

A new season, a new hope

Carolina football: dawning of the Crum era

By Elson Armstrong
Staff Writer

The secret to a perfect relationship between a school and its football coach is no secret. It's winning.

So the University of North Carolina and its new head football coach, Dick Crum, should find themselves getting along pretty well this season because both have been consistent winners.

Coach Crum arrives in Chapel Hill by way of the University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio, where he directed the football program from 1968 to 1977. During that time his teams compiled outstanding records, including two undefeated seasons, and proved themselves nationally by knocking off powers like Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in the Tangerine Bowl between 1973 and 1976.

Like Miami, North Carolina has also emerged as a national power in football in the last 10 years. The Heels have played in six bowl games, won three Atlantic Coast Conference championships, and finished frequently in the national top 20.

Crum is no stranger to UNC and its winning ways. In 1976 his Miami club visited Chapel Hill, nationally ranked and riding a long winning streak. Carolina broke the streak with a 14-10 victory.

Recently Coach Crum agreed to an interview with *The Tar Heel* about the new era in Carolina Football.

Tar Heel: What are the prospects for the 1978 season?

Crum: We have the nucleus for a good football team. There is a potential depth

problem that can be solved if some of the young kids come through in fall practice.

Tar Heel: How tough are Carolina's opponents for 1978?

Crum: We open with East Carolina. They will have played three games when they play us, and they're always good. Then we play Maryland, Pittsburgh, and Miami (Ohio), and then come the ACC games, so we'll play a demanding schedule.

Tar Heel: How will you feel when you play Miami?

Crum: It will be more than just another football game for me.

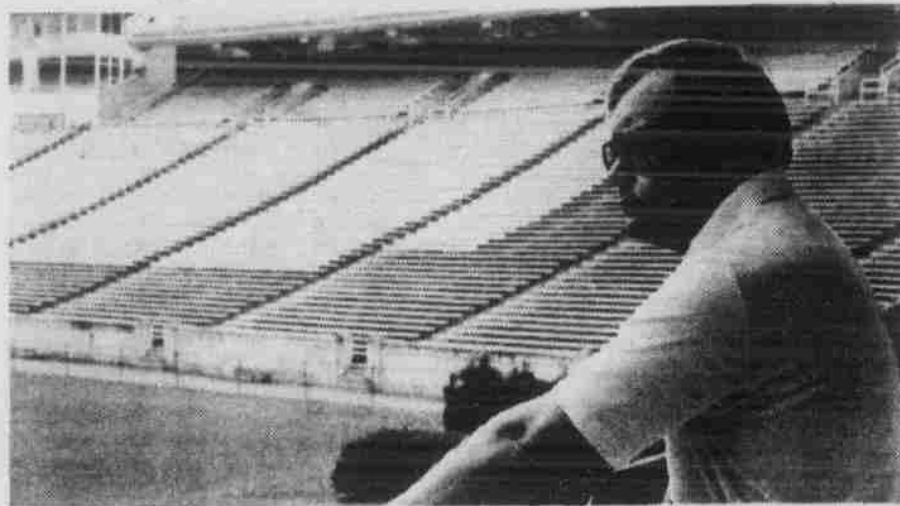
Tar Heel: Will UNC be on television next fall?

Crum: Our game with Pittsburgh will. *Tar Heel:* This fall you'll be using the veer offense. It's worked wonders for schools like UCLA, Houston, and Fresno State, but isn't it a high risk offense in inclement weather?

Crum: That all depends on how you perceive this offense. Last year at Miami we used it three times in the rain — once during a six inch snowstorm — and our mistakes were minimal. On defense we should again be tough. UNC finished very high defensively last year.

Tar Heel: Without a doubt the ACC is America's strongest basketball conference. Where do you rate the ACC in football?

Crum: Carolina proved that it could play on even terms with the Big Eight when they barely lost to Nebraska 21-17 in the Liberty Bowl. N.C. State beat Iowa State of the Big Eight in the Peach Bowl, and Maryland beat Minnesota of the Big Ten



Tar Heel photo by John Hoke

in the Hall of Fame Bowl. I favorably rate the quality of play in the ACC with the other strong conferences.

Tar Heel: Last spring a story made national headlines concerning a drug scandal involving the UNC football team. What's your reaction to it?

Crum: First of all, that was supposed to be a six-part story concerning all the colleges in the state. The first part dealt with UNC. It was a sensational story that grabbed headlines, but later stories were not carried by the media. What the fellow failed to mention was that the individuals that he wrote about had been dismissed by Coach Dooley before the story was written. It seemed to be an I'll-get Dooley kind of story. This sort of thing could've happened in California, Ohio, or anywhere. Most people in the press do a reputable job but there are a few who try to get a Pulitzer Prize by writing sensational stories like this one. As I understand it, *The Daily Tar Heel*, for whom this fellow wrote, twice refused the story. He had to search around until

he found a paper that would print it. Reporters have a duty to research all the facts before they write a story.

Tar Heel: How should athletes relate to other students?

Crum: I feel that my players should be treated like other students. I want players who are in school not only for sports. I want them to be working for their degrees. It's too bad that so many people view athletes as dumb. It's quite a load for these guys to play football and do academic work, but like other students they have to meet all the Carolina requirements before they graduate. I hope my players have a positive relationship with the other students.

Tar Heel: How does the "Carolina Fever" in this area compare to Miami?

Crum: We had great support at Miami, but most of the attention up there is for Ohio State. Here North Carolina is the state university, so there's much more loyalty here.

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