

Kevin Anthony anxious for playing time



Kevin Anthony, the Tar Heels' backup quarterback, is hoping to impress UNC's coaches even though he has little playing time

By MIKE DeSISTI
Sports Editor

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Backup quarterback Kevin Anthony, dressing after the game Saturday night in the North Carolina locker room which was buried beneath at least a few of the 72,400 seats in Williams-Brice Stadium, is asked what he expects to be doing the rest of the 1983 season, based in part on some of the events of the last few hours.

He doesn't get a chance to answer.

"Playing," says Scott Stankavage, just out of the shower and in front of the locker directly across from Anthony, sticking his nose where it belongs. It belongs because Scott Stankavage is the man Anthony plays backup to.

"Playing."

That saves Anthony a lot of trouble.

Anthony, redshirted last year, had stepped onto the turf late in the second half that night looking like a freshman who had yet to take a snap in college ball, which is no surprise, seeing as that's all he was. He took a few, completed one of his four passes for 21 yards (he had a sure touchdown pass dropped in the end zone), then left with the coaches impressed, looking like a freshman who *had* taken a snap.

"(Coach Dick Crum) is talking about throwing the twos in there every once in awhile and giving the ones a break," Anthony says, "giving them time to rest, to catch a breath."

"I hope to be playing some."

And so he speaks. His role with the Tar Heels?

"I want to be a solid backup quarterback, that's what I came here thinking," the Decatur, Ga. native says. "And that's what I'm working to be."

Stankavage doesn't buy the story.

"Any dadgum quarterback wants to start," he says. "If he doesn't, he ain't worth his sod."

"I know Kevin wants to play; he's really good and deserves game time out there."

Your time, Scott?

"It's like it was with me and Rod (1982 senior starter Elkins, whose knee injury midway through the season put Stankavage in the driver's seat)," he says. "Kevin's a good friend and I'll be the first one to greet him on the sidelines when he throws a touchdown pass or has a good drive."

"I'm all for it, you know?"

Just five feet from all this banter, dressing in silence next to Anthony with his back turned, stands Mark Maye.

The 6-4, 195 pound freshman is listed third on the North Carolina depth chart at quarterback, not a familiar spot for the 1982 North Carolina High School Player of the Year—named to five All-American teams—out of Charlotte Independence.

"Well, you know, Scott and Kevin, they're awfully good players and run the offense great," Maye says, speaking with a reverence usually reserved among the football crowd for Vince Lombardi and post-game meals. "Just anyway I can contribute to helping them, or the team in any way... I just try to do the best I can."

Mark Maye is not the pretentious type.

But it would be hard to blame him if he were, why, with his being perhaps the most

talked-about recruit at North Carolina since freshmen were able to play on the varsity—in other words, the most talked-about newcomer ever. A highly sought-after prepster in 1982, this kid can throw, but the college game is going to take some getting used to.

"It's a lot different than high school, it's a lot more complicated," he says. "You have to learn more coverages and that sort of thing, and it takes some time to get adjusted."

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Offensively, the Tar Heels have the guns to throw the ball, but it's the horses on the ground that may be getting most of the attention.

Junior Ethan Horton (6-4, 218) and senior Tyrone Anthony (6-1, 206) will be splitting time—and defenses—at the tailback position, while junior Eddie Colson will do the elbow greasing at fullback.

The 6-0, 220-pound Colson, relegated to a senior flanker Mark Smith—he scored the first UNC touchdown of the 1983 season on a 32-yard reception against South Carolina Saturday—has the experienced hands in the receiving department, while sophomores Earl Winfield and Arnold Franklin will have yet another year to mature at the split and tight end spots.

Preseason All-American left-tackle Brian Blados, all 6-6, 305 pounds of him, will anchor the offensive line, with senior Joe Conwell at the other tackle spot. Freshman Harris Barton (6-5, 225 pounds) will be flanked at center on the right by guard Willie Austin, and on the left by Greg Naron.

North Carolina's defensive act will be a tough one to follow. The Tar Heels ranked second nationally in overall yardage surrendered—sixth against the pass and twelfth against the run.

Junior Brian Johnston will play opposite All-American William Fuller at the left tackle, and junior Ronnie Snipes will be in between the two at nose guard.

Butch Griffin and Aaron Jackson are at outside linebacker, with hard-hitting Micah Moon and senior Bill Sheppard at the inside spots.

All-ACC selection Willie Harris heads an experienced secondary, with cornerbacks Walter Black and Larry James returning, as well as free safety Steve Hendrickson.

At the specialist positions, junior Tommy Barnhardt is starting at punter this year, and judging from his four punts at an average of 45 yards apiece against South Carolina, should do a job.

Junior Rob Rogers will be handling kickoff duties and long-range placekicking for the Tar Heels, while Brooks Barwick will be back as the regular placekicker and extra-point man.

Barwick, a senior, saw his placekicking streak end in Columbia when No. 14 failed to split the uprights from 30 yards.

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