

One says major bowl not out

Bowl scouts say UNC to Gator

By NORMAN CANNADA
Assistant Sports Editor

If what some of what the bowl executives from across the country are saying is true, North Carolina could be spending its Christmas vacation in Jacksonville, Fla. as guest of the Gator Bowl.

"We are very interested in North Carolina and would love to have them in Memphis, but we have heard that they may have made a move toward the Gator Bowl," Liberty Bowl founder and executive director Bud Dudley said in a telephone interview. "They are supposed to be getting back to us, but it doesn't appear that they are too interested in our bowl."

UNC Athletic Director John Swofford said that only the Tangerine Bowl and Garden State Bowl have been ruled out as possibilities for the Tar Heels, due to the fact that both conflict with Carolina's exam schedule. He refused to say, though, which bowls were higher on North Carolina's list.

"I think we've got a good opportunity to go to a bowl game," Swofford said. "We haven't ruled them (the Liberty

Bowl) out or any other bowl except the ones that conflict with our exam schedules."

Swofford said he would make the final decision as to which bowl the Heels go to, working with head coach Dick Crum. Crum will also get a feel of where the UNC seniors would like to go.

"I don't think there will be a conflict in what we decide," Swofford said. "We'll look at a lot of things like TV exposure and the financial situation and work it out together."

Who the Gator Bowl is looking to depends on who you talk to. Information Director Ted Emory said that the Tar Heels are among eight teams that the bowl is currently looking at. Executive Vice President George Olsen said 18 teams are still on the Gator Bowl list. Both agreed, though, that the Tar Heels have a good chance of being invited to Jacksonville for the Dec. 28 game, although stopping short of agreeing with Dudley's assessment.

"The Liberty Bowl is great for making comments on other people's bowls," Olsen said. "That's good speculation, but it's still a bit too early."

The Gator Bowl and Fiesta Bowl are the only bowls who are planning to have representatives at Saturday's North Carolina-Virginia game in Charlottesville.

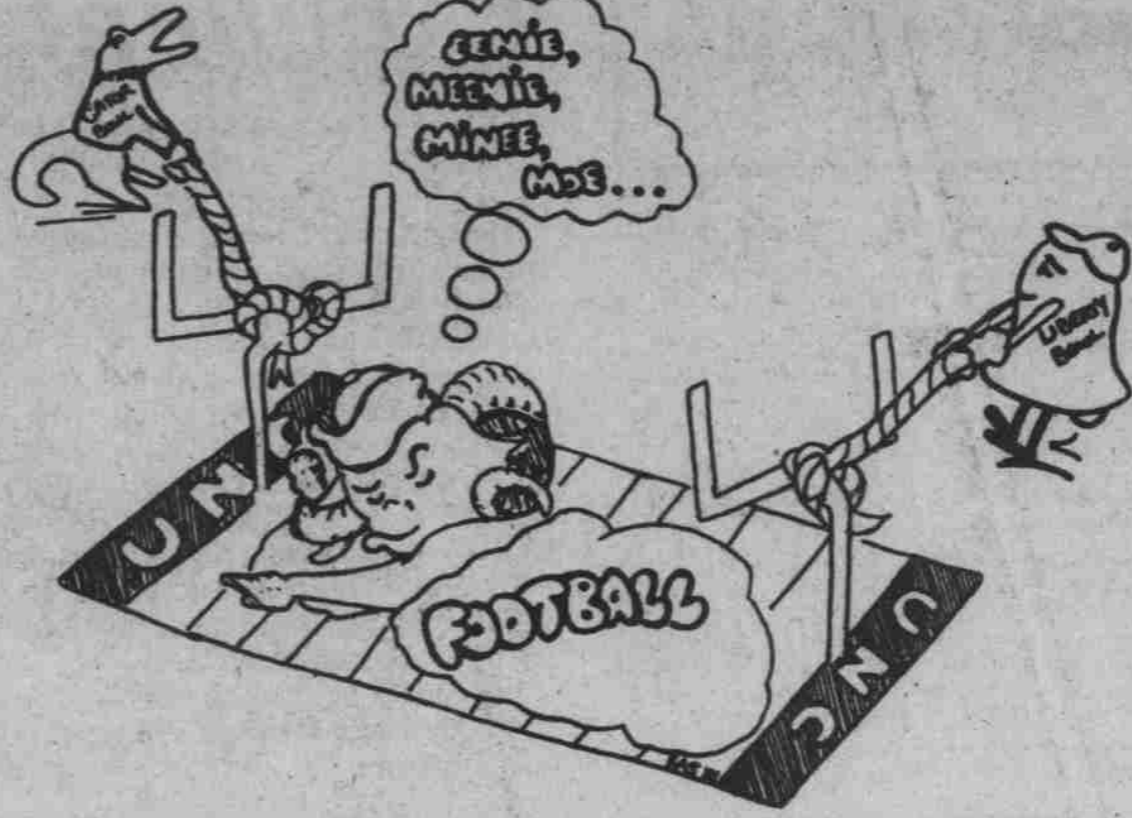
"We are still interested in North Carolina and they seem to still be interested in us," Fiesta Bowl Spokesman Bruce Skinner said. "They have a big play man in Kelvin Bryant and that is certainly something that we look for."

But, several bowls including the Liberty Bowl, consider the Tar Heels to be elsewhere.

"We would like to have North Carolina. We've seen them play two or three times, but they seem to be headed for the Gator Bowl," Peach Bowl Executive Director George Crumbley said. "We have talked, but there is no indication that they are interested in coming to Atlanta."

The Sun Bowl, another bowl considering the Tar Heels, feels UNC is going to Jacksonville.

"We would like to have them, but we don't think they're interested just because of the money," a Sun Bowl spokesman said. "Right now we see North Carolina in the Gator Bowl against Penn State."



Cav surprise for Tar Heels?

UNC coach Dick Crum said that Virginia may throw a few surprises the Tar Heels' way in Saturday's game at the Cavalier's Scott Stadium.

"They usually change a lot of things for us; it's their game of the year," Crum said. "We have to be open-minded so we can adjust to the changes they make."

Virginia, 1-7, had an open date last week to prepare for UNC and heal players' ailments.

Senior quarterback Todd Kirkley will be available for backup duty after being replaced by Gordie Whitehead during the Rutgers game due to a broken hand.

The Cavalier's top defensive lineman Stuart Anderson was injured three weeks ago but he is expected to suit up.

For UNC, Rod Elkins will start at quarterback coming off a nagging ankle injury. Ethan Horton will start at tailback but will probably share equal time with Tyrone Anthony who is almost 100 percent now.

Kelvin Bryant will play, but sparingly because of the Astroturf. "Kelvin will play no more than he played last week," Crum said. "If he was playing on grass we'd pick up his playing time."

Three strikes for soccer player didn't mean out

By LINDA ROBERTSON
DTH Staff Writer

Tony Johnson already had three strikes against him when he began his collegiate soccer career.

He was a black American in a game dominated by whites and foreigners. Strike one. He started late in a skill sport. Most good soccer players grow up between the goal lines. Strike two. He was a native North Carolinian and in the ACC, no member of that species starts on any team's forward line. Strike three.

Despite these conventions and possible barriers to success, Johnson has been UNC's leading scorer for two years. That says something about his talent and determination.

"Tony is the most improved player on the team and that's because he has worked himself to death," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "When he came in his freshman year, a lot of people didn't think he'd make much of a contribution. But Tony just carries the team."

Johnson comes from a spot on the map called Buies Creek, N.C. The fact that it is named after a creek probably says something about the size and personality of the town.

"If Campbell College wasn't there, Buies Creek would be deserted," Johnson said. "There's not a whole lot there."

His first experience in organized soccer was as center halfback at Hartnett Central High, a school which boasted four varsity sports. Johnson was a three-time All-State selection and made the All-South squad as a senior.

Johnson was demoted to the junior varsity team just after arriving at UNC. But in his first varsity appearance that year, he scored a goal and an assist and Dorrance kept him on the roster. He was playing well until he went up for a head ball and came down with a smashed nose and broken wrist.

goals and has established himself as one of the premier strikers in the conference.

"Tony is a phenomenal one-on-one player and has great strength in the air," Dorrance said. "He is also a good target man — he protects the ball well when there's somebody right on his back."

"It's the hardest position," Johnson said. "You're the only person with your back to the goal so you get hit a lot from behind."

Johnson's aggressive style of play is a major reason for the Tar Heels' successful season. Due to Duke's loss to State last Friday, Dorrance has revised his earlier predictions about UNC's chances for an NCAA bid.

"It looks much better now because of the shuffling around in the ACC," Dorrance said. "If we beat Duke Sunday we should get a bid."

Ironically, the loss that appeared earlier to have wiped out the Tar Heels' chances for an elusive national bid was to none other than the Campbell College Camels in Buies Creek.

"I lost a lot of sleep over that one since it was my hometown," Johnson said. "But this has been quite a season for what was supposed to be a rebuilding year. We beat Clemson and I think when this team puts it all together we could beat anybody in the country."



Tony Johnson DTH/Matt Cooper

In profile: Tony Johnson

"The rest of that year was pretty frustrating," Johnson said. "That summer I worked really hard every day and there was a tremendous change by the start of my sophomore year."

Last year Johnson led the team with nine goals and a record-setting nine assists and was named the squad's most valuable offensive player as well as honorable mention All-ACC.

This season, the 6-2, 185-pound junior leads the team with 12

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Sampson hurt

There's good news for fans of Virginia's basketball team — bad news for their opponents. Ralph Sampson's injury is not as severe as it had been thought.

Doctors Thursday announced that Sampson's injury had been diagnosed as a hip flexor pull, not as serious as they had thought on Wednesday, when news of his '74' center's ailment broke.

Sampson of Harrisburg, Va. may play in the team's Orange-Blue preseason intrasquad game. He had been listed on Wednesday as doubtful for the regular season opener, but doctors now say he will probably be ready for that contest.

Tickets left

Student basketball tickets for Tulsa have all been distributed but there are still some available for the second Blue-White game on Nov. 21 and the Yugoslavia exhibition on Dec. 5.

Tickets for those games at Carmichael Auditorium are free to students with an ID and athletic pass.

The Kansas tickets for Nov. 28 in Charlotte are sold out. But seats are still left for two games in Greensboro. Students may buy a ticket for \$4.50 for the Nov. 30 Southern Cal game and the Feb. 14 Georgia game.

Additional tickets may be purchased for \$9 from the UNC ticket office at Carmichael.

Student Film Night

On Sunday, November 15 at 8:00 pm, the Union Film Committee will sponsor a night of student films. The program will offer budding undergraduate and graduate filmmakers a chance to present their 16 mm and Super 8 works to their peers in the University community. Take advantage of this selection of films made by potential Fellinis and Bergmans.

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