SPORTS

Ward is first UNC senior to sign with USFL

By FRANK KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Chris Ward waited three years to become a starting linebacker for North Carolina's football team. Now he may have to wait only one month before suiting up as a starter for a professional team.

Ward, a senior from Cincinnati, became the first Tar Heel to commit to the new United States Football League when he announced Monday that he would sign with the Philadelphia Stars, one of the 12 league members.

Chris Ward

"I really like the opportunities I'll have," said Ward, who will continue his role of inside linebacker with the Stars.

"I'll be able to go right in and start playing. Since everybody comes in as equals, I won't have to compete for my position with a lot of veterans," Ward said.

Ward was one of seven UNC seniors drafted by the Stars, who held territorial rights to UNC, Penn State and Temple.

Among the other Tar Heels drafted were tailback Kelvin Bryant, guard David Drechsler, linebacker Mike Wilcher, guard Ron Spruill, and defensive back, Greg Poole and Sammy Johnson.

Ward plans to leave for training camp by Saturday. Camps open across the league on Monday, Jan. 31. However, the early departure means that Ward will have to withdraw from the University.

"Education has always been a concern of mine," he said. "But I definitely plan to come back next fall and finish my education."

Each USFL club provides for those players who leave school, then make the team. Each player receives a $2,500 scholarship to complete his graduation requirements, plus his respective university receives a $1,000 check in the name of the player drafted.

"I believe this is the best decision for me," Ward said. "I've always wanted to play professional football, and the fact that I'm going to keep my position (inside linebacker) is also nice."

Ward said both head coach Dick Crum and defensive coordinator Denny Marcin were very positive about his decision.

Ward was a backup for the Tar Heels until the 1981 Gator Bowl, when he filled in for the injured Lee Shaffer. He was in on 17 hits that night and called the defensive signals, even though he wasn't playing his natural position.

Ward became more noticeable his senior season while being a regular starter for the first time, leading the defense in tackles with 89 solos and 45 assists. He twice was named the ACC Defensive Player of the Week, and was named to the All-ACC team for 1982.

Ward made a key interception in the final minutes of the Sun Bowl to preserve a victory over Texas.

Ward said that if he doesn't succeed in the new league, he would probably pass up the National Football League to finish his education.

Two other UNC draftees are in the midst of negotiating with the Stars. Sammy Johnson, a Reading, Pa. native, was scheduled to leave today for Philadelphia to continue talks with the Stars.

"From what I've heard, it sounds like a good deal," said Johnson, who added that he would not report to training camp unless a satisfactory contract agreement was reached.

Greg Poole, a China Grove, N.C. native, is still waiting for news from the Stars.

"I really don't have any idea what I'm going to do right now. If I don't hear from Philadelphia by the end of the week, I guess I'll have to call them myself," he said.

One draftee does not have a difficult decision to make. Offensive guard Ron Spruill, who suffered a broken leg on Nov. 13, will pass up the USFL's offers since he has yet to complete rehabilitation.

Although Spruill said he planned to enter the NFL, he does believe the USFL will be a prosperous league. "They've got the television contracts and they've signed a lot of their first-round draft choices, so I think they'll do pretty well," he said.

The USFL will feature a 108-game schedule, beginning March 6 and concluding the 18-week regular season on July 3. The league championship game is slated for Sunday, July 17.

Most of the league members will be featured on national television every week, with ABC covering games primarily on Sunday, and ESPN on Saturday and Monday.

The league is composed of three divisions of four teams each. The Atlantic Division will consist of the Boston Breakers, New Jersey Generals, Philadelphia Stars and Washington Federals. The Birmingham Stallions, Chicago Blitz, Michigan Panthers and Tampa Bay Bandits will play in the Central Division. The Arizona Wranglers, Denver Gold, Los Angeles Express and Oakland Invaders will make up the Pacific Division.

Heels face State tonight in crucial wrestling match

By MICHAEL PERSINGER
Staff Writer

The No. 18 North Carolina wrestling team will meet the 4th-ranked Wolfpack of North Carolina State tonight at 7:30 in Carmichael Auditorium in what UNC coach Bill Lam calls "the biggest match in the ACC this season, and possibly the biggest match on the East Coast.

"For the past few years, the team that has won the ACC regular season in dual matches also has won the tournament, so this is an important match in that respect," Lam said Thursday. "Both of these teams are always among the strongest in the Southeast, so this match is also important for the national rankings, as well as recruiting."

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118 — Al Palacio (UNC) vs. Steve Love or Bill Starke (NCSU)
"Palacio and Starke battled all through high school," Lam said. "Both went to Long Beach (N.Y.) High School, and both won state titles there. If those two meet, it will be a heck of a battle. We should be favored over Love," Lam added.

126 — John Aumiller vs. Rickey Negrete
"This is the first time Aumiller has wrestled in the State match, and Negrete has been there before, so they have the edge. It should still be a close match," Lam said.

134 — Leo Palacio vs. Vince Bynum
"This match will be a good one if Leo is healthy," Lam said. "If Leo isn't well, then we'll go with Darren Phillips. They will have the edge if we go with Phillips."

142 — Matt King or Randy Lowery vs. Kurt Wentz
"If they use Wentz, we will have the advantage, but if they bring (Steve) Koob down from 150, we will have a tough time," Lam said.

150 — Tim Plott vs. Steve Koob
"This will be a close match, probably decided by one or two points either way," Lam said. "This match could be a turning point."

158 — Tad Wilson vs. Chris Mondragon
"Mondragon is the defending ACC champion, so we will have to work hard not to get a superior decision," Lam said. "Wilson will fight him all the way, but I think he still lacks the experience to win." Wilson is a freshman.

167 — Bill Gaffney vs. Craig Cox
"Cox beat Jan Michaels in the ACC finals, but Michaels beat him in the dual match," Lam said. "We might have to win this one. If we win three matches before this one, we will be OK, but if we have only won two, we will have to win."

177 — Jan Michaels vs. Greg Fatool
Fatool beat Bob Shriner here last year by two points after Shriner had led the entire match. "Michaels (two-time all-ACC and all-American) usually wrestles at 167, but we feel that his experience will help him," Lam said.

190 — Bob Shriner vs. John Connelly
"We will have to win this one," Lam said. "Shriner is having an excellent year, but this will still be a tough match."

Heavyweight — Tom Gorry or Tony Lasalandra vs. Tab Thacker
"In this one, we couldn't beat them with a gun," Lam said. "Thacker weighs over 400 pounds and is probably the best heavyweight wrestler on the East Coast." The score of the match at the time will determine whether the Tar Heels go with Gorry or Lasalandra.

ACC ticket signup announced

ACC Tournament ticket signup time has arrived.

On Wednesday, Feb. 2, and Thursday, Feb. 3, signatures and social security numbers will be gathered on sheets of 25 names each. Students may sign up at one of three places from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day:

1. Law School lobby
2. Stairwell in front of Caduceus Bookstore
3. Carolina Union

Students are reminded to bring their ID and athletic pass. The Tournament will be played in Atlanta, March 11-13.

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Mascots needed for baseball team

The UNC baseball team is looking for two persons to serve as mascots for the 1983 team. For more information, contact Tom McCoy at 942-0389, or Coach Mike Roberts at 962-2351.

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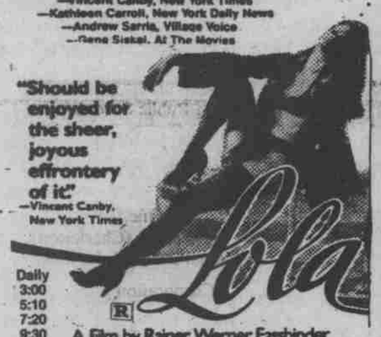

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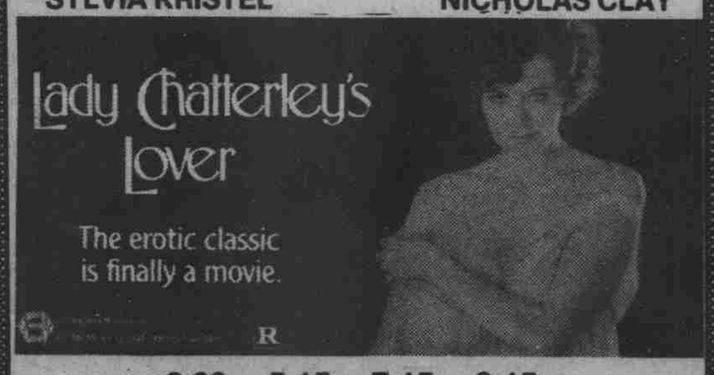

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by Frank Geary

ACROSS
1 Strobile
5 Taj Mahal site
9 Kind of school
13 Affirm with confidence
14 Deceit
15 Purplish shrub
17 Silent movie serial
20 Money player
21 Orient
22 Originate
23 Courage
24 Tarry
25 Shrinks in disgust
28 Lubricate
29 Folding bed
32 Antelope
33 Wedding vow
34 "Mexicali —" (1936 song)
35 Gene Kelly or Fred Astaire
39 Heroic poetry
40 Gershwin
41 Friend to Pedro
42 Fits to a —
43 An — in the hole
44 One who joins ropes
46 Theseus' labyrinth thread
47 Scottish wear
48 Expands
51 Japanese aborigine
52 Cosset
55 Jack Lemmon film
58 Lettuce dish
59 USSR city
60 Oratorio melody
61 Small boy
62 Posture
63 Brew

DOWN
1 Abner's creator
2 "— There"
3 — antico (black marble)
4 Silkworm
5 Scathe
6 Specters
7 Catamaran
8 Elec. unit
9 More than one
10 Life of —
11 Director Kazan
12 Breathe heavily
16 Mediocre mark
18 City in Spain
19 Movement
23 Percussive items
24 Fizz drink
25 Change the reading of
26 Abscond
27 Hiawatha's transportation
29 Humorous
30 Plains Indian
31 Placido Domingo, for one
33 Ms. Lupino
34 Send payment
36 Most pleasant
37 Sketched
38 Unfledged
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44 Pranks in Scotland
45 Grain meal
46 Outer garment
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49 "— is so rare..."
50 Wriggly
51 Hairdo
52 "— Goriot"
53 Eastern lake
54 Despot
56 Alley —
57 Seize

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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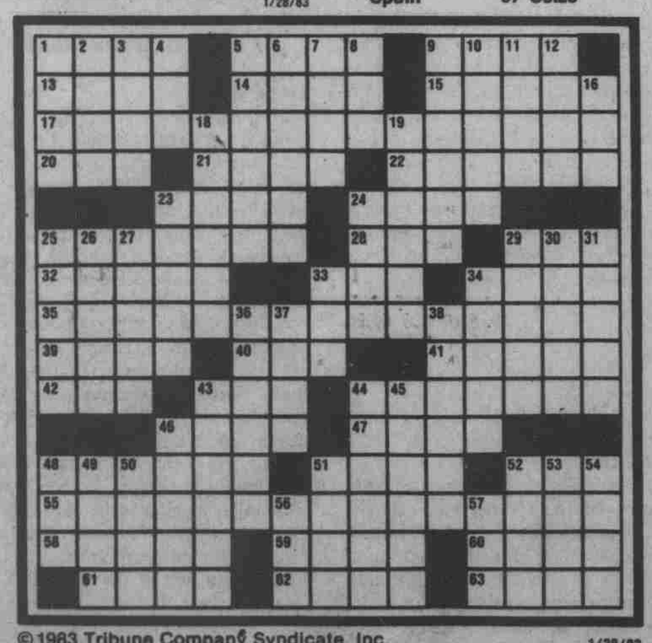

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