

# History records Homecomings past

Although it is easily overlooked in the excitement of surrounding events, a reason does exist for all this Homecoming hoopla. And that reason is the football game.

Considering the team's erratic performance this year, many people would probably prefer to let the game take a back seat to all the parties, but a backward glance will show that Homecoming games were sometimes turning points for losing Tar Heel teams.

Such was the case in 1967. Coach Bill Dooley's team beat Maryland to break a 12-game losing streak and give Dooley his first win at Carolina.

The 1947 Homecoming game was another exciting match. Not only was it the first time Carolina had played State in three years, but the famed Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice was also in the lineup.

The State-Carolina games had

been discontinued in the mid-'40s because World War II had taken much of the schools' football talent. But after three years, popular demand brought the two teams back together.

Carolina whipped State, running up the biggest score (41-6) of the archrivalry. Choo Choo was instrumental in the victory and had his best day of the season in the passing and running departments. Carolina Coach Carl Snively cleared the bench, using 46 men in what was truly a team victory. As 1947 headlines read, culture had beaten agriculture once again.

Like Homecoming games, Homecoming queens tend to blur together as years pass. But there are exceptions here, too.

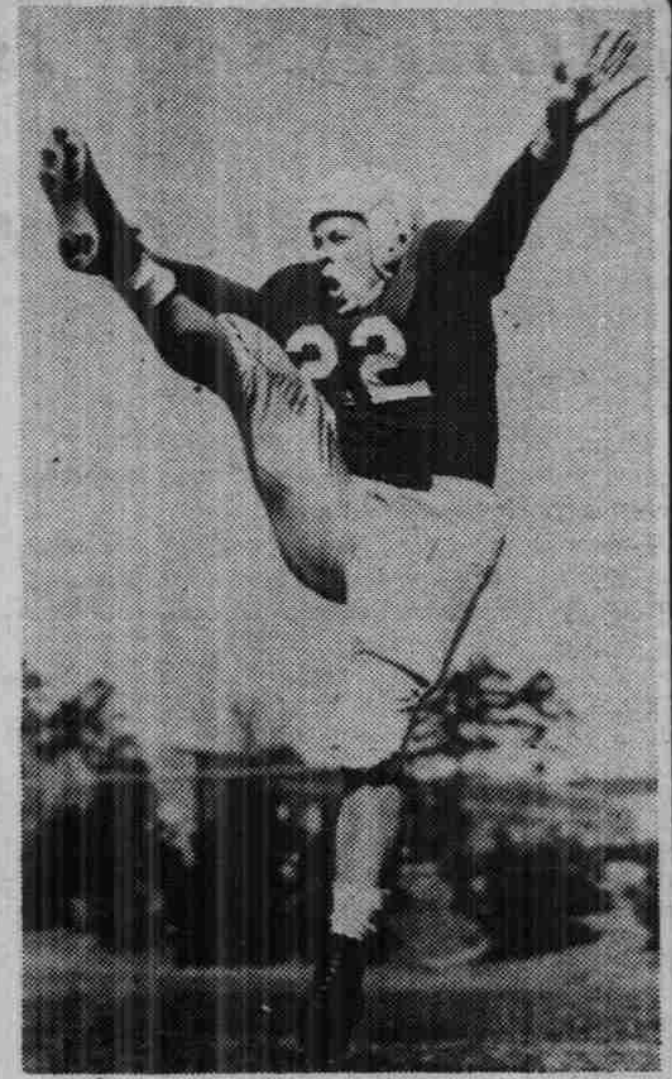
The 1959 queen, for example, wore galoshes on the field. Mrs. Douglas Murray, then Gertie Barnes, recalls that it was pouring down rain that day, and while the

galoshes kept her feet dry, they didn't do much for the Carolina team, which lost to Tennessee 29-7.

Another notable winner was the 1975 queen—er—king. That year Delmar Williams won the election for Homecoming Queen, to the affrontment of the athletic department, which said Williams was making a mockery not only of Homecoming activities but of department as well. Williams said he was merely seeking his rights under Title IX.

Although the athletic department at first threatened to cancel the half-time ceremony if Williams remained on the court, a compromise was reached. An honorary Homecoming Queen was first announced, and then Williams was crowned Homecoming King, receiving the honors normally given to a queen.

—SARAH WEST



"Choo Choo" Justice

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