defense will have to stop Duke exceptional quarterback Mike Dunn this week to ensure a win over the Blue Devils. Staff photo by Joseph Thomas.

Duke has a shot at spoiling some very big plans for the Tar Heels. For one, a win or a tie with the Blue Devils will give the Tar Heels their first ACC championship since 1972. A loss in the last regular season game will drop Carolina to a tie with Clemson for the title.

By now, the rumor that Carolina is going to the Liberty Bowl Dec. 19 has permeated to even the farthest reaches of the area. But Dunn said he's not thinking about trying to blemish Tar Heel hopes.

"Carolina's playing well enough to win," he said. "You can't think about something like that. I'm just thinking about putting together a good game myself. And when I do that, I sit back and see the games this season when I didn't play well, when mistakes hurt us."

Dunn will have an extra monkey on his back Saturday when he faces the Tar Heels. His coach, Mike McGee, could be fired after this season, particularly if the team loses to Carolina. This would drop Duke's season record to 5-6, the fourth losing season during McGee's seven years at Duke.

"I haven't given it much thought," Dunn said. "As far as I know, he'll be back. He says for us not to worry about it. Hopefully, it won't have any effect on the game." The 1:30 p.m. game Saturday in Durham is a sellout.

Unexpected should be expected as Duke-UNC series continues

A 25-0 upset that knocked North Carolina out of the Rose Bowl and a 50-0 Tar Heel rout in a game of incredible individual performances by Don McCauley and Mike Voight are just a few of the amazing things which have made the Carolina-Duke football series one of the most exciting in the college game. The unexpected will again be expected Saturday when the two teams clash at Wallace Wade Stadium.

Fans spend a lot of time debating which game has been the greatest in the series. It really depends on whether you're a Carolina or Duke fan. However, everyone will agree that last year's 39-38 thriller in Kenan Stadium ranks as something special.

Quarterback Mike Dunn ran for 130 yards, passed for 109 more and scored four touchdowns for Duke. Carolina tailback Mike Voight had 261 yards rushing, four touchdowns and the deciding two-point conversion for Carolina.

Duke led 22-21 going into the fourth quarter. The Tar Heels regained the lead on a Tom Biddle field goal. Duke took the ensuing kickoff and marched 51 yards for the go-ahead score, a 14-yard scamper by Dunn. He also added a two-point conversion for a 30-24 Blue Devil advantage.

The Tar Heels came back with Voight going the final nine yards and Biddle's point-after-touchdown making the score 31-30. Duke swept back downfield immediately with Dunn going nine yards and Tony Benjamin getting a two-point conversion for a 38-31 Duke lead.

Carolina raced back downfield to score with 37 seconds left on an eight-yard pass from Matt Kupec to Billy Johnson. On the deciding two-point conversion, Kupec ran right on an option and pitched to Voight for the score. Francis Winters killed Duke's last comeback hopes with an interception with 13 seconds to play.

Duke pulled one of the greatest upsets in the series in 1935. Carolina was unbeaten and headed for the Rose Bowl. Writers and photographers from across the nation were in Chapel Hill the week of the Duke game, taking pictures and writing about the Tar Heels.

However, Duke stunned the Tar Heels 25-0, and knocked Carolina out of the Rose Bowl picture.

The Tar Heels had a chance to return the favor in 1938 against the famous Iron Dukes. The Blue Devils were unbeaten, untied and unscored on going into the Carolina game and needed a win to get a Rose Bowl bid.

The scene was perfect for an upset, but it didn't happen. Duke won, 14-0, and went on to play Southern California in the Rose Bowl.

Duke dominated the series in the early 1940s. They even beat the Tar Heels twice in 1943 when a pair of games were scheduled because of wartime travel restrictions. Duke won 14-7 in Durham that year and 27-6 in Chapel Hill.

Then came the Charlie Justice Era at Carolina and things changed. The Tar Heels won four in a row with "Choo Choo" by scores of 22-7, 21-0, 20-0 and 21-20.

That 21-20 game ranks as one of the series' all-time classics. Justice played the game on a bad leg but was sensational just the same.

Duke drove deep into Carolina territory late in the game but was apparently beaten when the clock ran out and fans stormed the field. However, Blue Devil athletic officials argued that the scoreboard clock, which was difficult to read, still had three seconds left on it. The game officials finally agreed and ordered the game resumed.

Mike Souchak lined up what would have been the winning field goal. However, Art Weiner rushed in to block the kick and preserved the victory.

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