

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

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Good news and bad news for UNC

Improved defense, recruiting hope to carry weak offense

By DAVE GLENN
Sports Editor

Put UNC head coach Mack Brown in a desert, and he'll find a way to make a living selling umbrellas.

And that is a very good sign for a down-but-not-out North Carolina football program.

The Tar Heels, coming off one of their worst seasons in history, face an uphill battle again in 1989. But, somehow, coach/salesman/psychologist Brown managed to convince an ultra-talented group of freshmen to come to a 1-10 team with great hopes and expectations.

There is certainly no talk in Chapel Hill of a conference championship or a bowl game. A winning record? Possible, but unlikely. But don't say it too loudly.

Brown sticks to a more basic approach. "The number one thing we have to do is get our players to have a better self-image and gain confidence," Brown said. "Once we put ourselves in a position to win a close game, we have to have what it takes to go ahead and win it. A lot of that simply comes with confidence."

A lot of that confidence began to take root during an intense off-season conditioning program under the tutelage of Athletic Fitness Director Rich Tuten, a name spoken more and more often in all UNC athletic circles. Tuten, in his second year at UNC, has helped produce an improved

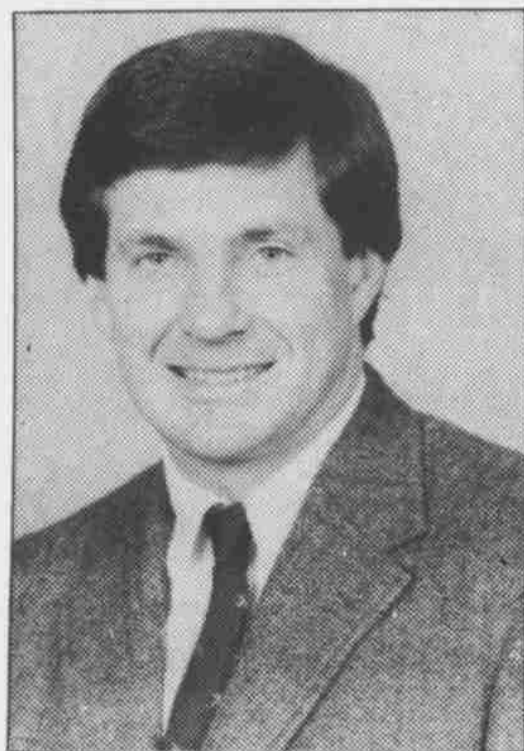
combination of speed and strength evident on the practice field in the spring and summer months.

Add that to the new and improved schedule — which replaces Oklahoma and Auburn with VMI and Navy in the first four weeks of the season — and the Tar Heels seem well along the road to respectability.

Of course, glaring problems certainly exist.

Start with a defense that gave up the most points in the history of North Carolina football. Add in the departure of tailback Kennard Martin (see accompanying story), who led the ACC in rushing a year ago, and a serious lack of depth and experience at all positions, and you have quite a different scenario.

Suddenly, 1-10 seems a realistic possibility once



Mack Brown

again.

But Mack Brown has a plan, just as he did at Tulane five years ago, when his team went from 1-10 to 4-7 to the Independence Bowl in his first three years. However, this one is quite a bit different.

From the originator of the powerful "Mack Attack" offense at LSU, where Brown was offensive coordinator in 1982, comes a faster, stronger Tar Heel defense as the building block of a restructured program.

Yes, this is much of the same defensive unit that gave up almost 400 points a year ago. But there are some new faces, some experienced faces and some faces from the other



DTH/David Surowiecki

Mack Brown hopes that his restructured defense will have the speed it takes to arrive with hits like this more often in 1989

side of the ball.

Welcome ex-tailbacks Reggie Clark and Torin Dorn to the defensive backfield. Move impressive sophomore Doxie Jordan to free safety, his natural position, and throw in the steady, experienced hand of senior Clarence Carter and you have quite a foursome. How well they work together remains to be seen, but the talent is there, something that could not be said a year ago.

The Tar Heels' defensive front seven is confronted with the job of stopping the run between the tackles,

a task too tough for last year's personnel, and putting some pressure on the passer. Enter Brown's magic wand once again.

The Tar Heels' second-year head coach shifted sophomore tackle Roy Barker to nose guard in the spring, a move that enabled a bulked-up Dennis Tripp to move back outside to tackle. At the other tackle is a slimmed-down version of man/mountain Cecil Gray, a popular preseason pick for All-ACC honors.

The ripple effect of the moves on the shallow front line enabled 6-1,

245-pound Willie Joe Walker to move to linebacker in a further effort to stop the run. But the bulk of that job will fall to the Tar Heels' leading tacklers a year ago, inside linebackers Dwight Hollier and Bernard Timmons. Hollier was possibly the best freshman linebacker in the country last year, and Timmons is fully recovered from off-season knee problems. Senior John Reed, junior Don Millen and sophomore Eric Gash will also see time in the second line of defense, perhaps the only area of the team where UNC can go two deep at

each position with confidence.

Last year, a horrendous defense made anything produced by an average Tar Heel offense a moot point. This year, the roles may be reversed.

Problems abound for Brown almost everywhere on the offensive side of the ball. All-America candidate Pat Crowley, a 6-3, 283-pound senior at right guard, is an island of consistency amidst a sea of disarray.

Without Martin at tailback, the

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Book finally closes on Martin's UNC career

1988 ACC rushing leader won't wait out suspension

By JAMIE ROSENBERG
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina football coach Mack Brown finally lost patience with Kennard Martin this summer.

Now, Martin has lost patience with UNC.

Martin, last year's ACC rushing leader as a sophomore tailback for the Tar Heels, has decided not to return to Chapel Hill after being suspended for the 1989 season by Brown in July for what Brown called "continued academic inconsistencies."

Martin racked up 1,146 yards and 11 touchdowns in 1988 and was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dismal 1-10 season. But the Winston-Salem native said in a telephone interview with the Charlotte Observer earlier this week that he plans to take classes at High Point College this fall while attempting to transfer to another Division I-A school for the spring semester.

"I'd like to transfer somewhere, anywhere really, so I can play football

again next season," Martin said. "I don't have any particular school in mind yet. I haven't talked to any (schools) yet, but I will try pretty soon."

Martin's troubles started on April 27, when Brown suspended him indefinitely after he was arrested and charged with breaking and entering and larceny for allegedly stealing nine textbooks from a room in Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

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DTH/David Surowiecki

Like Derrek Fenner, Kennard Martin left the Tar Heels with an unexpected void in the backfield

DTH Picks of the Week

Everything is right again in Blue Heaven. Classes aren't far enough along that you can't go out and blow off homework, the womenfolk are still wearing flimsy summer outfits and the Daily Tar Heel is back to normal after a surprisingly auspicious summer under the tutelage of Dave (Was there ever any doubt?) Glenn.

Most importantly, it's time once again for the premier of the world-famous DTH Football Picks of the Week. Tune in this summer and match wits with Dave, Andy (God I really, really wish I was in Wilmington) Podolsky, Jay (Unpaid, underappreciated, but not forgotten)

Reed and Jamie (Dude I like, don't surf, that's sooooo bogus. Surf's up dude) Rosenberg.

Mike (no, he no longer deserves a nickname now that he works in Durham) Berardino won the title last year, so Glenn decided to honor the departed one by creating the Berardino Trophy, which, of course, goes to this year's champion. After all, Mike likes AC/DC, too.

Glenn, who copped the title two years ago, is the early favorite among bettors in his final year with the DTH. This is also Podolsky's last chance at a title before he graduates. He'll be trying to shake off the effects of last

fall's dismal choke finish. It's Reed's last time around too, while Rosenberg, the lone underclassman on the panel, will try to dis' his elders by kicking their proverbial butts (word). News flash: the Irish beat Va.

A few notes: It's quickly approaching 4 a.m. (no kidding), and we need to add one more prognosticator to our panel of experts. The call goes out for John Bland, he of Less Filling fame, to fill the space. Sorry we woke you up, Marlon. Tell Bambi and Roxanne we said hello.

Without further ado, although this week's games are rather weak, let the mudslinging begin ...

	Dave Glenn	Andy Podolsky	Jay Reed	Jamie Rosenberg	John Bland
Virginia at Notre Dame (TH)	ND	ND	UVa.	ND	ND
Maryland at N.C. State	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU
Duke at South Carolina	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
Furman at Clemson	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.
LSU at Texas A&M	LSU	LSU	LSU	A&M	LSU
So. Miss. at Florida St.	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU
Texas at Colorado	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.
Southern Cal at Illinois	USC	USC	Ill.	USC	USC
Stanford at Arizona	Ariz.	Ariz.	Stan.	Stan.	Ariz.