

East Carolina concludes series with Heels after seven seasons

By GEOFFREY MOCK
DTH Assistant Sports Editor

People following North Carolina football can't help but be impressed with East Carolina.

Here's a school that's not in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and it always has to come over to Kenan Stadium and it always loses to UNC, but the score is always close. If East Carolina were anywhere else, it would be a giant killer.

"ECU is stuck over in Greenville where they don't have the newspaper or TV exposure that we do," UNC Coach Dick Crum said. "But they have a good football team and they are not easy to beat when everybody expects us to win."

The most popular theory for why the games are so close is that ECU gets keyed up for the Tar Heels while the Heels treat the Pirates as just another game. Small state school makes its season by beating big state school.

"It's always an exceptionally big game for them," Crum said. "It's always been a very tight game except last year. It's

difficult to get ready for them. It's easy to criticize them when you're a writer or a fan, but when you are a coach and you have to line up against them it's a different story."

"That's garbage," Pirate Coach Ed Emory said. "That's sportswriters garbage. A good football team treats one game like another. We get up for Western Carolina just like we do for North Carolina."

The Pirates got up for Western Carolina in a big fashion last Saturday, whipping WCU 42-6 behind the running and passing of the Pirates' wishbone quarterback Carlton Nelson.

Both Emory and Crum said that ECU's early start was a mixed blessing for the Pirates. "We got a win and that always helps," Emory said, "but at the same time UNC had a chance to see us and study our personnel. They got five weeks to get ready for us, but we had five days to get ready for them."

"ECU had a trial run last week," Crum said. "They did not struggle so

they didn't have to show all their weapons. We were able to scout them while they go in kind of blind."

Key to the Pirates' success in past years has been their running game out of the wishbone attack, but UNC stopped the attack last year, holding ECU to 64 yards in a rare 31-3 rout.

"We had problems last year, but we hope the running game will be like in the past this season," Emory said. "We have a young offensive line and untested backs. It will be a great challenge against the UNC defense."

The strong arm of Nelson brings a new dimension to the ECU offense. In addition to scoring a touchdown on a 24 yard run against WCU, he passed for a touchdown of 34 yards to freshman split end Ricky Nichols.

"Carlton is a good quarterback," Crum said. "Their passing game is the best since I've been here. Nelson led them on drives of 97, 90, and 85 yards against



North Carolina and East Carolina in action last year ... Tar Heels and Pirates conclude 7-year series Saturday

Western Carolina. That takes up a fair amount of time so that is an impressive statistic."

Joining Nelson in the backfield will be running backs Harold Blue and Earnest Byner and fullback Roy Wiley. The offensive line consists of three senior returning starters in Tony Hensley, Bud LaCock and Tootie Robbins and two juniors, Oscar Tyson and Mindell Tyson.

The Pirate defense held Western Carolina without a touchdown last week, but Emory said his defense will have a more difficult task holding back the Tar Heels.

"UNC is bigger on offense than we are on defense," he said. "I know that to defend against an offense with Kelvin Bryant and Rod Elkins will be tough. I think Elkins is one of the finest quarterbacks in the nation. He keeps the ball alive. He's not a mechanical quarterback."

The Pirates run a 5-2 defense with Mike Davis, Hal Stephens, Fee Griffin, George Crump and Jody Schultz starting on the front line. The linebacking corps is headed by three-year letterman Glenn Morris and Donald Reid.

The safeties will be junior Smokey Morris and senior Marvin Elliott.

Kickoff will be a 1 p.m. Saturday at Kenan Stadium.

A balanced meal: ACC football and liver

After a while you have to get sick of everybody saying what a balanced league the Atlantic Coast Conference is. Liver and asparagus is a balanced meal but neither one of them is good.

The ACC will be a little better than asparagus but until a team establishes itself as a perennial national power like Michigan or Oklahoma, the league will suffer football pains.

North Carolina is the only school that can even begin to be that super team and this season will be a crucial test to see if the Tar Heels will be that team.

UNC was erratic in the 70s, having losing seasons in 1973, 1975 and 1978. But winning the Gator Bowl over Michigan in 1979 and the Bluebonnet Bowl last year gave the school and the conference consistent recognition.

ferent this year. The offense should be clicking right away with the defense gelling after the third or fourth game.

The first conference encounter for UNC is not until Oct. 10 against Wake Forest at Kenan Stadium, so it looks good for the title. But the Tar Heels are young and don't have much depth.

Clemson (5-1) — If all goes right the showdown for the ACC title will be Nov. 7 when the Tigers come to Carolina's homecoming.

The entire offense is back for the team that almost beat an exceptional UNC team last year. The defense has three All-ACC preseason picks. If the UNC-Clemson game was in Death Valley, the Tigers would be the pick to win the game and the conference.

Maryland (4-2) — A runner like Charlie Wysocki can be the difference in winning and losing. The offense will probably sputter early because it is unstable. Coach Jerry Claiborne recently announced that senior Bob Milkovich will not be his starting quarterback. Instead, junior Brent Dewitz will. That sent a few shock waves around.

The defense will win a few games for the Terps. The only weakness is the secondary; the rest is solid.

N.C. State (3-3) — The Wolfpack is probably the most unpredictable team this year. There are no established running backs and that could be their downfall in the ACC.

Tol Avery is a quarterback well suited for the State offense and the defense is strong, especially the secondary. State should beat the ACC doormats and lose to the upper echelon. They are an average team.

The rest of the ACC should fall in order; Virginia (2-4), Duke (1-5) and Wake Forest, with a new coach, may lose all six games.

Clifton Barnes

Consistent recognition — that's the big phrase. Not just power for a season or even two but for years and years. Clemson, State and Maryland, along with UNC, have always been ACC powers. They should again be the top four but still only Carolina can make the top 10 in the country.

First, Carolina must prove its dominance in its own conference. Here's how the ACC should finish:

North Carolina (6-0) — The Tar Heels had to win all six league games last year to take the conference title. It should be no dif-

Michigan retains top poll position

From wire reports

Despite being idle last week, Michigan retained its top position in the Associated Press Poll with 37 first place votes and 1,184 points.

North Carolina fell one spot from 12 to 13 as UCLA moved past the Tar Heels.

Alabama, a 24-7 victor over Louisiana State, moved up two spots from fourth to second. The Crimson Tide received 11 first place votes and 1,110 points. Oklahoma fell to third with 1,049 points and Notre Dame dropped to fourth place with 1,024 points. Both the Sooners and the

Fighting Irish were idle last week.

Rounding out the AP top ten was Southern California, Georgia, Nebraska, Texas, Penn State and Pittsburgh, which tied for ninth place.

The second ten has Ohio State, UCLA, North Carolina, Mississippi State, Brigham Young, Miami (Fla.), Washington, Florida State, Stanford, and Arizona State.

The only newcomer in the poll was Miami, replacing Florida which it beat 21-20 on Danny Miller's 55 yard field goal with 45 seconds remaining in the game.

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Bennett gets nod over Elkins at quarterback

Duke quarterback Ben Bennett got the nod on the Operation Football sports writer's preseason All-ACC team. Earlier coaches had picked UNC's Rod Elkins as the top signal-caller.

The members of Operation Football, a tour of the eight ACC football camps, actually differed little on the ACC selections. The writers picked four players on offense, who did not make the

coaches' list, and three on defense.

Defensive back Bill Jackson of Carolina beat out coaches' choice Terry Kinnard of Clemson. Perry Williams of N.C. State was picked in place of teammate Donnie LaGrande at defensive back. State's Calvin Warren was selected as the punter over Jeff Pierce of Georgia Tech, who was picked by the coaches.

On offense, Clemson's Perry Tuttle

was the top vote-getter at wide receiver although he did not make the coaches' team. Kenny Duckett of Wake Forest and Mike Quirk of State tied for the other end position.

Other Tar Heel players to make the team were guard Dave Drechsler, tailback Kelvin Bryant, defensive end Calvin Daniels and linebacker Darrell Nicholson.

DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau

THE Daily Crossword By Kathryn Rightler

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