

Technician



Football Special

1980

He's a winner; it's that simple

by Stu Hall
Sports Editor

He has been called "exciting and unpredictable," they are calling the 80's "The New Era" for the Wolfpack, and even though his team has been picked to finish low in the ACC standings, he has brought an outburst of enthusiasm to his team.

He rides shining white horses and wears a black mask to help promote his team; he takes his squad on swimming excursions during the middle of practices.

He is a firm believer in discipline, academics and sportsmanship. He believes in winners and hard workers.

He has his priorities set: God first, his family second and football third, in that order and that order only.

He has been successful, very successful. In his previous coaching experiences. The fact that he has never been a head coach before doesn't matter, because he is a believer of his own talents and has made believers of the 90 young men he coaches.

He is a winner. It's that simple. His name is Monte Kiffin, and he brings to State everything that is mentioned above.

He landed the job on Dec. 5, 1979, taking over for the late Bo Rein, who resigned after the end of last season to take the LSU job but was shortly thereafter killed in a bizarre plane crash. He was selected over coaches like Pat Dye, who stepped up at Wyoming, Bill Oliver, once an assistant at Alabama, and now head coach at University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

"I applied for the job, they didn't come looking for me," Kiffin said. "I doubt they even knew who I was. (Former State and current Arkansas) Coach (Lou) Holtz told me how good of a job it was, and I knew some assistants that said it was a good job."

The first thing both fans and media alike noticed was his enthusiasm for the program, one that could only be matched by a little kid in a candy store.

"I'm an enthusiastic person," Kiffin said. "I have always been that way. I'm just being myself. I tell the players to be themselves and to really enjoy themselves, because deep down they are enthusiastic. They may not jump up and down like I do, but they must be enthusiastic or else they wouldn't be playing the game."

Kiffin knew he was prepared for the job and that he had paid his dues, now that he is 40 years of age.

"I was an assistant for 10 years, and I really thought I was ready for the position," he said. "I think the longer you're an assistant the more prepared you become to be a head coach."

Kiffin prepared himself under some of the finest while building a reputation as one of the best defensive coaches in the land. He was privileged enough to coach under Nebraska's Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne, as well as Holtz at Arkansas.

"All three of the coaches have helped, but you have to be yourself and pick up some things on your own," Kiffin said.

His most recognized defensive unit came in 1970 when Nebraska won the national title.

"Yes, that was my best defensive team," Kiffin said. "I'd have to say without a doubt that Richie Glover was the finest player I ever coached. He was a great football player. If ever there was a player deserving of the Outland it was him, because he was so dedicated. In four years he missed only one practice and that was before the Orange Bowl against Notre Dame his senior year."

Now that his assistant coaching days are over he has to look toward the future and State's future.

"When you're at schools like Nebraska and Arkansas they set some pretty high goals," said Kiffin, who himself has coached in 10 straight bowl games with those two teams.

"I want our kids to play for such high goals, in the sense that Nebraska and Arkansas do," he said. "I want them to believe in themselves, so when they go out on that practice field every day they think they can win a national championship."

"Up at Michigan they come out on the first day of practice thinking they'll win the national championship, but you know what — Michigan hasn't won a national championship since 1938. Same at Penn State, and they have never won a national championship."

The bottom line is that Kiffin, and it shows in his dealings with them, cares for his players and treats them like one of his children.

"All I ask of my players is that they be honest with me," Kiffin said. "I'm honest with them. If a kid isn't going to be playing I tell him why he isn't going to be playing. I don't push him aside because then he's going to



Staff photo by Lynn McNeill

Head coach Monte Kiffin is intently still for this moment, but it won't last long.

wonder what he did wrong. If I make a mistake and can be truthful about it, then at least I can get a good night's sleep, but it will all come out down the road."

As much as Kiffin loves the game of football, there is one thing that he doesn't like about it, and that's being away from his family and most of all his children — Heidi, 11, and Lane, five.

"It's the toughest part of the job," Kiffin admitted. "It's tough to come home and both your kids are in bed. The other night we were saying our prayers and my five-year old said, 'And please make daddy come home early.' That gets to you."

"My wife (Robin) has been great support. She breaks up the fights between the two kids and really raises them."

But back to his team, Kiffin feels his squad is better than what forecasters have anticipated.

"When I heard we were predicted to finish sixth, I thought they meant sixth in the nation," Kiffin said. "Then someone told me that we were picked sixth in the ACC."

"The ACC will be an extremely tough conference this fall. Of course you have your Clemsons, North Carolinas and Marylands

but then you have the Virginias and Wake Forests who are on the upswing. We'll be a good team this year, but we might only win one conference game."

"We (the players and I) were watching the Arkansas-Texas game, and some of the guys were saying 'Boy I wish I was as good as him.' I told them that I was there last year and that they are as good as them. It's just a matter of believing in yourself."

What was the reason for the Lone Ranger stunt last spring, and the flying down in the helicopter at the first pep rally of the season?

"Some think I'm doing it for my own personal benefit, but all I'm doing it for is the kids," Kiffin said. "If I sell that stadium out,

I'm doing it so people can see what the kids are doing. I want people and the students to come out and see what these athletes are doing."

With all the air of optimism, on paper State has a young and untested team, but Kiffin feels it will be an exciting team.

"I think we'll open it up more than what people are used to seeing around here," he said. "We're not going to run, run, run if it's not working, just like we're not going to throw it all around the park. That's where you get into trouble. Overall, I think we'll be exciting."

Sounds like Monte Kiffin himself — exciting and unpredictable. He's a winner. It's that simple.

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Senior Sports Editor Bryan Black

ON THE COVER: Junior wide-receiver Mike Quick, one of the nation's best, goes high to haul in a pass against Maryland last season.

Dawson multiplies his talents

by Bryan Black
Senior Sports Editor

Lin Dawson prefers to approach the game of football like one of his favorite parables in the Bible.

State's 6-3, 220-pound tight end cites the passage like the clergyman he one day hopes to be.

"In the Bible, there's a story called The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)." Dawson begins. "In it, a man gives five talents (a large sum of money) to one servant, two talents to another and one talent to another.

The servants who got five and two talents used theirs and multiplied what they had been given. But the servant who got one talent put his away because he was afraid he would lose it. When the servants returned and told the man what they had done with their talents, he rewarded those who had used theirs to make more but punished the one who let his lay idle.

"So whenever I go out on the field I use my talents 100 percent. I try to give the Lord my best because I realize he gave us His best in His Son. I also realize that the Lord won't, and shouldn't, accept anything less than my best."

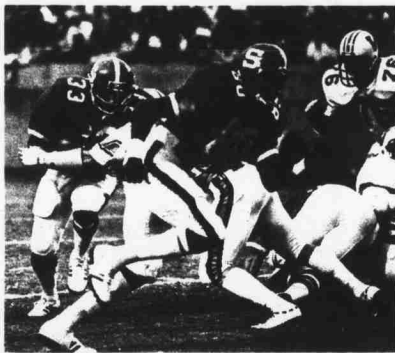
It's obvious why Lin Dawson is looked upon as one of the leaders, if not the leader, of State's football team. He's firm in his beliefs and ready to help his teammates in any way, both on and off the field.

The records show that Dawson is the most experienced player on State's team. He's played in every one of the Pack's games during his first three years, and the ability he's demonstrated has pro scouts anxious to say the name "Lin Dawson" when it's their turn to choose next June.

"I don't feel any pressure," the extremely articulate Dawson said of his leadership role. "At times I can really feel how some of the younger players are looking to me for leadership, but I'm not a real hoary, hoary type of guy.

"I'm more the type who tries to lead by performing to the best of my abilities."

Regardless of the great degree to which Lin Dawson is a team player, he's aware that the more he is on the receiving end of



Lin Dawson paves Billy Ray Vickers' way against Virginia last year.

passes this season, State's chances of winning are at the same time increasing.

"I realize that just like in the past my blocking will be very important to the team, even more so than my pass catching," Dawson said. "But I think I'll be more helpful to the team if I'm being thrown to."

Amen. Anyone who's seen what Dawson can do after catching the football knows that having a tight end of his caliber on the same team with a wide receiver like Mike Quick forces defenses to do a great deal of concentrating on stopping State's passing game.

Dawson is a tight-end *extraordinaire* — just like Quick is a wide-receiver *extraordinaire*. The combination of Dawson and Quick borders on the awesome.

"I really don't think at times that Lin realizes how great his own potential is," said tight-end coach Johnny Rodgers, the fourth assistant coach in four years to oversee Dawson's development as a tight end. "He definitely ranks with the best in the country."

Dawson caught nine passes his freshman season, nine his sophomore year and 15 last season. Rodgers plans on getting the ball to his pro prospect more this year.

"From studying the films, in

the past he's been used sparingly," Rodgers evaluated. "And certainly a tight end of his quality needs to be used more.

"This is something we as a coaching staff have recognized, and we plan on getting the ball to him as often as game conditions dictate and permit. It's as simple as that.

"If I get my way, Lin will get the ball four or five times a game."

That figure certainly jives with Dawson's thinking as well.

"I'd like to catch about five passes a game," Dawson confirmed. "I like to receive the football, and I feel like I can help the team more when I'm catching the football."

"I really love to run with the football. I like to attack, to break into the secondary and run over people."

And Dawson does run over people in the secondary, with the same kind of hammering force the legendary John Mackey demonstrated not so many years ago when he starred for the Baltimore Colts.

"I'd like to see Lin have a fine year statistically because he deserves it," Rodgers added. "Lin is a very fine receiver and an excellent blocker.

"But it's my firm belief that he can be no better than his backup, Todd Baker (a 6-2, 200-pound senior). If Lin goes down because of an injury, then Todd's got to be ready to step in. And because Todd is the man who must push Lin for his starting position, then Lin can be no better than his backup."

Naturally, what Rodgers is referring to is the team concept, and when it comes to being a team player, there's no one as devoted as Dawson.

"I'm looking forward to a great season," he said. "I think we have a lot of potential, and I'm looking for some great things to happen.

"A lot of people are picking us to finish last or near last in the conference, but those people haven't been to our practices. They haven't gone through two

a-days with us. They haven't been to our meetings.

"They're basing that on coach Kiffin's inexperience as a head coach and the inexperience we have at some positions. But those people don't know the personalities or the drive of the ones they're calling inexperienced. I think we're going to have a great season."

Dawson does have some personal goals, but he's quick to point out that they're well behind his goals for the team.

"Athletically, I would like to make the All-ACC team," he said. "I felt I should have gotten it last year, so I have my sights on that. But that goal is still not above the team's performance. I'd like to promote team unity before any personal goal."

Despite going through a change between his junior and senior seasons, Dawson likes the new coaching staff and its objectives.

"I was afraid, being a senior, that I'd have to go through a lot

of changes," he admitted. "But really the only big change has been discipline.

"This coaching staff puts a high priority on seeing that every player graduates. And it showed last spring. The overall grade point average of the team was much improved."

But academics is not an area where Dawson has necessarily needed any prodding, as any of his professors will verify. He has definite goals in that area as well.

He hopes to graduate this summer, knowing now he won't be able to finish in the spring because of the light fall loads he's had to carry due to the stringent time demands football requires. After getting his degree he wants to go to seminary.

One might think that being as devoted to religion as Dawson is, he might have trouble dealing with football's violent nature. Not so.

(See "Religion," page 15)



The 6-3, 220-pound Dawson has plans to attend seminary. Lynn McNeil

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Motivated Green gathers his energy for big final hurrah

by David Carroll
Sports Writer

His name is Bubba Green, and at one time people thought he would be able to do anything he wanted to on a football field.

He was the sun in the constellation of stars who enrolled at State in the fall of 1976. The massive defensive tackle was named the freshman defensive lineman of the year by *The Football News* and was predicted to be first-team All-America before his sophomore season.

But that time is past; it is merely history recalled. A lot has happened to Green since then. He is starting his fifth year of school, his senior season. The years have plundered him; the experiences have sobered him.

He has weathered more than his quota of disappointment. The pitfalls have taken their toll. The injuries and emotional ordeals have matured him.

As he enters his final college season, the press clippings that bulge from his file in the State sports information office are yellowing, and Green isn't listed as a possible all-star candidate by the people who pushed him for All-America honors over three years ago.

"Things have changed a lot," Green, whose personal numbers now read something like 6-4, 265 pound, said. "That freshman year seems like a long time ago. As a freshman everything worked so well at first. I had more of an aggressive style; they let me play more physical."

The memory of his impressive debut is indeed vivid. Green blew out blockers like they were so many candles.

"Yeah, I was having a great time," he said. "Everything was almost too easy. And then..."

It was on a cool November Saturday afternoon in South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium, a moment that has haunted Green. On a very routine block from a South Carolina lineman, Green's left



Green has had his finer moments along with the not so fine.

shoe became locked in the artificial turf, and his knee would not give with the impact of the hit.

The play rendered Green helpless, and he spun to the turf writhing in agony.

Life has never been the same for Green. He sat out the final two games of the season and looked forward to a future that showed much promise.

But by the beginning of his sophomore season, his left knee was as fragile as glass. The doctors had originally decided not to operate on it, but after participating in a series of plays against Wake Forest it was obvious that surgery was unavoidable.

However, the operation wasn't successful. The pain was in-

tolerable for Green. So his ravaged knee was operated on again.

"I thought I'd never play again," Green said. "At times, the pain was so severe I couldn't bring myself to move on it."

"It still hurts some, but I've accepted that. I just have a knee problem — lots of people do. I'll just never have great knees. I have to accept that and go on. It could be worse. Look at Houston Astros pitcher J.R. Richard (who recently suffered a stroke). Some people don't even have knees."

His inconsistency the last two seasons was almost maddening for the fickle fans who watched him. At times he intercepted passes, forced and recovered fumbles, and completely dominated the line of scrimmage.

But he made his share of mistakes. And the fans weren't satisfied. They remembered the quarterback sacks and big plays of the gloried past and came to expect them too often.

It didn't matter that Green was still somewhat hampered by his knee, that he had worked hard to strengthen it and had become stronger than ever.

Green was tagged with a reputation — a bad one. Some players suggested off the record that he "dug it," and used his injury as a crutch." Some fans thought he had a bad attitude and wasn't playing his best. They couldn't understand.

"Fans are fans," Green said. "They are going to love you when you're up and question you when you're down. I can understand that."

But Green couldn't understand the backstabbing, the criticism from a handful of his teammates. It is a topic that the philosophical senior doesn't like to discuss. He wants his actions on the field to speak for him.

Green realizes if one works hard, that individual might find a candle and stop cursing the dark.

So he has worked harder than ever in his off-season condition-



Staff photo by Beth Smith
Six-four and 265 pounds, Bubba Green is hoping to be the imposing figure he once was.

ing. He has run. He has lifted weights.

In fact, he stayed in Raleigh this past summer to prepare for his final college hurrah. He did construction work during the day and worked as a bouncer at Barry's before it was closed in July. Sandwiched in between were a lot of workouts far away from the glitter of Saturday's America.

Sweat pours from his pores like jets of blood from an artery as the huge man pushes himself harder.

Green pounds the turf in pursuit of his goals — dreams that may seem shattered to most but still exist in this 22-year-old's heart and soul.

His intensity is evident. His combative spirit is there. But he isn't willing to completely pull the wraps off his feelings. Like any sudden removal of bandages, it would hurt. So he is keeping it to himself. There are no predictions. Just work and preparation.

"I'm taking this season very low-keyed," he said. "I'm just going to do my best."

"I'm not even going to make predictions. I'm going to take it one day at a time. Then we'll see what happens."

"This is my last chance. I've worked hard all summer long. I have confidence in myself; I know what I'm capable of doing. I'm stronger than I've ever been. I'm faster or just as fast as I was when I came here. But I'm not a fortune teller. I don't know what

is going to happen. I do know that I'm going to dig from within. That's one thing the new coaches are stressing to us. They want you to dig within yourself. I like that."

One other change Green has had to adjust to over the years is the increased emphasis on technique. As a starting defensive tackle alongside Dennis Owens, Green has a specific role to fill.

"When I came here, coach Dale Haupt (now the defensive line coach for the Chicago Bears) let me be more physical. It was more free-lance. Now we have a certain technique that we are striving to perfect," he said.

Green also hopes to play more this season than he did the last two years when he alternated with Simon Gupton and Brian O'Doherty.

"The coaches would put me in, and just when I was getting in the swing of things they would take me back out."

"This year I hope to be in there most of the time. We'll just have to wait and see."

Obviously, Green has been anxiously looking forward to this year.

"My mother always said that good things come for those who wait," he said. "If it comes too easy, you sometimes don't appreciate it. You enjoy it better when you work at it. People have been wondering what has happened to Bubba Green. Stay tuned to this channel and maybe this is the year we'll find out."

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Line hopes to prove its worth

by Stu Hall
Sports Editor

The 1980 version of State's offensive line would be the perfect sidekick for Rodney Dangerfield in a Miller Lite beer commercial. Neither gets any respect.

State's line averages 250 pounds per man and is bound by 6-4 and 6-6 tackles Todd Eckerson and Chris Koehne, a pair of experienced juniors.

The part that doesn't get much respect is the middle — the center and two guards.

When the Wolfpack has had an All-America and Outland Trophy winner like Jim Ritcher playing center the past four years, it's just impossible to imagine someone taking his place.

That someone who's going to try to live up to the expectations set by his predecessor is Frank Sisto, a 6-2, 245-pound senior from Butler, N.J.

"Frank is a tremendous player, and it's going to be tough for him to fill Ritcher's shoes," State offensive line coach Dick Kupec said. "He's got great knowledge of our offense. He's very anxious to start and play. He's been working hard, waiting his turn to

be a starter. I think he'll show us all this fall."

For Sisto, he has been waiting two years for this chance, and he plans on taking full advantage of the situation.

"I've waited a long time for this opportunity, and I'm going to make the most of it," Sisto said. "Although during my two years behind Ritcher I learned an awful lot, so it really wasn't all that bad. I feel like I'm the leader of the line, since I'm the only senior."

The other two who aren't likely to get much respect are Earnest Butler and Doug Howard, a pair of sophomores trying to pick up where guards Chris Dietrich, an All-ACC performer, and Chuck Stone, a fine lineman in his own right, left off.

"See, when you're following behind those guys it makes it awful hard for us to make a name for ourselves," the 6-2, 240-pound Butler said. "We've been picked to finish sixth in the ACC, and one of the reasons is our inexperienced offensive line. That really makes you want to go out there and show those people up."

Howard, a 6-6, 239-pound out of Wayne, Pa., expresses the same sentiments.

"I don't know why they pick us to finish sixth," Howard said. "We're better than that. Everybody thinks we have an inexperienced line. It's just that Ritcher, Dietrich and Stone were really good, all of them were drafted, but that doesn't mean we're not good enough to get the job done."

Kupec, who is also State's offensive coordinator, doesn't mind having Butler and Howard around to fill the positions that were vacated.

"I enjoy coaching Doug; he's a great athlete to work with and easy to coach," Kupec said. "It's pleasant to have him to fill in to a position. I think he'll do just fine once he gets some starting experience under his belt."

"Earnest is the same way. I think he, Howard and Sisto will do a fine job in the middle. They are all big and quick for their size."

But what about the tackles? Don't they get any respect?

"Oh, I'm sure they'll do just fine also," Kupec said. "Right now Todd Eckerson has moved ahead of Chris Carr, so as it stands he'll be our starting tackle against William & Mary."



Staff photo by G.A. Dees

Frank Sisto will be trying to fill the shoes of the man to his right, Outland Trophy winner Jim Ritcher.

How does Eckerson, a mammoth 270 pounder from Old Tappan, N.J., feel about starting?

"It's not the first time I've started," Eckerson said. "I started last year for the first four or five games until I injured myself, so it will be like picking right back up again."

Down the line from Eckerson will be the huge Koehne, a preseason All-ACC pick. At a powerful 6-6, 260 pounds, Koehne will be able to open a number of large holes for Wolfpack runners this fall.

"I'd like to have a dozen linemen like Chris," head coach Monte Kiffin said.

"Chris is going to be a good one this season," Kupec says. "He is going to open the big holes for us, and that's what we need to get our backs through — big holes."

Koehne is upset by the fact that State is the defending ACC champion and many have picked the Pack to finish no higher than sixth.

"I really can't believe that the forecasters have picked us that far down," he said. "I guess we'll have to go out there starting Sept. 6 and show them that 'we'

are the defending ACC champions.

"I think our line will be rather strong this season. We'll just have to wait and see how things go."

If injury should strike down either Eckerson or Koehne, then the 6-7, 270-pound Carr can ably fill in.

"We're blessed with good tackles this year," Kupec said. "I'm sure Chris can easily do the job if called upon this fall. He knows his limitations, studies the game and his duties, and doesn't have any real weaknesses."

Playing backup for Sisto this fall will be Jeff Nyce, a 6-2, 225-pound sophomore from Souderton, Pa.

"Jeff is not as big yet as we'd like him to be to play offensive center," Kupec said. "But, with as we'll give him as much work as we can."

Also being counted on for duty this fall are Rich Grube, a 6-6, 275-pound junior from Danielsville, Pa., and Mark Freeman, a 6-4, 235-pound junior from High Point.

Maybe, by the end of this season, this band of big characters can earn at least some respect around the ACC.



Staff photo by Lynn McNeill

Averaging 250-pounds per man, they are Todd Eckerson, Doug Howard, Frank Sisto, Earnest Butler and Chris Koehne from left to right.



Staff photo by Beth Smith

Senior Donnie LeGrande is back for his third season as the starting left cornerback.



Staff photo by Beth Smith

Hillery Honeycutt is expected to start at free safety.



Staff photo by Beth Smith

Sophomore Perry Williams has the inside track at right corner.

State's secondary plays name game

by Gary Haarahon
Sports Writer

What's in a name? In the case of football, there is a lot more than one might expect. It seems there is no other sport where the players' names are almost as colorful as the sport itself.

Consider a few examples. Lynn Swann... Bart Starr... Roman Gabriel... Dick Butkus. In a few cases, as with these examples, the names even seem to fit the positions the players play or once played, whichever the case may be.

State's football team has its share of similarly appropriately-named players, especially in the defensive backfield.

Take senior Donnie LeGrande, for instance. LeGrande led not only State's defensive backfield in tackles last year with 104 total stops including four quarterback sacks from his left cornerback position, but his total was tops on the entire team. If State expects to make folly of some preseason polls which have pegged it to finish as low as sixth in the ACC, it will need even more grand performances from LeGrande.

"I have positive feelings about this season," LeGrande said. "I know they've ranked us low, but I'm confident about this team. I get more confident with each practice. The low ranking, that just doesn't bother us. We're going to have a strong team."

LeGrande is State's most experienced defensive back as this season marks his third as a starter. Last year he was twice named the ACC defensive back of the week, once for his performance in the Pack's 16-13 victory at Clemson and the other for his efforts in State's heart-breaking loss to Penn State.

With seven lettermen returning, the defensive backfield figures to be one of the team's strongest areas.

Despite the loss of Eric Williams — who earned a starting spot in State's secondary last year just before the eighth

game and intercepted three passes in the season finale against Duke, but who will miss this season due to a recently-sustained injury — State appears to have sufficient depth to cover the position.

"We've lost Eric Williams, who's broken his leg," State defensive coordinator and defensive backfield coach Pete Carroll said. "And Donnie LeGrande has been banged up some during fall practice. So we might be starting three sophomores, but all of them can run fast and play real well."

"There's a couple battles for positions — it's a pretty even group. At three different spots they're fighting for positions. That shows what kind of depth we have."

"Ronnie Lee and Perry Williams have been playing real well."

LeGrande is set as the starting left cornerback, but Carroll indicated it was still probably too early to tell about the other three who will be introduced as starters for State's opener at home against William & Mary Saturday night.

However, he did say the probable starters will be sophomore Perry Williams at right cornerback, with seniors Ronnie Lee or Jeff Culler at strong safety and Hillery Honeycutt at free safety.

Hillery Honeycutt! One can almost hear Howard Cosell getting off on that name during a telecast of ABC's Monday Night Game of the Week.

"I expect great things this year," Honeycutt, a junior who transferred to State from Auburn two years ago, said. "The whole team does."

"I'm really looking forward to playing against George Rogers at South Carolina. He made us look kind of bad last year. He had a real good game against us (217 yards rushing)."

Others who could figure into Carroll's secondary plans are sophomores Nat Brown, Dee Dee Hoggard and senior Titus Lee.

Compared to LeGrande and

Honeycutt, Ronnie Lee doesn't have as flashy a name. His statistics last season, however, were flashy enough: 37 tackles last year including 14 solos, and the year before that, 22 solos.

Ronnie Lee is a player with a great deal of experience, having been a starter for most of the last two seasons. But with the young talent State has recently brought into the secondary positions, Lee has had to battle fiercely for playing time. He feels the team is ready this year.

"I'm optimistic about the season," Lee said. "And for Penn State and Carolina, we'll get up for all them without even trying."

All three players — LeGrande, Lee and Honeycutt — were hard-pressed to name the strongest aspects of their games.

"The secondary positions can be manned only by the most athletically gifted. Those who play them must have a gazelle's speed to match that of opposing wide receivers, they must have a matador's fearlessness to attack and bring down the most bullish of running backs, and they must have the ability to see and read the offensive play as it develops."

"I like to play the football," Lee said, "and I really like playing the football when it's passed. We have to prevent the long play, either a long run or a long pass."

"I'm best against the run," Honeycutt said. "But at free safety, you're the last man, the last man who can stop a score."

"As a defensive back, it's not like being the best at just one thing," LeGrande said. "It has to level out. You can't be able to play one thing well. It takes time to develop. You're taking on blocks, playing the run, the pass. There's a lot of thinking out there, for all kinds of situations."

With teams like Penn State, Clemson, Maryland and Carolina to again be faced this year, the Pack's defensive backfield will surely see all kinds of situations.

And, flashy names or not, with solid effort the team could find itself entertaining notions of "LeGrandeur" come bowl time.



Seniors Ronnie Lee (left) and Jeff Culler (right) are still battling for the starting strong-safety position.



Staff photos by Beth Smith

Ritter — math major on field

by Andrea Cole
Editor

You'd think that after 11 or 12 years of kicking footballs, senior Wolfpack kicker Nathan Ritter would be able to kick a field goal with his eyes closed.

You might figure he just knows how, that kicking comes naturally. And Ritter probably wishes this were true.

But kicking is like a mathematical equation — a delicate combination of strength tempered with control, stamina and concentration. The kicker researches and experiments to discover the correct variables and then struggles to maintain the formula. That means practice — on and off the field.

Ritter practiced so much when he was younger his parents had to tell him once to quit kicking the football.

"I'd be watching football on TV. I'd bounce the football off the tip of my foot, and it would ease on into the den and bounce off a piece of furniture," Ritter said.

Occasionally he'd aim directly for the furniture.

"I'd go up to a chair leg and pretend it was a football but wouldn't kick it."

Off the field, he might kick around for fun. On the field, hard work's the norm. Ritter says he kicks 50 to 60 footballs a practice, as well as doing conditioning exercises. He emphasizes the mechanics of kicking.

"It's like hitting a golf ball: your leg's like the club.



Ritter, who has made 94 of 98 field-goal attempts during the last three seasons, booms one against Virginia.

Wherever your hips end up, that's where the ball ends up. There's a lot of rhythm and timing involved. It doesn't come naturally."

Ritter, a soccer-style kicker,

doesn't deny the influence of Lady Luck, however.

It seems like certain things need to be done to keep luck on your side. Over the last few years he's done some of the same things over and over. Ritter's list of homages goes something like this:

•Tuck your shoe strings into your shoes after removing them.

•Go tongueless — that is, without a tongue in the shoe on your kicking foot, rather than buy a new pair. (Actually, he pulled the tongue up so much it finally ripped out.)

•Be particular about which pads go on which thighs, then put them in just so for the best kicking speed.

•Always wear the shoes you'll wear in the game three to four practices prior to the game. (He's had the pair he's wearing now since he was a sophomore and he still has his first pair of kicking shoes.)

He panders to Lady Luck and his loyalty has paid off on at least one occasion.

Payoff:

"Several times when I had to kick into the wind, I had the luck of the ball," Ritter said. "Two years ago in Virginia, the ball went to the left of the upright about a yard and floated right back in."

Granted, most of Ritter's habits are just good old common sense, but the superstitious have to wonder — just what would happen if he forgot to tuck his shoelaces in his shoes after one practice?

Whatever the answer, Ritter's combination of good habits and a constant practice of kicking mechanics evidently works for him. He's the nation's most accurate field-goal kicker over the



Senior Nathan Ritter

last two seasons with about 86 percent accuracy.

And to think Nathan Ritter hasn't always wanted to be a kicker.

"My brother got me started playing football," Ritter said. "He took me to a boys' camp at High Point College. I played Boys' Club Little League for four years. When I was younger, Texas came out with the wishbone offense and I wanted to play fullback — I wished I was big enough to play fullback. But I stopped growing eight years ago."

That left him at 57, 155 pounds.

Ritter had another dream besides wanting to be a fullback on the Texas wishbone offense. He wanted to be a meteorologist, tracking hurricanes and predicting the weather — thus his nickname, "Hurricane" Ritter. He says he was interested in meteorology even before he started kicking.

"Dad and I used to go to the airport weather station. I knew most of the guys at the Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Airport. I still go out there," he said.

"I knew how to make my own forecast. The teletype comes in

in number code and forecast for each station — RDU 200 — 10 — scattered to 10 — then overcast to 5,000, some mess like that."

So Ritter learned barometric pressure, temperature, dew point and wind speed direction in degrees ... but he soon had to make a choice between watching clouds and looking for raindrops — and football.

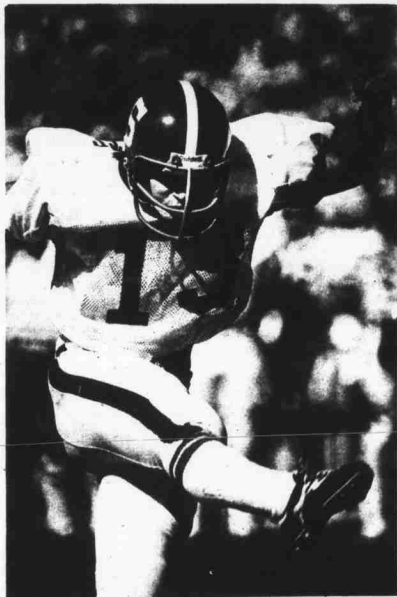
"Meteorology is mostly physics and a lot of math and chemistry," he said. "If you can get through the first year and a half, the preliminary courses are the basis. I didn't have the time. I'd get in at seven, and four hours of studying was not enough."

So he switched to business and although he would like to be a professional kicker for the Dallas Cowboys, he said maybe someday he wouldn't regret having to drop meteorology. He's always wanted to play college football. Although he said he's had two slumps in his life — including one last year — Ritter is expecting a good season this year with new head coach Monte Kiffin.

"Coach Kiffin is full of surprises," Ritter said. "He keeps the team's morale high. He's real fair and thinks of the players." When Ritter first came to State he had two numbers to choose from — 53 and 13. He chose 13 to prove it could be lucky. He just thought 13 would work for him.

Obviously he was right. Chances are this season will be Nathan Ritter's best ever.

... Wolfpack fans have to just hope he keeps tapping his foot on the sidelines and tucking those shoe strings into his shoes after practice.



Staff photo by G.A. Dees

Over the past two years, Ritter has been the nation's most accurate kicker.

Confident soph set as Pack QB

by Bryan Black
Senior Sports Editor

The day was warm, very warm. It was one of those transition days, when it's supposed to be fall, but it still feels like summer.

But now, it's nearly 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 6, and the air has gotten cooler. The State football team has a new head coach, Monte Kiffin. It's debut time for him.

The State football team has a new look. The hour for its unveiling has arrived. The opponent, William & Mary, is waiting on Carter-Finley Stadium's attractive green playing surface in front of 50,000 Wolfpack fans who are stirring in anticipation of what has been dubbed "A New Era in Wolfpack Football." Inside Finley Fieldhouse, the State players are making those last-minute mental preparations, and, like the fans, are eager for this "New Era" to begin.

Although it is a "New Era," certain traditions and superstitions never change. Each player begins to feel that certain tingling in his spine. The time has come for the creme de la creme of that mental preparation — sprinting onto the playing field.

But before that entrance is made, traditions must be taken care of, and the newcomers will learn, just as the current upperclassmen did in younger days, that the lockerroom is not to be left silently.

With a violent slap, each player vents some of this anticipation on the metal above the door, that final opening which spills the red-clad warriors onto their battlefield.

Seconds later, the season is underway.

The State offense takes the field. In the huddle, a young man who won't reach the age of 19 until 14 days from this very night calls the play.

He makes this command with authority. He's got confidence in himself, and that feeling has bled into his teammates' hearts. He knows his coaches are assured of the abilities he has worked so hard to refine.

This youthful quarterback moves under center. Just before the ball is propelled into his hands, he remembers slapping that metal above the door in the lockerroom door. There is no more anticipation.

The ball slips into his hands. It's the first snap-in a collegiate varsity game in his career.

The 18-year-old quarterback is fully named Tol Edolphus Avery. This sophomore wears No. 12, and Saturday night's season opener against William & Mary will find Tol Avery running State's offense.

State quarterback coach Dave Buckley described Avery's many talents.

"Tol has an awful lot of ability," Buckley said. "I wish we had a few more quarterbacks like him. He handles the game mentally very well, especially for as young as he is.



Call him Mr. Confidence . . . sophomore Tol Avery is State's starting quarterback for 1980.

"When we're practicing, you only have to tell him something once, about a certain read he should be making or anything, and he'll pick it right up the first time.

"So, mentally he's a very sharp quarterback, and I don't think anyone is going to deny that physically he's just as sharp. He throws very well."

Buckley contrasted State's quarterback the past two seasons, Scott Smith, with Avery.

"One thing Scott did best was he was the type of quarterback that wouldn't let you beat yourself," Buckley explained. "Scott ran the offense so that it wouldn't make mistakes, and that's the kind of quarterback you can win championships with. "But on the other hand, Scott wasn't the type of quarterback who could bring you from two touchdowns behind in the fourth quarter.

"Tol is a different kind of

quarterback in that with experience, I think he could run the offense explosively and be the kind of quarterback that can bring you back quickly. Tol has more physical ability than Scott, and I think they're about equal mentally."

Buckley is quick to point out that the coaching staff knows Avery will make some sophomore mistakes.

"What we're unsure about with Tol is the turnover type of things because of his lack of experience," Buckley said. "But we think he'll do very well, and I know I'll be very disappointed if he doesn't."

"His lack of experience is something we have to think about. I can guarantee that he'll make some mistakes because of inexperience, but we've got enough confidence in him that we're sure they'll be the young type of mistakes and nothing really serious. And I could be wrong but I think he could go in-

to the majority of our games right now and do an excellent job.

"I'd sure hate for him to have to start off with a team like Maryland, Penn State, Carolina or Clemson, but by the time those come up he'll have almost a half a year of experience."

For those who might want to speculate on what kind of look Avery gives an offense, Buckley says Avery's style reminds him a lot of Leander Green, the little jitterbug who quarterbacked East Carolina the past few seasons and gave the Wolfpack absolute fits on more than one occasion.

Avery, however, isn't content simply with being in Leander Green's mold.

"I saw Leander play several times," Avery recalled. "And I thought he was a very good runner. But I don't think I can be compared to Leander Green because he could never pass as well as I do."

To some, that may sound pretty cocky, but Avery doesn't mean it that way. The crux of this issue is Avery's overwhelming confidence, and Avery's pride in himself is what allows his teammates to have respect for and confidence in him.

"You can't take a negative outlook on anything is what I always say," he professes. "You always have to be on the positive side of things."

Perhaps that positive attitude is what keeps Avery from feeling like he's carrying a heavy yoke as the first-year starting quarterback.

"There's no pressure," he shrugs. "I think my contribution to the team will be a part of what we achieve, but no one man will dictate what this team does.

"I feel very comfortable as this team's quarterback, and I think we're executing pretty well right now."

If Avery could be referred to as Mr. Confidence, then his backfield mates, seniors Dwight Sullivan and Avery's McLean could be called Mr. Spokesman and Mr. Nasty, respectively.

Sullivan, 5-9 and 205 pounds, is the fullback in the Pack's split-back veer, and McLean, a shifty 6-1, 185-pounder is the halfback.

As for Mr. Spokesman, Sullivan — who from the halfback position finished last season as the team's leading rusher — is never at a loss for words. Far from the stereotype of the blabbermouth, Sullivan is a public-relations type of person, the type who sells not only his product but himself.

Sullivan's professors know him as the type who will one day undoubtedly be a successful businessman when he's through on the football field, a smooth talker as any of his female friends can attest.

As for Mr. Nasty, Sullivan — Mr. Spokesman, rather — best explains the reason for McLean being so called.

"What Wayne lacks in strength and size, he makes up in meanness," Sullivan retorted when informed that McLean didn't think he had the physical stamina to carry the ball but about 15 times per game.

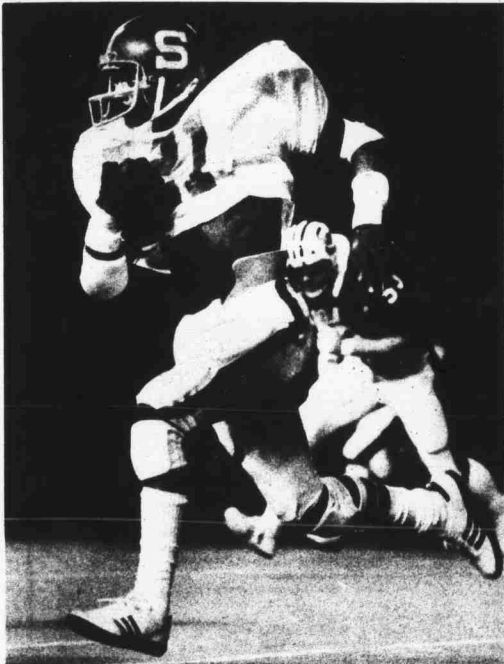
"See, Wayne has got to be, without a doubt, the meanest, nastiest person on this whole football team — just nasty," Mr. Spokesman continued. "And it's really good to have somebody on the team that's like that."

"During a game Wayne will get mad and come back to the huddle and say, 'Man, I'm going mess them up bad.' And Wayne goes out the next play and kills them. He's just the kind of guy you want on your team — something extra into everything. That's the way he's been since he was a freshman."

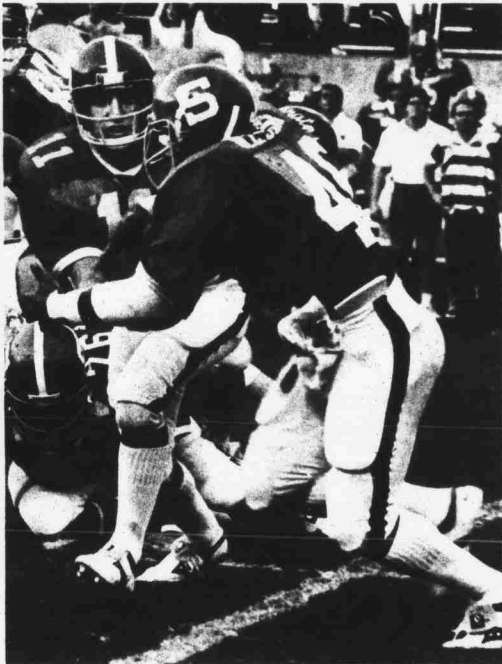
While McLean may know his limits, Sullivan wants to carry the team as much as possible.

"I'd like to carry it as many damn times as possible, and I've just got to run well every time I get my hands on it," said Sullivan, who gained 665 yards

Staff photo by Beth Smith



Staff photo by Lynn McNeill



Staff photo by G. A. Dees

Senior Wayne McLean (left), call him Mr. Nasty, gets the nod at halfback, and he will be joined by senior fullback Dwight Sullivan (right, 46), call him Mr. Spokesman, who and scored six touchdowns last season.

Unlike McLean, Sullivan did not come to fall practice listed as a starter in the backfield. "It's been the same story every year I've been here," Sullivan explained. "I've never come into fall practice on the first team. I've just never really had a good spring practice." Last spring, however, when Kiffin and Co. took over, Sullivan was unavailable for their viewing pleasure because of a leg injury. Thus, when he came to fall camp, he was tabbed a second-teamer.

"I just came back this summer and practiced hard, and I guess it paid off," was Sullivan's reasoning for his regaining a starting spot. McLean, on the other hand, knew long ago if he wasn't going to be starting Saturday night it would be nobody's fault but his own.

"It's an accomplishment," McLean said of his being a first-year starter for his senior season. "I had to start at the bottom and work my way up. And that's not bad because I played behind Ted Brown, who was one of the best backs in the country."

"But now I feel like it's time for me to shine and show what I can do."

Even though he's now set as the No. 1 halfback, McLean brushes aside any personal goals in favor of team goals.

"My only goal is to do whatever I must to help the team win," he said. "Some people have picked us to finish sixth in the

says McLean is the meanest player on State's team. Sullivan was State's leading rusher last year with 665 yards.

has more than the senior talent of Mr. Spokesman and Mr. Nasty.

"At this moment Dwight Sullivan and Wayne McLean are our No. 1 running backs," offensive backfield coach Guy Ingles said, "and Eddie Jackson and Andre Marks are fighting it out for the No. 2 fullback spot with Chris Brown a solid No. 2 halfback."

"But with the split-veer offense, they're all going to play. Everybody's going to need a breather."

"We feel that Dwight and Wayne do have an edge on the others because of experience. We're just hoping we have as much success offensively as teams here have had in the past."

Ingles feels there are three dimensions to this year's running backs that are highly-positive factors for the team.

"First, with two returning players like Dwight and Wayne we have a fine set of starting backs," he outlined. "Second, with Chris Brown and the talent he has, we have a very capable backup halfback. And third, moving Eddie Jackson last spring from wide receiver to fullback gives us two very good backs behind Dwight in Eddie and Andre."

"I think those three things will be very beneficial to our football team."

Not only has Jackson's position change added depth in the backfield, it's made Eddie Jackson a very happy football player.

"I love it," Jackson, a senior,

said. "I wish I could have been a fullback before. I feel very comfortable at fullback; I really do."

"It's more of a natural position for me because I played fullback in high school."

Brown is a sophomore, and his family name is deeply rooted in Wolfpack football history. Those who don't know he's the brother of Ted Brown, the greatest back to ever wear State red, simply don't know much about Wolfpack football.

But Chris Brown doesn't feel he must live up to his brother's accomplishments.

"All the things Ted did, that was him, not me," Chris says, "I've got to do what I can do to help this team win, not what Ted did, because I'm not Ted, I'm me."

"All I can do is my best and hope everyone is satisfied that Chris Brown did his best and not that Chris Brown did what Ted Brown used to do."

What must be remembered is that Ted Brown is no longer here. Neither is Jim Ritcher, nor even Billy Ray Vickers for that matter.

This is a new Wolfpack football team, a new backfield, "A New Era." Well, let Mr. Spokesman say it.

"In my honest estimation, there's no limits to what this team can accomplish," Sullivan assessed. "Every guy that played here that had a big name when he left had to earn that big name."

"This year we have a lot of young guys that nobody's heard of, and before it's over, they're going to hear a lot about them."

'Leander Green could never pass as well as I do.'

Tol Avery

'It's time for me to shine.'

Wayne McLean

'I'd like to carry it as many damn times as possible.'

Dwight Sullivan

conference this year, but I know for a fact we're better than that. "But that's all right — that's fine with me if that's what they want to think. I've been there before, and there's no doubt we'll prove them wrong."

Both McLean and Sullivan feel very comfortable with Avery giving them the ball. And Sullivan has no doubts in the Pack's QB for 1980.

"There's one thing our

quarterbacks must have," Sullivan emphasized. "They've got to be cool and not allow anything to shake them."

"And Tol is like that, and that's rather uncommon for a first-year quarterback at a major college."

It's no secret that split-veer teams need more than two running backs to compensate for fatigue and injuries, and State

He's a man you want to know

by David Carroll
Sports Writer

David Horning is not hard to spot.

He's the thick-muscled athlete with the curly, rust-colored hair. He's the one with the Charles Atlas build. His chest sticks out, like rock embedded in cement. He has a firm waist and long, strong legs.

He is, in the apt words of former Outland Trophy winner and long-time roommate Jim Ritcher, "a classy stud."

As he talks about State's upcoming football season and dresses after a late August scrimmage, it's obvious Horning is comfortable in his surroundings.

He casually walks across the red-carpeted room — tossing the wet towel here, peeling off the dirt-smear tape there. He moves with the familiarity of a person who has been doing the same thing at the same place for a long, long time.

His sky-blue eyes blaze with purpose; his conversation is devoid of malice or excuse. He is a man you want to know.

Horning, a 6-2, 218-pound senior from Kent, Ohio, starts at left defensive end in the Wolfpack's 5-2 alignment. He's secure in his spot with big Bubba Green to his right at left tackle. Next to Green is junior middle-guard Dennis Owens, and on the right side is senior tackle Bobby Martin and junior end Ricky Etheridge.

Horning is a vital member of the unit; he leads by example and suggestion, and still has ahead of him the best football of his career.

"I feel that I can always try and be better," he said as he laced his white shoes on the wooden bench directly across from his dressing stall. "I learn new things every day."

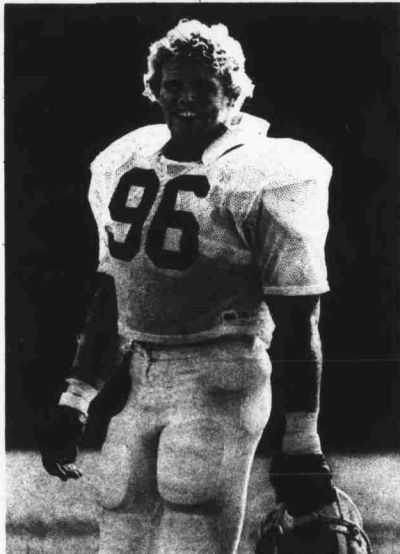
Horning has shown steady improvement since he arrived in Raleigh four years ago as a heavily recruited, two-way performer out of Kent Roosevelt High. After earning all-conference honors as a standout defensive end and tight end, Horning was courted by many schools from the Big 10 Conference, the Middle American Conference, Florida State, Florida and State. Horning, like many recruits today, made his decision based on where he thought he could play the most the earliest.

"I thought I could start three seasons when I came here," he said.

"As it turned out, after being red-shirted in my second year, I played on the special teams and started four games as a sophomore and all of last year."

Horning thinks the defense will be more consistent this year than it was last year despite having only four returning starters.

"We lost a lot of quality players," he said. "But one of the things I know is that everyone can be replaced. We have worked very hard in preparation for this season. One thing we are trying to do is be more consistent on defense this year. It's one of our



Defensive end David Horning ... the one with the Charles Atlas build.

biggest goals. It's something we really need to do. "We are also trying to have an improved second unit this year. That's really important. We found out at Auburn last year what can happen when you don't have enough depth."

It is apparent that for the Wolfpack to be successful, players such as Horning will have to have the best seasons of their careers. Last season Horning recorded 53 tackles, including two quarterback sacks. This year he wants and expects more.

"I'm ready," he said. "I've worked hard in the off-season. I've improved my strength; now I can bench press 400 pounds. When I came here I could only lift 280. I've also improved my speed."

"Another thing I've worked on is my technique; that's something that you can never get good enough at."

Defensive ends have much responsibility in State's scheme. "They must be versatile."

State defensive end coach Rick Minter said. "They have to be physical enough to be a down lineman, quick enough to cover receivers like defensive backs and as mobile as linebackers."

"In other words, they have to be great athletes, and David Horning certainly fits in that category."

Horning has all the necessary attributes, according to Minter.

"David is a very physical player. He's strong; he's one of the strongest guys on the team. He's quick. He runs the 40 in 4.8,

attitude that he wants to have a great senior year."

Horning certainly began his career with less promise than he is concluding it with. He quit his little league football team as a skinny, 103-pound seventh grader.

As he got older, he added bulk to his frame and became a high-school star in traditionally strong Ohio.

In fact, his alma mater, Roosevelt High, has produced such notable athletes as NFL linebacker Stan White, NBC announcer and former NFL running back Mike Adams, and present Ohio State center Jim DeLoene.

Horning admitted that he, like most bulk-chippers in Ohio, grew up dreaming of wearing Ohio State's scarlet-and-gray. But he was afraid of becoming a number there.

"I had heard that a lot of people there got lost in the shuffle," he said. "I thought I would start early if I came to State."

Horning started the last four games of his sophomore season, including the 30-17 victory over Pittsburgh in the Tangerine Bowl. Last year he was a member of the crucial goal-line stand that stopped Clemson on four straight plays that led in large part to winning the ACC championship.

"I'm satisfied with my career," he said. "When I came here I wanted to play on a bowl team, an ACC championship team, and start — and I've done all three. Now I'd like to do it again in this, my final season."

Horning enters his curtain call with much anticipation. He's full of the maturity that a person learns through experience.

"I've changed," he reflected. "Of course, coach (Monte) Kiffin has something to do with that. He expects discipline. Discipline can help you. It's helped me a lot."

"He's told us, for example, that in a few years the trophies and rings will get dusty, that we need to get that degree. I want to graduate and possibly become a coach."

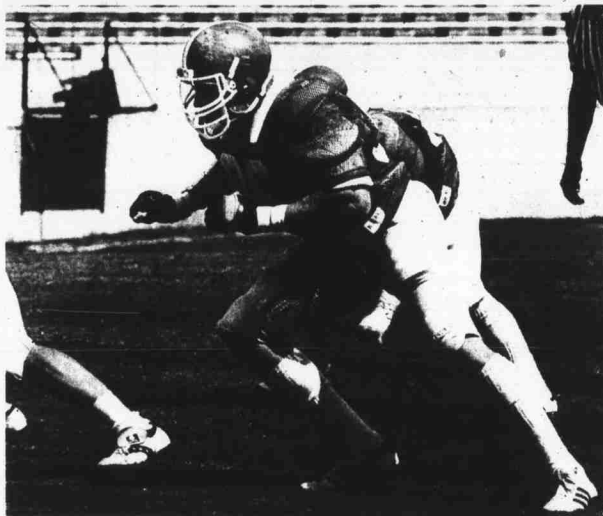
The dips of Copenhagen and nightly excursions to the bars have been drastically reduced.

"I use to take dips and go out to the bars all the time," he said. "Now it's no big deal. I don't mess with Copenhagen anymore, and I rarely go out at night. Besides, we usually have curfew and going out every night isn't that big of a thrill anyway."

Other things have changed. The guys Horning hung around with — buddies like Brian O'Doherty, Ritcher and Mike Nall have gone their separate ways.

"O.D. is working with the commodities in Chicago. Ritcher is, of course, playing center with the Buffalo Bills, and Mike is working in High Point," he said. "I miss them. But that's life. People come and go. I'm ready to finish my best season here and move on."

"David is a very concerned team player," Minter summarized. "He's a great athlete and, more importantly, a great guy to be around. He's the type of person that we want to bring into our program."



Defensive line coach Rick Minter says Horning is "one of the strongest guys on the team."

Staff photo by Lynn McNeill

This 8 endures long hours in a joint quest for victory

by Stu Hall
Sports Editor

Position: Assistant football coach
Pay: In the neighborhood of \$20,000 per year
Hours: Never-ending
Job description: To assist in directing and supervising the football program and fill any needed capacity

The job is not the most glamorous in the world, but it's a job at which a man can make a name for himself.

The hours are a wife's nightmare, the travel hectic, the pay is enough to get by on until maybe, a head coaching job comes along. Then it's a question of whether he has paid his dues or not. If so, then it's to the feel of being in charge, hiring your own assistants. If not, it's more of the same grind.

For some they hop, skip and jump to a head coaching job, but for others it's a long process in which they wallow.

For the most part they are young and enthusiastic when they start out, but after rejections from openings of higher positions, it takes its toll.

The rewards can be fruitful and the rejections sour, but all assistant coaches have one thing in mind when they take the field on Saturday afternoons — to bring together all their departments and produce a successful football program.

"Our wives understand what we're going through, and most of the time they understand that we have to put in long hours," State defensive coordinator and

defensive back coach Pete Carroll said. "The job will definitely take it's toll on you, if you let it."

Carroll, just 29 but who has been coaching for six years, already knows the benefits of the job. As defensive backfield coach last year for Ohio State he produced three All-Big 10 defensive backs.

"That's the type of rewards you get from assistant coaching," Carroll said. "I was just blessed with exceptional athletes up there, but now I have to see what I can do with the players here."

For the wives, at times it can get awful hard to understand why their husbands took up coaching.

"Sometimes the wives just don't understand that this is what we are doing for careers," linebacker coach Greg Robinson said.

"My wife understands because she was brought up on football," wide-receiver and quarterback coach Dave Buckley said. "Although at times it gets to her that I have to work late all the time."

Incidentally, Buckley's wife, Cathy, is State's head cheerleading coach and is used to the late hours put in by a coach.

"Cathy used to be a cheerleader, and she got involved with it here at State," Buckley said. "She really gets a kick out of helping the cheerleaders."

When it comes to the hours all the coaches can't stand them, but live with them, because it is their job.

"Sometimes I wonder why I ever took up coaching,"

running back coach Guy Ingles admitted. "The hours can get to you."

"My wife knows I have to work late at times," Carroll added. "But my son can't understand why I'm never home to eat dinner. That's when you wonder if it's all worth it."

"That's my job," is the way offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Dick Kupec views the situation. "If I want to keep my job, I have to work late if the coach says work late."

"At times, and that's most of the time, I wish I had a nine to five job because you can plan on things a little bit better, and you're not really hanging in limbo," tight-end coach Johnny Rodgers said.

Since their jobs take up so much time, what do they do when they do have free time on their hands?

"I like to spend it with my wife since we don't really see that much of each other," defensive end coach Rick Minter said. "You could almost say it's like a holiday when we get off early."

"I'm like all other married husbands," defensive line coach John Stucky said. "I like to spend it with my wife. If I get off early, we like to go out on the town, but believe me that's a rare occasion."

What do all the wives think of their working husbands?

"When I was an assistant at Pacific and had just gotten married, my wife (Glena) used to cry at night," Carroll said. "She just couldn't

(See "They're," page 15)



Running-back coach Guy Ingles



Quarterback coach Dave Buckley



Linebacker coach Greg Robinson



Offensive coordinator Dick Kupec



Defensive coordinator Pete Carroll



Tight-end coach Johnny Rodgers



Defensive-line coach John Stucky



Defensive-end coach Rick Minter

State's coaches don't doubt this trio

by Terry Kelley
Sports Writer

•Robert Abraham.
•Neal Musser.
•Sam Key.

Those are jut three of the names that make State's linebacking situation look good for the upcoming grid campaign.

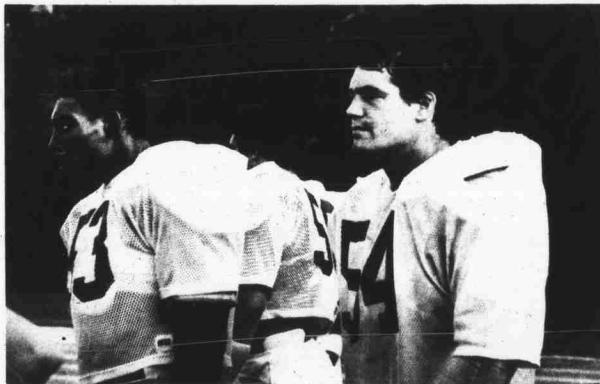
Abraham and Musser are the two returning lettermen, with Musser expected to replace Dann Lute in the starting unit and Key expected to fill the shoes of top alternate Marion Gale.

Lute and Gale were the only lettermen lost at the linebacker position. Gale finished his collegiate eligibility, and Lute was released from the team, for this season at least, after violating some of new head coach Monte Kiffin's training rules last spring.

Also expected to see considerable action are sophomores Tim Woody and freshmen Sam Grooms and Vaughn Johnson.

Abraham is an all-star in anyone's book. A 6-1, 220-pound junior from Myrtle Beach, S.C., he begins his second season as a starter. Although having missed three games last season, "Big Abe" managed to make 81 tackles, good enough for fourth on the team. Five of those tackles resulted in minus yardage, including three quarterback sacks.

"My only goal is to win the ACC again for the team," Abraham said. "We're gonna



Staff photo by Beth Smith

Junior Robert Abraham (53) and senior Neal Musser (54) plug the Pack's middle this season.

have a good season. We're not going to come in sixth. We're a better team than sixth. It's gonna be a real good season for us. We've got a lot of guys coming through for us. We've got six linebackers, and all six are doing real well.

"I think teams will take us for granted. When they predict somebody sixth, they still will

overlook us as defending champions. We're gonna surprise a lot of teams and a lot of people."

Abraham has off-the-field interests as well, and he has several ways of relaxing.

"I like to be with somebody," he said. "I like to go to a movie or to dance. Sometimes I just sit in my room and listen to the music."

Abraham believes that although there is work to be done, the defense will be quicker this year. He spent the summer doing some work on his own.

"I worked out during the first summer session," Abraham said. "Then I worked out at home the rest of the summer. We're going to take one team at a time. We're

gonna be a lot quicker than last year. We'll be known for the defense with everybody around the ball. Everybody around the ball every step, that's what we work on in practice."

Abraham looks to improve himself in every way possible, and he feels watching linebackers in the pros is more beneficial than pulling for a specific team.

"I like linebackers and not teams," he said. "I like to watch Jack Lambert and (Jack) Ham play. I don't pull for one team. I watch Pittsburgh a lot because they are on a lot. I like to just watch them."

"I can tell the defense is different because of the linebackers. I'm not looking at them for the future, just for something to help me out now."

Abraham said he enjoyed Kiffin's swimming excursion about two weeks ago.

"We were pretty banged up. We had our stuff on when he (Kiffin) announced we were going swimming. It was a reward for hard work. I was ready to go. It takes our minds off things," Abraham explained.

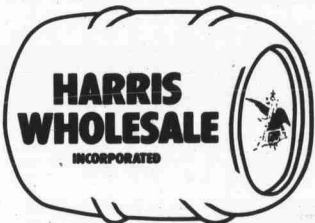
State defensive coordinator Pete Carroll feels the brunt of the Wolfpack's defensive experience is in the line.

"I think as a group our most experienced players are defen-

(See "Abe," page 15)

presenting our front line

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Finally, a pick higher than 6th

Sixth. That's the consensus opinion of football forecasters for State's finish in the ACC this fall. It seems hard to believe because just last year the Wolfpack was the undisputed ACC champion.

But the ACC coaches, along with the media that follows ACC football and magazines such as *Southern Football* and *Street and Smith's College Football Yearbook*, feel a new head coaching staff and the loss of several key starters means State can do no better than sixth.

That's sixth behind usual ACC favorites North Carolina, Maryland and Clemson and behind Wake Forest and Virginia, two teams that in the not to distant past have been fighting to stay out of the bottom spot.

The reasons for State's anticipated low finish include:

1. State has a new coaching staff headed by Monte Kiffin, who's taking the reins of a head coaching position for the first time.

2. Several holes need to be filled. Offensively on the front line, gone are All-America center and Outland Trophy winner Jim Ritter, All-ACC guard Chris Dieterich and Chuck Stone. Also gone are quarterback Scott Smith and fullback Billy Ray Vickers. On defense, end Joe Hannah, tackle Simon Gupton, and defensive backs Woodrow Wilson and Mike Nall have completed their eligibility.

3. In the middle of the Pack's schedule it must face Wake Forest, Carolina, Clemson, Maryland and Penn State on consecutive weekends.

is the Clemson game is at home.

If there is room for optimism, which many football observers don't seem to think there is, it has to come from the fact that it is Kiffin's first head coaching job and he has installed winning enthusiasm both in the players and Wolfpack followers.

So, with a few upset victories both at home and away, and adequate play from those players filling the voids from last season, State might... just might... finish in the upper half of the ACC and get a bowl bid.

Following is a breakdown of the Wolfpack's 1990 opponents with records from last season below:

WILLIAM & MARY (4-7)

This game should be a good one for the Wolfpack to start with. Kiffin gets a chance to see just how far his team has come along in practice.

The one thing the Wolfpack can't do is overlook the Tribe, which might be easy to do since just a few years back William & Mary nearly dropped its football program and has just recently started - pardon the cliché - "building for the future."

W & M has hired a new head coach in Jimmy Laycock and has renovated its stadium. The Tribe is also starting to get quality football players, which is the main reason why William &

Mary nearly dropped the program.

All of this "building for the future" is well and good, but the Tribe doesn't quite yet have the quality players to tackle State.

The only things going for William & Mary in this game are that it's Kiffin's debut and that State's debuting coaches - five to be exact - haven't won their opening games since Beattie Feathers won his opener in 1944.

If all goes as planned State should come out of this contest with a 1-0 record and two wins to prepare for its second game.

VIRGINIA (6-5)

It would be pretty smart to bet that the Cavaliers will be a very strong running team this fall.

Back from last year is All-America candidate Tommy Vigorito and Greg Taylor, who together rushed for over 2,000 yards. This season, however, Taylor has been switched to wide receiver, definitely a questionable move.

Also back is quarterback Todd Kirtley, who as a sophomore was eighth in the ACC in total offense.

A team with that much talent in the skill positions should be protected one way or another and for their protection the Cavs have five seniors on their front line - the same five who were around last year.

To go along with that offense is a tight defense, one that returns six starters. If State's means anything could happen, but the fact that it's being played in Charlottesville gives the Wahoos the advantage.

WAKE FOREST (8-4)

The words of Wake coach John Mackovic: "Never, never, never, never, never give up."

— That phrase rang louder through the Deacon lockerroom on Saturdays than the church bell in Wait Chapel on Sundays.

With Mackovic and the Deacons back Jay Venuto back the Deacons should count on another "miracle-from-heaven" year.

Despite arm surgery during the off-season, Venuto should be raring test his rifle-like sharpshooter in Raleigh.

Here the loss of Eric Williams for the season is going to hurt, because Venuto will try to exploit State's secondary with his three favorite receivers - Wayne Baumgardner, Kenny Duckett and Mike Mullin. If the Wolfpack can stop Venuto's arm then State will have a fighting chance because the Deacons don't return a strong running attack after the loss of James McDougald.

State will definitely need more than the 17 points it tried a year ago to beat Wake Forest, but something says it can get those necessary points.

Stu Hall

Sports Editor

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-4)

George Rogers. The name speaks for itself.

The Gamecocks' legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate will be the main key to the offensive attack as he was last year, for those who have forgotten his 217-yard performance last season against State.

This year he should be even better - which means, in layman's terms, "There is almost no way of stopping him once he gets going."

The Gamecocks, like Rogers, are stronger also. They return seven offensive starters and six defensive starters - virtually the same team as last year - and all those numbers add up to experience.

That experience, along with the explosive Rogers, is what will win this game for South Carolina.

APPALACHIAN STATE (3-5)

Appalachian State is like Wake Forest in many ways.

The Apps have a quarterback, Steve Brown, who likes to throw. Last year, Brown ranked No. 3 nationally in total offense.

To go with the gun-slinging quarterback, they are blessed with an outstanding receiver, Rick Beasley, who also happens to be the top pass receiver in the country.

What the Apps don't have is a defense. They snared only 13 interceptions last season and gave up, on the average, 24 points per outing, a figure that must drop if Appalachian is going to be anything like Wake Forest.

State's Tol Avery will have had four games under his belt by the time this one comes around. Barring injury or bad games, he should lead State to its biggest victory the season - giving it a 3-2 record heading into the annual rivalry.

NORTH CAROLINA (8-3-1)

It would be a huge understatement to say the Carolina game is always a big one for the Wolfpack, only because it's a State-Carolina matchup.

This year there might be a little bit more on the line than in previous seasons.

•The Wolfpack wants to avenge last year's 35-21 loss in Carter-Finley Stadium.

•The Wolfpack has a chance to knock off a nationally ranked team - a team ranked 14th and 19th in the UPI and AP preseason polls.

•This game could build a lot of confidence for the young State team as it heads into the toughest part of the season.

•The Wolfpack could be in the thick of the ACC race if it pulls off an upset.

State has everything to gain from this game; North Carolina everything to lose.

The Tar Heels, though, may be deceiving. Carolina has been picked to win the ACC by all the forecasters, but that judgment is based on the fact it has a lot of returns.

Also lurking in this game is Amos Lawrence, another Heisman Trophy candidate. He'll be looking to add to his career rushing total but will probably find a fire-up Wolfpack defense waiting to greet him.

This one goes against the book and has State coming out with the bragging rights for a year.

CLEMSON (6-4)

Hopefully, Clemson coach Danny Ford will have a better idea of this year's contest.

Last year, a memorable goal-line stand by the Wolfpack late in the fourth quarter gave State a 16-13 victory.

That was in Death Valley, though. This year the game is being played in Raleigh and State's victory or loss in "the" game a week earlier will have a bearing on this contest.

If State won against Carolina, it will be sky-high and might overlook this game, but if the Wolfpack lost, then Clemson just might be the brunt of its anger.

Look for a shootout between the Tigers' Obed Ariari and State's Nathan Ritter, two of the ACC's best field goal kickers.

Ritter should win, but State will drop this contest putting the Pack at 5-4 on the year and 2-2 in the conference.

MARYLAND (7-4)

State goes backs on the road for this contest. Even though it's being played in Maryland, the game should have a final score much resembling State's 7-0 triumph last season.

Last year's score indicates a defensive struggle, and this year State will discover in this game what it can do defensively.

Maryland returns most of its defense, including All-ACC candidates Ralph Lary and Lloyd Burruss as defensive backs.

Offensively, the Terps are powered by receivers Eric Sievers and Jan Carinci, quarterback Mike Thiele with All-America candidate Charlie Wysocki in the backfield.

Another field goal shoot-out can be expected, this time between Ritter and All-America Dale Castro.

Ritter will win again, making him indisputably the best field goal kicker in the ACC - but State will fall again heading into the Penn State contest.

PENN STATE

One second hung on the clock and Herb Menhardt, Penn State's kicker, stood 54 yards away from the goal posts when foot met ball. Menhardt, along with 51,000 other helpless people, watched it float toward the outside of the right goal post. At the last moment the ball caromed off the post and dropped through, giving the Lions a 9-7 victory.

The bitter taste of that loss still remains, but since last year was a "rebuilding year" for Joe Paterno, State will have to wait until next year to look for a victory.

Paterno has a dynasty going at Penn State, and it's always tough to knock off a dynasty. State's in for a long day and a long trip back, but what lies ahead are two rather assuring victories that will finish the Pack with a winning record.

(See "Wolfpack," page 15)

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Don't you think it's time to get acquainted with your neighbors? Come and meet them at Schoolkids and get familiar with the best record prices around.



Wolfpack to surprise forecasters

(Continued from page 14)

DUKE

(2-8-1)

In 1979, Duke had slogans saying "Red Means Go," referring to first-year coach Red Wilson and how he was going to turn the football program around. As it turned out Red meant stop, just as it always does.

In 1980, Duke's slogan is "The 80s, A Brand New Ball Game."

State doesn't look at it as a brand-new ball game because Duke is State's homecoming opponent, and everyone knows a team is supposed to schedule a victory for homecoming.

The Blue Devils don't have all that much going for them, except former pro quarterback Steve Spurrier, who is the offensive coordinator. Spurrier will try to bring Duke back into a lot of games this fall, but this one will be a fan's delight and State should score some points.

EAST CAROLINA

(7-3-1)

Gone is Pat Dye. Gone is the season opener against hated rival State. Gone is any chance of the Pirates winning this ball game.

The reason the game was moved to later in the season was because State and ECU's athletic directors want to prove it will outdraw the Duke-Carolina game, which it probably will.

For State, it will be Kiffin's last game of the season — that is, if State doesn't receive a bowl bid. Those chances are slim but not totally out of the picture.

State will win this one in roaring fashion and impress any bowl representative who might be in the press box.



Somehow, State will have to deal with UNC's Amos Lawrence.

Abe, Musser stand in middle

(Continued from page 13)

sive ends and linebackers," Carroll said. "(David) Horning, (Ricky) Etheridge, Abraham and Musser are experienced. They have good awareness. They all play hard — we disciplined, real tough, real physical and strong. We rely on those four for leadership."

"Defensive ends and linebackers are our strength right now. Not just in the first string. (David) Shoen, Key and (James) Butler give us pretty good depth. We have six or seven guys capable of starting."

The defense being used this

year varies little from that of the previous staff, and Carroll sees no problems in adjusting his players to it.

He also evaluated the linebacker's toughest opponents.

"Basically it's the same defense," Carroll said. "The staff that was here before used coach Kiffin's defense. I think South Carolina will be the most physical running attack with their big running backs and all."

"The middle of our schedule is the toughest part. We play Clemson, North Carolina, Penn State and Maryland right in a row."

Carroll feels the Wolfpack will refute those who have predicted State to finish in the ACC's lower half.

"I hope we're very underrated," he said. "There are a couple of freshmen we're very excited about, Sam Grooms and Vaughn Johnson. They seem to have a lot of potential. They have a chance to help us this fall."

Musser is a 6-2, 210-pound senior from Elon College, N.C. He saw considerable playing time last year and finished with 56 tackles and two quarterback sacks. Musser feels — the linebackers are in good shape for the coming season.

"I think we're gonna have a good season," he said. "We have enough depth to where we're going to do all right as far as linebackers go. Robert Abraham has back, and Sam Key and Tim Woody are going to be a big factor. The whole defense is going to be real sharp, offense too. As a team we'll do well."

Musser has not set any personal goals.

"My goal is set for the whole team," he said. "I want to win the ACC again, to win all the games. And hopefully to go to a bowl of our choice. Having won the ACC everybody will be after us, but they don't think we're going to have anything anyway. That's going to change after the start of the season."

"I think we can win it again. We're going to be tough. Clemson and (North) Carolina are both

tough. South Carolina will be tough. They'll be hard to beat, but I think we can handle them."

Musser believes the team must continue to work hard but sees very little change in the defense.

"The defense is basically the same," Musser said. "There's a few different steps. We've got a lot of work to do, but we're coming along pretty quick. I worked out at school this summer and ran with the other guys. We've got two freshmen coming along well."

Linebacker coach Greg Robinson feels his backers will be strong this year and thinks the linebacking position definitely will not be a sore spot for team.

"We've got to have aggressive players and solid tacklers," Robinson said. "These three guys (Abraham, Musser and Key) are going to get it done. They had a good fall camp and linebackers could be a strong point."

"Tim Woody is a walk-on. Has shown improvement and has really come on. We've got two freshmen whom we are planning on to be real good, Sam Grooms and Vaughn Johnson. The first three are solid, and we're hoping to get the other three to come on and give depth."

Robinson feels the linebackers have adapted well to some small changes.

"Those are some differences in the defense," he said. "They've made a lot of changes. They should be ready. We've got three that can get the job done. The freshmen will be playing some on down the road and can be fine."

Key is a six-foot, 210-pound sophomore from Asheboro.

"We are looking to have an aggressive defense," Key said. "We're going to surprise some people. We need a lot of work and improving, but we have the nucleus for a good team. We've got a good coaching staff."

"We have a good all-around defense. I don't think we really have a weak spot. We've got a good second team and good linebackers."

They're putting in the hours toward their common goal

(Continued from page 12)

understand why I wanted to be an assistant football coach.

"Now she understands perfectly and is forever encouraging me. She is great support when things are going bad."

"Shelia comes out and watches the team practice most of the time and brings the kids out and lets them run around the practice field track," Kucpe said.

Rodgers, being the only single man of the bunch, doesn't have anyone to wait up for him at night.

"That doesn't bother me," he said. "Sometimes I'd rather be alone than with a nagging wife, but then again it does get a little lonely at times."

The association between the assistant coaches doesn't stop when they leave the field.

"We get along real good together. Our wives are always planning something for all of us

to do together," Robinson said, looking out of the corner of his eyes toward Rodgers, who just laughed. "Yes, Johnny is included even if he isn't married."

Each coach endures a lot in a day's time, and the norm is a hectic situation, but each knows what he wants in his career.

"I want to become a head coach some day," Rodgers said, "but first I have to pay all my dues."

"I like it here at State," Buckley said. "One day, and don't let Kiffin, but I wouldn't mind coaching the Wolfpack. But I'm satisfied for right now."

"Right now, all I want to do is a good job here," Minter said. "We'll see what the future has for me later."

"I would like for us to win the ACC this year and take coach Kiffin to a bowl game," were Ingles' immediate future plans.

Sure the hours are bad, the pay is satisfactory and the pressures are overwhelming, but if they produce a winning program, then that's what their job is all about and any wife can understand that.

Since 1954 the DeAngelis Bros. have been backing the Pack

(Continued from page 2)

"Some people have a problem with that," he contemplated, "but football was not designed to be a violent game."

"The goal in football is to get the ball across your opponent's goal line. It's not like boxing where your objective is to beat your opponent up, to try to hurt him."

"So if you look at the game in that respect, the way football was intended to be and not the way a lot of people think about it now, there's really no conflict."

"I don't go out and try to hurt anybody. I don't hate anybody. I don't go out and say, 'I hate Carolina' or 'I hate Duke.' I just try to beat my opponent so that the team will win."

Dawson's attitudes and beliefs have not always been so firm. He recalls the first time he ever played organized football.

"I remember the first time I played organized football was in the fourth grade," he reminisced. "I remember hiding my uniform in the yard so my mother wouldn't know I was playing."

"Now that I think back on it, it wasn't that she wouldn't have let me play, it was just that I was afraid she wouldn't let me play. But finally I got up enough courage to tell her."

Then there was the time during Dawson's freshman season when he could have easily left the team.

"When I first came here I wasn't really mentally tough," he said. "And I think it was the first day when we started hitting that I had the only regret I've ever had since coming here."

"My technique wasn't that good, and I took some pretty good shots. I think if somebody would have offered me a ride to

the bus station I would have been gone. But now I look back on that episode and realize that I can pass some of that experience on."

Such experiences will likely lead Dawson to great heights in the near future.

"I'm trusting that I'll be playing pro ball next year," he said. "I'd like to give that a try for five or six years. But if I do make it I plan on going to seminary during the '80s."

Dawson's coaches know he's got what it takes to be a pro ball player.

"From talking to coaches and scouts, there doesn't seem to be a whole lot I need to develop to make it in the pros," Dawson said. "I just need to know what I have. I have to work on my concentration and work on being consistent."

In other words, Lin Dawson is still multiplying his talents.



Dick and Lou DeAngelis and North Carolina State athletics have been together a long time. Dick was an All-American. Lou was a star linebacker center for the Pack's 1964 ACC champs, a team he co-coached.

Now, the DeAngelis brothers, owners of the popular Amedeo's Italian Restaurants in Raleigh, are Wolfpack Club scholarship sponsors.

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