

Tar Heels have reason to fear Big Bad Wolf

By **JAMIE ROSENBERG**

Assistant Sports Editor

Have you gotten your 1989 Beat State shirt yet — you know, the one with the burning question, "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" emblazoned across the back?

Well, if you have snatched up one of these gems or if you've just been admiring them from afar on the backs of others and pondering at the same time what the answer to this query could be, let's try to figure it out together.

Who is afraid of the big bad wolf? Hmmm. Let's see...How about the entire UNC-football team, for starters? After all, the Tar Heels contest against State last year may have been the absolute low point in a season of many low points for UNC.

For those who weren't among the 52,000-plus sufferers at Kenan Stadium last October 15, the Wolfpack chewed on the Tar Heels for an agonizing 60 minutes of playing time before spitting them out and leaving Blue Heaven with a 48-3 victory, the most lopsided score in 94 years of competition between the two schools.

The game, which dropped UNC to 0-6 and was North Carolina's ninth straight loss over two seasons, exemplified everything that was going wrong for the Tar Heels at the time — and everything that was going right for N.C. State. The nation's eighth-ranked defense stifled UNC's already sputtering offense, intercepting Tar Heel quarterbacks four times. And Wolfpack quarterback Shane Montgomery jumped all over North Carolina's feeble secondary, completing 24 of 35 passes for 263 yards and three touchdowns.

State finished the 1988 season with an 8-3-1 record, 4-2-1 and third place

in the ACC. UNC finished at 1-10. So there is plenty of reason to be afraid, especially since the Tar Heels have to open up their ACC campaign against the Wolfpack in Carter-Finley Stadium on September 23. At least they'll get it over with.

But the Tar Heels shouldn't be the only timid ones. Many in the know are picking the Wolfpack to take the ACC title this year and aim high in the national rankings. N.C. State finished 17th in UPI's final 1988 poll and beat Iowa in the Peach Bowl, 28-23. The Pack was ranked 24th

heading into this season and posted a 10-6 victory over conference rival Maryland in its opener last Saturday.

State's strength should again be its defense, which, in addition to limiting opponents to an average of just 264.3 yards per game, ranked fifth in scoring defense (12.6 points per game) and sixth against the rush (103.6 yards per game).

Anchoring the line will be senior tackle Ray Agnew, an All-ACC selection last year who may have a shot at All-America honors this season. Agnew, who posted 72 tackles and five sacks in 1988, will be joined by

senior Derick Debnam and juniors Mike Jones and Kenny Fondren.

With the graduation of John Adleta, the Pack has a vacancy at nose guard which coach Dick Sheridan may fill with either junior Elijah Austin or red-shirt freshman giant Ricky Logo (6-0, 283).

At the outside linebacker position, State will miss All-ACC performer Scott Auer at the "rush" position but will return senior starter Bobby Houston and reserve sophomore Mark Thomas at the "drop" slot. Juniors Ulysses Mitchell and Britt Goodrich will also play drop while red-shirt

freshmen Andreas O'Neal and Tony Horton should fill Auer's spot.

The Pack loses another All-ACC selection, Fred Stone, at inside linebacker but will still have plenty of experience at the position, returning juniors Clayton Henry, Corey Edmond and Eddie Cashion along with sophomores Lee Knight and Billy Ray Haynes.

In the secondary, State returns All-Everything strong safety Jesse Campbell. Campbell, a 6-3, 208-pound sophomore, led the team in

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1988: 8-3-1 (beat Iowa in Peach Bowl), 4-2-1 ACC, third place.

51 Returning Lettermen; 12 Returning Starters.

Key Offensive Starters Back: Quarterback Shane Montgomery, tackle Scott Adell, fullback Todd Varn.

Key Defensive Starters Back: All-ACC tackle Ray Agnew, linebacker Bobby Houston, cornerback Joe Johnson, safety Fernando (Snake) Vinson, All-ACC safety Jesse Campbell.

Key Losses: Fullback Mal Crite, wide receivers Naz Worthen and Danny Peebles, center Chuck Massaro, linebackers Fred Stone and Scott Auer.

Strengths: Defensive strength and speed, including one of nation's best secondaries, run/pass QB combo (Charles Davenport/Shane Montgomery), soft early-season schedule.

Question Marks: Offensive line, Who will be on the receiving end of Montgomery aerials, Can they beat Clemson again?

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