

# Questionable Wolfpack defense will determine season

By TOM MORRIS  
Staff Writer

The N.C. State football program begins its third year under coach Tom Reed with a team that could be vastly improved over last year's 3-8 squad, thanks to the installation of a new defense designed to take better advantage of the personnel Reed has.

In 1984, the Wolfpack finished last in the ACC in total defense, giving up an average of 412 yards a game. To remedy that situation and to take care of recent rule changes in blocking, Reed switched to a wide-tackle six defense that places more men on the line of scrimmage. Reed said the new defense will also require only two down linemen, and that will give

the defensive line more depth. "I think this will help us a lot," Reed said.

It didn't seem to help too much in the Wolfpack's opening loss to East Carolina, as the Pirates scored 33 points in trouncing the Pack in the season opener for N.C. State.

Senior Raymond Phillips, a starter at defensive tackle in last year's defense, will move to defensive end this year. The other defensive end will be Brian Bulluck, a junior. Manning the two tackle spots will be sophomores Kent Winstead and Grady Harris. Sophomore Steve Rankin will also see action at defensive tackle, though he is coming off athroscopic knee surgery.

Senior Mark Franklin, a starter

at inside linebacker last year, has been moved to outside linebacker. Joining him on the outside is Don Herron, a sophomore. Pat Teague and Kelvin Crooms, both seniors, will start at the inside linebacker spots. Junior Albert Miller and senior Dillard Andrews will also see action at inside linebacker.

The three-man secondary will be led by Nelson Jones, the only returning starter in the secondary. He will start at one cornerback position, and senior Jeff Geathers will start on the other side, while junior Derrick Taylor will also see time at cornerback. Michael Bowser, a senior, will start at the safety position.

Reed said that he is concerned about a lack of depth on defense, because the reserves lack experience and size. "I think our first team defense is very good," Reed said. "(But) we have to stay healthy on defense, that's all there is to it."

The situation on offense is much better where five starters return.

How well the offense does will be determined by how well junior college transfer Erik Kramer matures at quarterback. Kramer will line up behind a veteran offensive line that returns four starters. The line will be led by 6-5, 295-lb. tackle Joe Milinichik, an all-America and Outland Trophy candidate. Reed said that Milinichik is, without a doubt, one of the best offensive tackles in the country.

Milinichik will anchor a strong right side that also includes senior guard Johnny Smith. The center will be senior Ron Kosor and the left guard will be senior Larry Burnette. Bill Leach will line up at left tackle, and the tight end will be junior Ralph Britt.

Kramer will have three experienced running backs to hand off to in tailback Vince Evans and fullbacks Ricky Isom and Mike Miller. Evans was the Wolfpack's leading rusher last year when he filled in for the often-injured Joe

McIntosh. This year Evans will have the starting position all to himself, though he will be spelled by freshman Jerome Staton.

As it stands now, senior Phil Brothers will start at flanker and junior Haywood Jeffires will start at split end. They will be backed by senior Marlon Archey and junior Mack Jones, as well as Peebles and Worthen when they return from the injured list. Worthen and Peebles are both keys to the development of the passing game because of their speed. "I think we will pass more if we get our receivers healthy," Reed said.

## N.C. STATE

**Coach:** Tom Reed (6-16, 3 years; 40-35-2 overall, 7 years)  
**1984 Record:** 3-8; T6th in conference, 1-6.

**Key Losses:** Jeff Brown, TE; Frank Bush, LB; Jeff Byrd, CB; Tim Esposito, QB; Dwayne Greene, S; Joe McIntosh, RB; John McRorie, S; A.V. Richards, OT; Ricky Wall, FL.  
**Starters Returning:** Offense (5). Defense (6).

**Key Returnees:** Ralph Britt, TE, Jr.; Phil Brothers, FL, Sr.; Michael Bowser, S, Sr.; Mike Cofer, K, Sr.; Jeff Gethers, CB, Sr.; Greg Harris, LB, Soph.; Don Herron, DE/LB, Sr.; Doug Hinson, OT, Jr.; Jeff Hojnacki, C, Soph.; John Inman, OG, Jr.; Mack Jones, FL, Jr.; Steve Salley, RB, Soph.; Lenny Schultz, OG, Jr.; Mark Smith, DB, Jr.; Kent Winstead, DT, Soph.; Nasrallah Worthen, FL, Soph.

**Prediction:** Sixth in ACC.



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