

UVa. looks for No. 4 against State

The Associated Press

Virginia, off to its best start in 31 years, meets North Carolina State Saturday afternoon to try and get the upper hand in the Atlantic Coast Conference football title chase.

In Chapel Hill, fifth-ranked North Carolina goes for its fourth straight victory Saturday against William & Mary, while Georgia Tech officially opens its ACC competition with Clemson at Death Valley. In other games involving ACC teams, Pittsburgh is at Maryland and Wake Forest goes to Richmond.

It looks like an easy time for the Tar Heels in Kenan Stadium, but don't tell it to coach Dick Crum, who said a victory for the Indians "can be their season. For that reason, we've got to work and prepare. We will still have the utmost respect for them."

The Cavaliers are 3-0 and with an opening-night victory over Duke hold sole possession of first place. A victory against the Wolfpack will give them a half-game lead over the winner of the Yellow Jackets-Tigers showdown.

But Virginia will be without flanker Quentin Walker, who suffered a broken bone in the victory over James Madison last weekend.

"Walker gave us a deep threat and was such a threat on counter plays," Virginia coach George Welsh said. "People feared him."

Walker will be replaced by Nick Merrick, who has caught three passes in a backup role.

Virginia is first in rushing offense at 285.3 yards per game and third in

scoring offense at 28.7 points per game.

N.C. State coach Tom Reed is concerned about his defense and its ability to stop a team on a roll.

"They give us a problem I'm not sure we're capable of handling," Reed said. "Virginia's exactly what we don't need right now."

Georgia Tech is still looking for answers in last weekend's 17-14 loss to Division I-AA Furman. Kevin Esvail's field goal in the final minute sent the Jackets to an 0-2 start.

"There's no explanation," tight end Ken Whisenhunt said. "We blew it."

Clemson is looking for a victory after a loss and a tie and coach Danny Ford said his team's problem right now is "making the big plays."

"We need to break down on the ball quicker and knock down a third-down pass or jar the ball loose," Ford said. "Offensively, we are not getting the big run in the fourth quarter or the big pass completion."

Maryland saw an early 10-0 lead disappear against West Virginia and eventually dropped a 31-21 decision to the Mountaineers. The loss tumbled Maryland from The Associated Press Top 20. The last time the Terrapins and the Panthers tangled, Pitt claimed an easy 38-9 victory.

Wake Forest is looking for its third straight victory, but has to pin its hopes on ailing quarterback Gary Schofield. Also, linebacker Danny Rocco is out after knee surgery on Sunday following the victory over Western Carolina.

Smith supportive of eliminating freshman eligibility

Staff and wire reports

North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith is one of several area college coaches and officials who have endorsed a recommendation to eliminate freshman eligibility in NCAA basketball and football.

A blue-ribbon committee, known as the Select Committee on Athletic Problems and Concerns in Higher Education, has suggested to the NCAA that freshmen no longer be allowed to play varsity football and basketball.

It's not an old idea, but it's not a popular one, either. While some coaches welcome it as necessary in the fight to raise academic standards in the athletic community, there are some who believe it will just bring about greater expenditures to provide sports on a junior varsity level.

Smith has never been eager to insert freshmen into his starting five, although he's been successful when he's resorted to it. He's convinced the idea of freshman ineligibility is right and that money shouldn't be at the root of the issue.

"We're not talking much money at all," Smith said. "But if it's for the good of the student-athlete, then it's worth it."

Smith said under current conditions, it's hard for the underclassmen to meet schedules because of the demands

on their time. For freshmen it's worse, and the new rule would eliminate that hardship, he said.

"We think the freshman should be aware the reason he's going to college is academic and to spend time adjusting," Smith said. "A lot of thought was given this. With the help of the college presidents, this will pass."

North Carolina State football coach Tom Reed is even more openly supportive of the proposal.

"I think we're foolish to have our freshmen play," said Reed, first-year Wolfpack coach. "I think we are bucking the odds. We are not being intelligent and we are putting the kids in a very difficult situation."

Just how difficult that role is became apparent to Reed when he surveyed the results of two recent freshman reading tests given four weeks apart.

"This includes 400 athletes. The only ones who did not improve are the football players," he said. "That, to me, is an alarming fact. We demand a lot out of them."

Reed's proposal would be to provide, for example, 100 grants to potential collegiate athletes and at the same time allow the football program to keep another 25 people on some sort of partial grant.

Currently, the NCAA allows schools to hand out 30 scholarships annually and a total of 95.

"A young man comes out and he works out with the football team, you give him a room scholarship," Reed

said. "Maybe you give him a board scholarship the next semester."

Reed's idea has a stipulation. Before the student can receive a partial grant, he must be enrolled for one full year and take a full class load.

"You would reward your walk-ons, you would increase your numbers and eliminate freshmen playing, which has gotta be done if we're gonna get the sanity back in the game."

University of Virginia athletic director Dick Schultz hasn't fully reviewed the report, but he is not convinced the rule is necessary and doesn't think it will ever pass.

"I haven't seen any data to indicate that the freshman eligibility rule has been detrimental," Schultz said. "The biggest argument for it would be eliminating some pressures of competition for the athlete just starting out."

Reed isn't betting on approval by the full NCAA convention, which meets in January. He claimed the money that officials say will be lost in additional coaches and other incidentals will be repaid by decreased class time in trying to bring athletes up to academic minimums. But he said as soon as you mention money, the tide changes.

"I say it has a very slim chance," Reed lamented. "Any time people see something as a cost factor, it usually loses."

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THE Daily Crossword By May Mannix

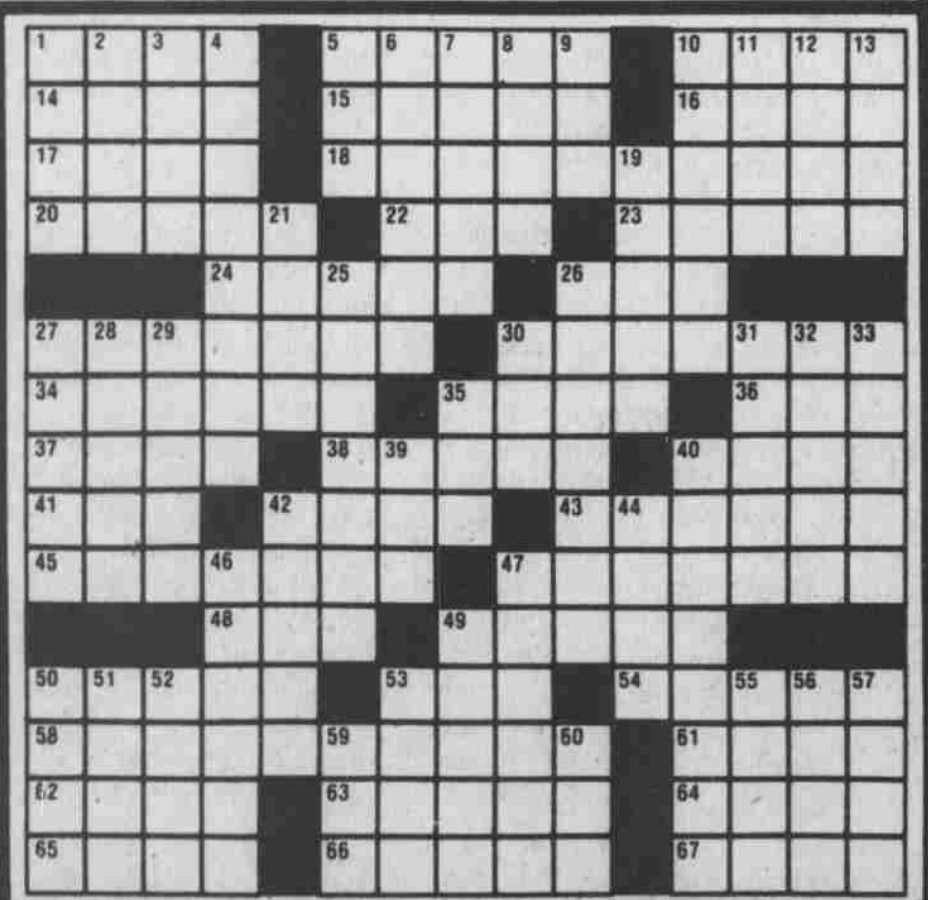
ACROSS	34 Container for clinkers	58 Flower of Texas	19 Scratches out
1 Amorphous lump	35 Possessive	61 Seep	21 Pavarotti song
5 Spectral	36 Turmeric	62 Matador's foe	25 Tooth stuff
10 Infatuated	37 Chessman	63 Pola of the silents	26 Soap operas
14 Branches	38 Ankle bones	64 Eroded	27 Wilkes—
15 Lacuna	40 Crosby	65 Amo, —, amat	28 "Thou art — in bliss"
16 Cupid	41 Scoreboard item	66 Low cards	29 French river
17 Oh, woe!	42 Soll	67 Neighbor of Minn.	30 Trolley's successor
18 Montana's flower	43 Without harmony		31 "Sea Gull" character
20 "— Rae"	45 Factor	DOWN	32 Mercenary
22 Modern: pref.	47 College founder	1 Breakfast food	33 Erne
23 River in France	48 Single	2 French composer	35 Table scrap
24 Zeal	49 Door fasteners	3 Sharif the actor	39 Skill
26 Draft org.	50 Type size	4 City on the Missouri	40 Village in Nebraska
27 Racetrack gate	53 River Isle (Utah)	5 Recede	42 Star in Cygnus
30 — State	54 Scatter	6 Poet Wylie	44 Hints
		7 Word with first or second	46 Stopovers
		8 Division word	47 Diner
		9 Also, old style	49 Depend
		10 Tastelessly showy	50 — Eban
		11 Otis of baseball	51 Morose
		12 Terrorist of sorts	52 German school hall
		13 Comic Johnson	53 Male ant
			55 Cross
			56 Pound of poetry
			57 Calendar division
			59 Can. prov.
			60 Poetic contraction

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