

# Team play, work help Taylor win ACC award

By DAVID POOLE  
Assistant Sports Editor

The members of the 1980 North Carolina football team said all year that if the team could do well, the individual honors for players would come. Carolina finished 10-1 overall and won the Atlantic Coast Conference with a 6-0 mark. They were right about the individual honors.

The highest of those came Sunday when linebacker Lawrence Taylor was named ACC Player of the Year, becoming only the fourth non-offensive back to win the honor in the history of the league.

"I'm happy I received the honor," Taylor said Monday. "It's something I've wanted and worked for. It's been a total team effort for us all year and I felt that somebody on our team would get the honors—if not me, then Harry Stanback or Donnell Thompson or somebody else."

"Lawrence is deserving of the award," Carolina coach Dick Crum said, "but it took 10 other guys to get him where he is."

Taylor was an easy winner in the voting among members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association, getting 94 of the 122 votes cast. Amos Lawrence and Kelvin Bryant of Carolina, Charlie Wysocki of Maryland, Jay Venuto of Wake Forest and Obed Ariji of Clemson also received votes.

"The honor makes me feel real good," Taylor said. "I wasn't really sure of my talents; I knew I was a pretty good football player and I

thought I was above average, but the ACC has a lot of above average football players.

"I'm just happy that people are taking note of my talents," he added. "I try to do the best job I can at my position and hope that's what they're looking for."

The 6-foot-3, 242-pound senior from Williamsburg, Va., dropped quarterbacks for losses 16 times this year and had 69 tackles—22 of them for losses. He also caused three fumbles, recovered three fumbles and broke up two passes.

Taylor also made what might have been the biggest single play of the year for the Tar Heels late in a 24-19 victory over Clemson on Nov. 8. Clemson had a third-and-goal on the UNC one-yard line in the closing minute of the game, and Taylor sacked Homer Jordan for an eight-yard loss. A fourth-down pass was incomplete and Carolina was able to win its fourth conference game of the year.

Taylor is considered by some pro scouts as one of the top prospects coming out of college this year. Taylor hopes to play professional football and would like to go to a team where he can contribute from the outset.

"I was sitting at home Saturday and I was wishing we had some more regular season games left," Taylor said. "I'm looking forward to playing in the pros, and I hope I go pretty high in the draft. I can't see giving up football at this point in my life."



Carolina's Lawrence Taylor, named the ACC Player of the Year Sunday, shows why in this action for Carolina's 10-1 season. Above, he pops ECU quarterback Greg Stewart. Right, he chases Texas Tech quarterback Ron Reeves.



DTH/Photo Photos

# Sports

\*Basketball vs. Mercer at 7:30 a.m. in Carrhardt.

## Heisman Trophy

# Rogers takes top honor

From wire reports

NEW YORK—The 46th annual Heisman Trophy was awarded as expected Monday to South Carolina's George Rogers, capping a brilliant season for the senior from Duluth, Ga., in which he led the nation in rushing and led the Gamecocks to a berth in the Gator Bowl.

Rogers won the award given by the New York Downtown Athletic Club with 1,128 points, easily surpassing defensive end Hugh Green of Pittsburgh with 861 points and Georgia's freshman running back Herschel Walker with 683 points. Walker's third-place finish was the best ever by a freshman.

Rogers ran for 1,781 yards this year, he tops in the NCAA and finished with 4,958 yards in four seasons, good enough for fourth on the all-time NCAA list.

News of Rogers' victory set off celebrations in both Duluth and Columbia, S.C. "It's exciting. It's a tremendous honor, not just for George, but for our whole program and the university as well," USC coach Jim Carlen said.

"He was always talking about all the things he was going to do and every year he did it," Rogers' mother, Mrs. Grady Rogers said. "I knew if he had his mind set, he could do it."

"He told me four years ago when Earl Campbell got his that I was going to be sitting where his mother sat, because he was going to get it for me."

Other family members in Duluth joined in the praise. "My little old boy won it," said his aunt, Mrs. Otella Rogers. "Praise the Lord. Oh, I'm so happy for him."

Rogers was the favorite in the pre-balloting predictions. Green was hampered by the fact that defensive players are traditionally overlooked by the voters, and Walker was considered a longshot because he was a freshman.

Carlen said the key to Rogers' success was his consistency. "I think it was his ability to gain over 100 yards for 21 straight weeks," he said. "He's been very consistent and he deserves it. It's just that simple."

Carlen said winning college football's most prestigious award won't change Rogers. "I think he's the same every day. He's going to be embarrassed at everybody complimenting him on winning it because he realizes there were a lot of other people involved."

Rogers is expected to go high in the 1981 National Football League draft, but Carlen said Rogers was thinking about his finale as a Gamecock against Pittsburgh. "He's interested in getting ready for the Gator Bowl."

# Coaches await poll ratings after Alaska Shootout

ANCHORAGE (AP) — There were as many coaches' opinions about college basketball polls as there were ranked teams at the Great Alaska Shootout.

As might be expected, those likely to see their standing improved as a result of the three-day tournament that ended Sunday thought better of the rankings than did the losers.

On the strength of its 64-58 championship victory over Arkansas, North Carolina stands to gain the most when the first regular-season poll comes out this afternoon. In the Associated Press preseason poll, the Tar Heels were 13th.

"It's good for a young team's confidence to beat other nationally ranked teams," North Carolina Coach Dean Smith said. "For a young team, it's important to win. They needed it for their confidence."

Despite losing to North Carolina, Arkansas seemed likely to improve on its 20th spot after beating Louisiana State and Missouri, both rated ahead of the Razor-

backs going into the tournament.

Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton said all of the tournament participants will benefit from the high caliber of competition. Looking at the semifinal matchups Saturday between Georgetown and North Carolina, followed by Arkansas and LSU, Sutton likened it to the NCAA's final four in the playoffs.

The tournament was a split decision for LSU, which lost badly to Arkansas but crushed Georgetown. Coach Dale Brown wasn't sure what effect it would have on his team's 12th ranking.

But Brown likes the polls. "I kind of enjoy the ratings. I think they're kind of fun," he said.

Georgetown coach John Thompson, whose Hoyas could fall from 16th clear out of the Top 20 after losses to North Carolina and LSU, wasn't so enthralled.

"Ranking is for alumni, ranking is for fans, ranking

is for the fun of the sport, for talking about who's best," Thompson said.

Likely to be the biggest losers in the poll are the Missouri Tigers, who headed into the tournament ranked 11th.

The Tigers were blown out by Arkansas and struggled to get by Colgate and Alaska-Anchorage, two teams which the Tigers figured to handle easily.

It used to be coaching custom to schedule parties in November and December and carry a flashy record into conference play.

No more, apparently. "I'd rather have those things (weaknesses) exposed here than in conference play," said Sutton.

"We knew this would be a competitive tournament," said Thompson. "We knew what we were getting into. We wanted to find out a few things about our team and we did."

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