

## Wolfpack Football '79-80

Technician Sports Special

September 7, 1979

# Bo Rein: at 34, a proven winner

by Bryan Black  
Sports Editor

Bo Rein is like any other coach—it's winning that makes the man what he is.

But then again, Rein isn't an ordinary football coach. Physically, at 34, he's younger than most. Maybe that has something to do with the way he coaches football—his age allowing to him to relate to his players better.

Whatever that intangible is, whether it be age or simply his personality, there's something about Rein that sets him apart from his peers.

Deep down inside, Rein knows he's got a football team that is capable of doing some incredible things. And that's exactly what he'll tell somebody, describing his team with that seven-letter word that begins with a c and ends with an e.

"The best word for this football team is 'capable,'" Rein said the other day, sitting behind his desk in his spacious office in Case Athletics Center. The sun shone through the huge window to his left, but still, the room had a darkness about it. No lights were on in the office, and Rein sat at his large desk working—always working, writing something down, answering a question, taking a moment to think, but always working, making notes on the sheets of paper spread across his desk.

"We have a chance, athletically, to be a real good football team this season," Rein said. "But right now, realistically, I'd say 'capable' is the best way to describe this team."

But just what is Rein talking about when he says "capable"? No doubt, that seven-letter word leaves a lot to be desired. Capable of what? That's got to be the question he's leaving unanswered.

"I think the basic goal of any coaching staff is get their squad ready to play equal to or above their capability each time out," Rein said in attempting to explain this term "capable" as it applies to his football team.

"If we can do that this year, I feel we can have an excellent season. As far as records and bowl games and things of that nature go, if we play up to our capability, those things will take care of themselves."

Undoubtedly, Rein is leaving the door wide open. Just what is this team capable of? Eleven and oh and the Orange Bowl? Ten and one and the Gator Bowl? How

about nine and two and the Peach Bowl, or an eight and three repeat of last year with another Tangerine Bowl? That's not all, either. There's also the Sun Bowl, the Liberty Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and the Bluebonnet Bowl. There are also some lesser known, newer bowl games.

Surely, there's a place for State somewhere in one of these post-season extravaganzas, or so it seems to practically everyone who's making any predictions about this year's college football season. The thing is, Rein just won't tell anybody exactly what he thinks. Nonetheless, he likes the talk and raves his team is receiving in the pre-season. Rein won't admit anything, but still, he wears a sort of sly confidence.

That confidence is not so evident now as it was last spring. Rein was in the heaven with the thought of the team he had coming back this year. At a banquet last spring he heaped praise on the offensive line, the defensive line, the secondary and numerous individuals. Maybe now he wishes he had not shown so much confidence then.

Nearly every pre-season picking system has tabbed State as the odds-on favorite to win the ACC. But nationally, no one can agree as to State's whereabouts. Some say as high as No. 10. Others say not even in the top 20. *The Sporting News*, considered by hordes of sportswriters as the country's premier sports publication, calls the Wolfpack the No. 19 team in the country.

Rein says he likes being the conference favorite, and he likes the national rankings, but he also says that pre-season stuff doesn't amount to anything. He's getting itchy, as is his team, for tomorrow evening. The Pack wants to play somebody, and Rein wants to coach against somebody.

"We don't know how good we're going to be until we play somebody," Rein said. "We're tired of playing against ourselves, and there's just no telling what kind of football team this is going to be until we play some games."

And perhaps Rein is quite right about all the predictions. Lo and behold, *The Sporting News* for all its grandeur and all the respect the magazine commands, may have State No. 19 right now, but it can't even spell "Richter" right. Five times in its collegiate football preview issue, even while admitting that Wolfpack center Jim Richter

may be the top lineman in the country, *The Sporting News* spelled his name "Richter."

That may say something about the true worth of pre-season polls, even the most respected ones. So much for what might happen.

The reasons why Rein was so confident after last season are numerous. First, he had 15 of 22 starters coming back. Second, there's Jim Richter, enough in himself to keep a smile on the coach's face. Third, seniors Chris Dieterich and Chuck Stone were coming back to man the guard spots beside Richter, giving the Pack a three-man punch on the offensive front that would ease the worries anyone might have about the loss of Ted Brown.

Fourth, Rein knew his quarterback, Scott Smith, would be back—stronger, wiser, more mature, seasoned and hopefully, a much-improved passer. Fifth, with Smith looking to throw more, Rein's two big threats to opposing secondaries could be unleashed—tight end Lin Dawson and wide receiver Mike Quick.

Those are a lot of reasons right there, but there are more. Sixth, fullback Billy Ray Vickers was coming back and joining him would be one of several talented halfbacks attempting to fill in for the departed Brown. Seventh, there were other fine receivers coming back, as well as some young tackles with tremendous size.

Eighth, on defense, the secondary was coming back full strength, led by an All-America candidate in free safety Woodrow Wilson. Ninth, the interior defensive line looked awesome with Simon Gupton, Brian O'Doherty and John Stanton coming back—and huge Bubba Green was ready to fill in or even swipe a starting spot.

So there were plenty of reasons for Rein to ooze with optimism after the 30-17 whipping of Pittsburgh in the Tangerine Bowl last year. But Rein has changed his tune a bit. He doesn't think any less of the players he has. He just wants them to prove all the things that are being said and the things he was saying last spring.

After working with his team for several months now, maybe he knows what kind of true potential is there. Maybe he's still as confident as he was last spring, but the pressure of the season has dried the ooze. And maybe the young head coach,



Head coach Bo Rein has taken State to two straight bowl game victories. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

himself, has matured. After all, this is only his fourth season as a college head coach.

Three years ago, after coaching State to a disappointing 3-7-1 season in his first go-round as a college head coach, there were those who felt the young man who had learned a great deal about football from the grand, old man from Ohio State, Woody Hayes, was not meant to be head coach of a major college football team.

Rein quickly scrunched all such talk by taking his second Wolfpack team to an 8-4 season the following year, which included a 24-14 victory over Iowa State in the Peach Bowl. The Tangerine Bowl triumph capped his third season at State, pushing his career record as a head coach to 20-14-1.

What it all means is this: three years a head coach; two bowl games; two consecutive bowl wins; and the man is still young enough and has so much life in him that when a receiver runs a fly pattern during practice, Rein matches him stride-for-stride down the sideline.

But how about now? How about tomorrow against East Carolina? How about this

season? For sure, even the most doubting Thomas will admit Rein is almost a sho-in as the man who, at 34, has coached his teams to three straight bowl games.

Maybe after 11 games that confidence will ooze again—maybe sooner than that. But for right now, Rein wants to wait and see his team play somebody.

"I'd just have to say that at this time, I'm pleased with the intensity and the overall work habits of this team," Rein said. "But even though this team is composed largely of seniors (a batch of seniors Rein brought in during his first year at State), what this team needs the most is to develop poise."

"There are teams that are going to move the ball on us, and there are teams that are going to stop us, but we have to have the ability to stick in there and not beat ourselves. I expect a senior type of team, which is what we have, to develop that kind of poise."

It seems that after a 3-7-1 rookie year and then two straight bowl victories, Bo Rein just might be the type of man who is quite "capable" of teaching that kind of poise.

# So what's the scoop on the secondary?

by Andree Cole  
Features Editor

"People look at me strange, like at the cleaners, when I say my name is Woodrow Wilson. They say, 'Yeah, my name's George Washington, like they don't believe me. It's hard to convince them."

"But it was my Granddaddy's name. He was born during President Woodrow Wilson's time. And then he named my daddy Woodrow Wilson."

"I got enough nerve to ask him (his father) why he named me that, and he said so I could see what he had to go through when he was coming up."

Woodrow Wilson—he's added a new dimension to the name.

The 5-10, 182-pound free safety from Hampton, Va. was All-ACC in 1978. In the last two years he has had 11 interceptions. Six of his last seven have come inside State's 10-yard line when the other team was threatening to score.

He may contend for All-America this year, but he isn't looking that far ahead right now.

"Whenever I'm playing against someone, I say they're better than I am—I don't care who we're playing, even if somebody says they're not good," Wilson said. "I work on things to try to improve myself."

And in spite of a somewhat discouraging start, Wilson determined that football was going to be his sport.

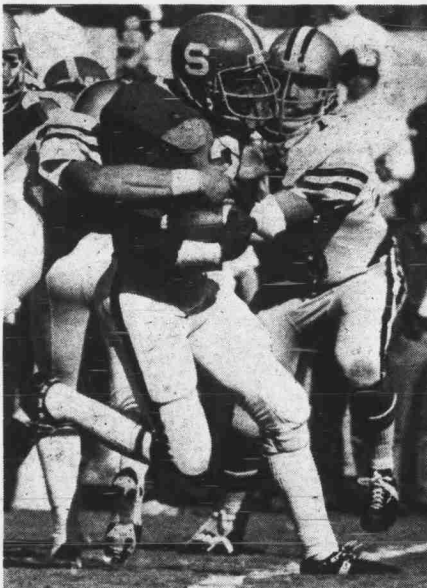
"I felt like I was good in baseball and basketball," Wilson said. "But I knew that if I was to continue my education, I had to play football."

He used to throw rocks at the streetlight when he was six. And he probably wasn't thinking too much about playing Wolfpack football then.

"I used to throw tin cans and pretend like I was the receiver and the quarterback."

He started playing pickup football games out on the playground when he was in the sixth grade and played his first organized football in the ninth. He tried out in the seventh grade but "got lost in the shuffle."

His family had just moved



All-ACC free safety Woodrow Wilson is up for All-America honors this season.

from another town, and it seemed to Wilson that the coach's friends and relatives were taking up the slots on the team.

"In the eighth grade, I went out for football, and the coach told me not to come back out," Wilson said. "The next year, he asked me what was it about football that I hated? He tried to put it on me."

After the ninth grade, football became Wilson's No. 1 sport. He started every year in high school, and his senior year, Hampton High won the state championship.

Perhaps starting four straight years in high school helped him develop the leadership qualities he now possesses.

"When practice gets dead, the

guys are tired. You need somebody to be hollerin', 'Come on guys. Let's pick it up. Let's get going.' When we don't talk, we don't play worth anything."

"He's always a leader by the way he works," said State's secondary coach, Greg Williams. "He's very vocal on the field, always encouraging the younger kids in the secondary to do it right or do it harder."

"With football, it's rough. People don't realize it," Wilson said. "But classes would be rough enough without football."

"You have to look at football like a job. It's an all-year thing. Some people think that all we do is wait around for next season. But spring training is intense—running and lifting."

"When we go home, they send

us a summer program. If you don't train, you pay for it when you come back."

If you stay in the water too long, they say you're waterlogged. So what do you call someone who has football for breakfast, lunch and dinner? For Wilson, there has to be some time that he can spend away from the sport.

"I play cards and backgammon in my spare time, pick up some basketball in the gym, see some women."

"I like to play spades, tonk and gin rummy. We play on the airplane on the way to games. Backgammon's not hard when you learn the moves."

But Wilson knows best the moves in football.

"I would like to continue playing football for four or five more years. If that's not in the cards, I could fall back on my degree (Business Management)," the senior said. "Things could happen, but I would like to play (after graduation)."

"You have to love the game though. If you ever stop loving something, you should give it up," Wilson said. "But like anything in life, there are dull moments and happy moments."

"As long as you can play and feel good with what you're doing, you don't have to worry. The only pressure you have is yourself. You're out there playing against yourself and your opponent."

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His teammates call him "P" Nall, and he hasn't figured out why yet except that his middle name is Pennington, and somebody (he doesn't remember who) just thought it would make a good nickname. But he likes it, and everybody else does too, so he's stuck with it—for this year anyway.

He's a senior and a highly-regarded tight safety—Michael Nall (Mike when it's not "P").

"Some are faster, bigger and may have more raw talent. But there aren't many who have more of what I call the two D's—desire and determination," Nall said.

"I've always been gifted to play, coordinated and physically fit. But I have a competitive

drive. It's a competitiveness with yourself—a pride to do the best you can. The only person who knows if you did your best is you."

"He's a very, very tenacious competitor," Williams said. "He only has one gear. Practice or game, he's in that gear. He's a talented athlete, and his determination, fight and drive are probably his strongest points."

Like Wilson, Nall had an early yet discouraging start in sports. He started in pee-wee football.

"Back in those days we didn't have a good team. The first five years, we won one game—I scored one touchdown."

"Then it might not have been good to lose," Nall said. "But it taught me to be a good loser."

He was always the skinny guy when he was growing up. His friends said he had pins for legs and weren't very encouraging when he talked of playing for the high school football team.

"I wanted to prove to people that this skinny guy could play."

So, he pushed aside the discouragement, tried out for the team and made the starting lineup as a freshman. He had four successful years at Kenmore High School in Akron, Ohio, but his senior year found him weighing only 155. He wasn't highly recruited by the major schools although he had his eye on State.

"It wasn't, 'Hey, we want you bad.' It was more like, 'We have a scholarship here, let's give him a shot,'" Nall said.

"When I left school, I could hear everybody saying, 'He's going to N.C. State. He'll never play.' I said, 'Just wait and see, just like I did in the ninth grade.'"

The constant pressure to perform well, the time spent in practice, the heat, the physical strain—all somewhat negative factors of the game called football. So why expend the time and effort?

"It's the camaraderie," Nall said. "I see the guys on the football team five hours a day. I live with them. Football is almost like a fraternity."

"It's also the satisfaction you

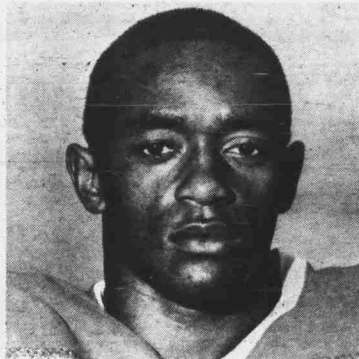
(See "Nall," page 7)



Senior tight safety Mike Nall



Junior cornerback Ronnie Lee



Junior cornerback Donnie LeGrande

# Ritcher's far better than the rest

by Charles Lasitter  
Sports Writer

A picture on the shelf behind Bo Rein's desk could have a lot of meaning for this year's football team.

In it are Rein, Ted Brown and Jim Ritcher. It was taken before the Pack's Tangerine Bowl victory last year, and in one light, it represented the director, the star and the supporting cast of State football.

The star, Brown, is gone. Back are the director and the supporting cast, looking around for another star to create.

Competent running backs return this year, but by far the most attention is being directed toward the people who gave Brown the running room needed to build his Heisman caliber reputation.

All-America center Jim Ritcher and the rest of the offensive line are being touted as the mainstays of what looks to be an impressive football team, but they'll have little luck in redirecting the attention they are receiving until some lucky running back has the benefit of a few high-yardage games under his belt.

The line, which was troubled by injuries last season, was still able to put the Pack near the top of the conference in offense per game, and it looks to be capable of doing the same this year even with the loss of starters Frank Hitt at tackle and Tim Gillespie at guard.

Several returnees were shuffled about to produce this year's lineup, but the shifts have failed to dissipate the positive attitude of this year's linemen, which is also reflected in their rigorous work habits.

Tops among the positive thinkers is Ritcher, a 6-3, 245-pound senior from Medina, Ohio.

The sociology major wows the pro scouts with his 4.6 40 speed, and his ability to bench press 425 pounds three times.

"We're looking forward to the season and we're thinking that it can be a better one than any season in the past," said a sweat-drenched Ritcher as he sat in the weight room.

"We've been 84 and 93 in the past couple of years, but we think this time around can be really special. We really feel that it can be the best that an N.C. State club has ever had."

That theme predominates any discussion with a lineman, and it comes in a year which could be considered a transition season for many on the line.

Aside from several position changes for linemen, they are all learning to function under the direction of a new offensive line coach—a double whammy which would normally have serious effects on many players.

Jon "Smiley" Mirilovich, last season's hard-nosed line coach, is gone. In his place is George Belu, a coach with a completely different coaching style.

Ritcher's view of Belu's addition to the staff resembles that of the other linemen, all seemingly



Three powerful seniors square themselves in the middle of State's offensive line: Chuck Stone (left), Chris Dieterich (center) and Jim Ritcher (right). (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

ready and willing to accept his direction.

"Coach Belu has a new and different style, but I feel that he has really helped us out," Ritcher explained. "He's taught me a lot in the short time that he's been here."

"Everyone was sorry to see Mirilovich leave, even though he was a difficult person to get to like. It was a sort of a 'like-hate' relationship between him and the players, and he will be missed."

Aside from the coaching change, however, were some individual personnel changes which have an even greater potential to affect the line's effectiveness.

Todd Eckerson held a defensive assignment on last year's team, and this year he's been shifted to the left tackle position. After being on the second team for the spring and most of the summer, he worked his way into the top spot, edging out fellow sophomore Chris Carr. He said the change had presented problems, but he feels the problems can be circumvented.

"There's a lot more plays involved on offense—more studying and stuff—but it's all fitting in now," Eckerson explained.

"I've been working on the pass rush, and on the different techniques that opponents line up against you. You have to be ready to block all those different looks."

Senior Chris Dieterich also made a move from his tackle position of last year, now occupying the starting right guard position.

His move kept him on the offensive team, however, and he does not feel his adjustment will be as great as Eckerson's.

"I had to learn all the new schemes and foot coordination, but other than that, it's basically the same," said Dieterich, who was All-AOC as a tackle last year. "I think on offense you have to learn a lot more plays, because you have a lot more different defenses thrown at you, so I think he (Eckerson) might have made a bigger adjustment than I did."

According to most of the linemen, they had to make few adjustments to accommodate the new style of Belu, and the new line coach feels this is because of the universality of offensive line philosophy.

"I really don't think the coaching change will have any effect at all," said Belu, former line coach at Colorado. "We're doing a lot of the same things we did last year, and the techniques are the same, so I don't see any big difference. The philosophy is the same as far as offensive line play, and we're basically running the same offense that we did last year."

Belu, 40, joined the staff in the spring, and he says he judges everything by the effect it has on the playing field.

"I measure everything in terms of what we're getting done on the football field, and as long as a young man will work and put out and do what I'm trying to

teach him, I think it'll go along pretty fine."

Belu feels all the players have tried hard to accomplish his objectives.

"They're a very intense group. When they come out to work, one thing that pops out at you right now is their intensity. They're locked in, and they do a good day's work out on the football field."

Belu feels he has much talent to work with, and the coach that has worked with three All-Americans detailed State's offensive line talent.

• Chris Koehne, right tackle, sophomore. "Chris has a lot of good potential. He's got good size and good movement for a big man, but he and I both know that if he's going to come along like I want him to, he has to get a little stronger."

• Todd Eckerson, left tackle, sophomore. "He's a strapping young man, and he's working hard to get himself quicker on his blocks."

• Chris Dieterich, right guard, senior. "He moved in the spring from tackle to guard, and he's adapted to the change really well. He's a good strong guard and with the defenses you see today, you have to have that in his position. He's also got good movement, and he's a good worker."

• Chuck Stone, left guard, senior. "Stone is a little underrated at his position. He's a 250-pounder, and I have no

qualms about him as far as his work habits. He needs to improve on a few techniques, but he's still a really good offensive guard for us."

• Jim Ritcher, center, senior. "What can you say about this guy that hasn't been said? You have to admire him because of his work habits, and because of the way he is as an individual. His football talents speak for themselves, but I think that there's a lot more to being an All-America than what goes on on the football field."

Ritcher has a way of drawing attention to himself, and sometimes other linemen go unnoticed. Belu feels one particularly underrated lineman is Chuck Stone.

Stone said he never thought much about being underrated, but he added that he would prefer it that way.

"I don't know if I'm underrated or not, but if I had my choice, I'd rather be underrated. I played all last year and so far this fall worse than I would like. I've got a lot of room for improvement," Stone said.

Another less often noticed Wolfpack player is tight end Lin Dawson. The big, agile junior has proved to be an easy target for State quarterbacks, and Dawson feels even with two years experience, he has improved considerably over last year.

"I think this year, more so than other years, I'll be stronger, faster and quicker than I've ever been," Dawson said. "I think last year was a year that I gained a lot of experience; this year I'm ready. This is going to be my productive year."

"Coach (Steve) Regan brought a lot of ideas with him when he came to State, and he's helped me considerably. By looking at the films and the games of last year, I already know that I'm better than I was then."

The coaching staff was bolstered in this fashion by a number of new assistants, one of them being Dave Buckley, the wide receiver coach.

Buckley was a part-time assistant at State in 1977, before assisting coaching at Miami of Ohio, and then returning to State in the spring. Dave and his brother Don brought excitement to State football under Lou Holtz' direction, as quarterback Dave passed the combo into Wolfpack record books.

Buckley feels his quarterback experience has helped him as a coach of receivers, and he sees this year's group as an exciting one.

"I'm very pleased with the whole set of receivers that we've got right now, even all the young guys," Buckley said. "The way it looks right now, we'll probably be traveling with five or six."

"Right now, our starters are Mike Quick and Lee Jukes. We run plays in with our receivers, and how ever many receivers we travel with, we're going to play all of them."

"Naturally, some of them have things to improve on, but we've got enough talent to do the job."

# Pair of sophs set to start at linebacker

by Gary Hanrahan  
Sports Writer

"These two meant as much to us as Ted Brown meant to the offense," said State inside linebacker coach Chuck Amato very matter-of-factly about Bill Cowher and Kyle Wescoe, the departed linebackers who so typified the toughness of State's defense last year.

So before one can begin to build grandiose expectations about the strength of the Wolfpack defensive unit this year, one must evaluate what the loss of two such "T.B.'s of the defense" will mean.

Physically intimidating anyone who penetrated State's interior line, Cowher and Wescoe combined for 47 solo tackles and 210 assists, figures so impressive one can almost hear shoulder pads popping.

Their final game as seniors last year, the 30-17 Tangerine Bowl victory, was their crowning glory. Wescoe and Cowher helped embarrass a cocky and much-heralded Pitt offense by stifling the Panther running attack in the early stages, then completely shutting off the passing lanes over the middle en route to a 17-0 halftime lead.

"The main thing they gave our defense was direction," Amato said. "The defense could depend on those two guys to direct them to the right place and to direct them into the right defense."

So just who are these mere sophomores, Robert Abraham and Dann Lute, who will take their places?

"The two people we have now have excellent athletic ability,"



Sophomores Dann Lute (left) and Robert Abraham (right) will be State's starting inside linebackers tomorrow night. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

Amato said. "They are faster—they play with great speed and great quickness. Now, they've never started up in Carter Stadium in front of 50,000 people, but I know our defense respects them. It respects them very, very much."

Interestingly enough, it was their own noticeable lack of speed that prevented Wescoe and Cowher from being given serious consideration by the pros.

"It makes the field a little shorter and narrower," Amato said of the advantages of having superior quickness. "We used to want a linebacker to be a rugged individual. We might have bypassed a youngster who was fast in favor of the big guy."

"When I first started coaching here as a safety coach, I had two starting safeties running a five-flat 40. Now I have two kids at linebacker who run the 40 in four-sevens.

"Speed allows them to get to the football a lot quicker," Amato said. "And there are more of them getting to the football."

At 6-1 and 215 pounds, Abraham cuts a strong, imposing-looking figure, but his soft-spoken manner belies the fierce aggressiveness with which he plays his position.

"Quickness," he said when asked his primary strength as a linebacker.

"I think we'll be a lot quicker," the Myrtle Beach, S.C. native added. "Cowher and Wescoe were great players; it will be tough to replace them because they had excellent technique."

"I'll probably be a little nervous at first, but I'm excited about getting my first start."

"I like going after the ball and either getting the first hit or coming in and cleaning up," Abraham said of his love for playing inside linebacker.

"I like the excitement of getting a great hit and hearing the crowd go 'OOOH' when they see a great hit," said the 6-2, 213-pound Lute, who hails from Wayne, Pa. "It will be tough to fill their shoes, because Cowher and Wescoe, they were known throughout the ACC."

"For my part, I'll just try to do the best I can to help the team. I hope we win the ACC," Lute added.

Both Abraham and Lute would especially like to perform well against teams from their home state: Abraham against "Lester Brown and Clemson," and Lute against Penn State, "because I don't like them very much."

While admitting they lack game experience, Amato said. "They've proved to me that they can play."

"There is no doubt whatsoever, no doubt about that at all. Otherwise, they wouldn't be there."

Head coach Bo Rein feels much the same way about his new linebacking tandem.

"I think people are going to see two fine linebackers," Rein said. "In Robert Abraham and Dann Lute."

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# Nothing bad about 13 for kicker Nathan Ritter

by Stu Hall  
Sports Writer

For most people the number 13 is an omen of bad luck.

Not so for Nathan Ritter, State's All-ACC kicker, who wears the superstitious number 13.

Ritter drove away any evil spirits last year by converting 25 of 26 extra points and 17 of 19 field goals to lead State in scoring with 76 points. His .895 field goal accuracy led the nation.

"I'm out there to disprove any superstitions. I had the number 13 all through high school and I asked for it when I came to State," Ritter said.

The 5-8 junior out of High Point taught himself how to kick in his backyard.

"I started by watching the guys on television. When I stopped growing in junior high and my friends kept growing taller than me I became interested in kicking. I would go out in the back yard and kick just as they did on television.

"My father kept telling me that the pros didn't get to where they were without practicing every day and being dedicated," Ritter emphasized.

In 1976 Ritter helped lead his high school, High Point Andrews, to the State 4-A football championship. The only scholarship offer he received was from State.

"I had wanted to go to State, but I did not think my grades were good enough to get in. If I had not received any offers, I was going to try to be a walk-on at either Appalachian State or East Carolina. I was also thinking about walking on at Alabama, since both of their kickers had graduated. Plus I had some relatives down there, but since State offered me a full scholarship I took it."

Ritter's freshman year was spent on the jayvee team behind varsity place kicker Jay Sherrill. Ritter started his varsity career off in style last year with five field goals against East Carolina, setting a school record for most field goals in a game and tying an NCAA record for most field goals in the first game of a career.

"The five field goals in the East Carolina game stunned me, and it took awhile for the effects to set in," Ritter admitted.

His accolades did not stop after the ECU game. He tied the school record for most field goals

in a season with 17, averaged 36.5 yards per successful field goal and finished the season with a "routine" Tangerine Bowl.

The 154-pound Ritter scored 12 points against Pitt, was named offensive player of the game and connected on a record three field goals, including a record-breaking 61-yarder. He was named to the All-ACC team at the end of last season and already this year has been selected to some of the All-America teams.

Like any great athlete, Ritter is not resting on his laurels.

"During the off-season I kept my legs toned by doing some long distance running and working out at Nautilus. The coaches stretched us real good in practices this spring and summer. That helped."

When listing the goals for this year, he puts the team first, himself second.

"As a team, we can win the ACC and go undefeated, which would mean going to another bowl game. For myself, I'm going to try and be All-ACC again and maybe All-America, but that's a longshot."

Ritter explained the art of kicking.

"The power part of kicking is the leg whip, the quicker the leg goes through the ball, the more power there is. The arms act as a balance and keep your power concentrated on one point. Confidence also plays a big part. The coaches help my confidence alot. They come by during practice and on the sidelines and give me encouragement."

Although Ritter is just entering his junior year, it's likely that the NFL is just around the corner.

"Dallas is the team I would like to play for, but if I was picked by someone else I would go, because it's a once in a lifetime chance."

"A pro scout told me I'd better leave some time to learn how to kick off the ground, because so many kickers going into the pros are used to the tee and do not know how to kick off the ground. I learned how to kick off the ground."

While Ritter handles the place-kicking chores, John Isley is State's punter, in addition to being a backup quarterback to Scott Smith.

Last season Isley averaged 36.9 yards a punt and was 12 of 34 with three interceptions at quarterback. In the spring, Isley

plays first base for the Wolfpack baseball team. He was the team's second leading hitter at .324 and set a new school record for doubles with 15 last year.

Isley was recruited by former State head coach Lou Holtz as a quarterback and one of the reasons he chose State was so he could play both football and baseball.

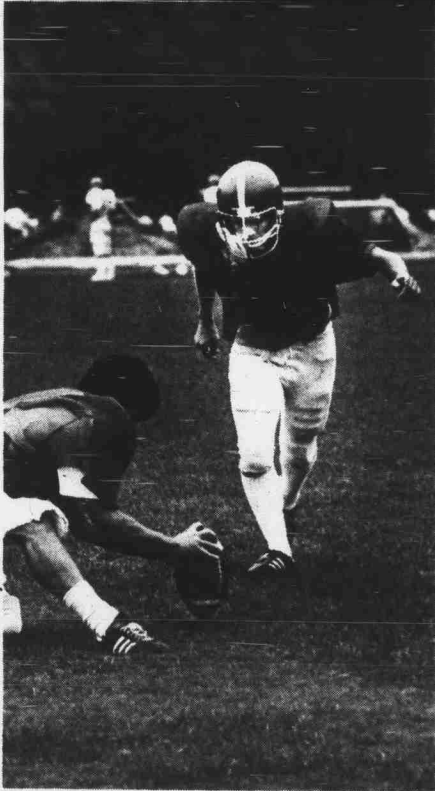
"I was a big Carolina fan before Lou Holtz started recruiting me. The main reason I came was the flexibility between football and baseball. I really didn't want to sacrifice one or another. It was understood before I came that I would play both," Isley explained.

The 6-6 senior gives a lot of credit to coach Greg Williams for such a good pre-season.

"Coach Williams—I cannot begin to give him enough credit," Isley said. "He has been unbelievable. About 30 minutes before practice he tapes my kicking on the video-camera. He charts it and then that night we watch it and make corrections. I can't tell you how much it has helped."

Out of Wilmington, the 218-pound Isley is hoping for an improved year as a punter.

"Kicking is so much mental. Last year I was sick before the Syracuse game and that Saturday I dropped a couple of snaps, and after that my confidence was shaken. Things went up after the West Virginia game, and I finished the season on a pretty good note. I hope to pick things up from there this season. I will pick things up, you have to think positive."



Junior Nathan Ritter is back as the Wolfpack's place-kicker. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

"I'm looking for at least 40 yards a punt. Also, I'd like to be part of a good kicking team, and I'll do anything I can to make it better."

"In your senior year you are

set apart from the rest of the team and looked at special in the coach's eye. I want to help the freshmen learn the ropes. You could say I want to go out in style."

"You design'em, We build'em."



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Technician Football Special is  
published once a year by the  
Technician, the student  
newspaper of N.C. State University.  
Printed by Hinton Press, Inc.  
of Mebane, N.C.

# Ted's old spot: still up for grabs

by Gary Haaranen  
Sports Writer

The household name is no longer in the household.

To say that Ted Brown is gone is to de-emphasize exactly what his departure will mean to State, for it is something like saying to an NBC executive, "Johnny Carson is gone."

For four years, No. 23 was the "Johnny Carson" of the Wolfpack's offensive thrust. In his final season of last year, amid all the distracting Heisman Trophy hoopla, he accounted for 1,490 of State's 3,615 total yards.

The question posed to offensive backfield coach Darrell Moody was not, "How do you replace Ted Brown?" because you simply cannot replace 41 percent of the offense in one season, but, "How will the offense change without him?"

"Well, we did a lot of things around Ted," Moody said. "But now we expect to throw the football better. Scott's (Smith) arm is stronger, he reads the defense better, and I think he has more confidence this year."

"We have four or five backs, maybe as many as six, who could work for us right now. They are Dwight Sullivan, Rickey Adams, Wayne McLean, Billy Ray Vickers, Andre Marks and Chuckie Canady."

"Now all of them are good foot-

ball players. Some are better inside, some are better outside. All six of them are of a caliber that we've played with before; they're all basically the same size, and they're all good swift-back runners."

"With several runners we will not have to build around one," Moody said. "And we will have a lot more control passes because we have some very good receivers."

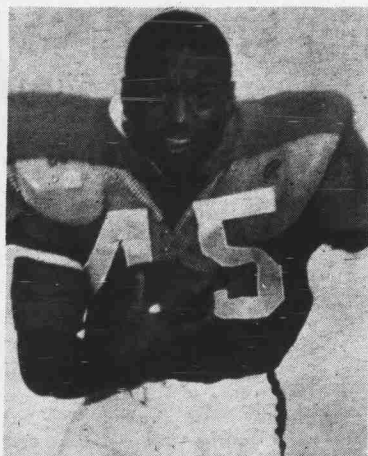
The key change, then, appears to be the increased importance of the pass in the Wolfpack arsenal. Of all phases of State's offense last year, only the passing was suspect. In eight of the eleven games, including all of the last seven, opposing teams passed for more yardage.

The belief, however, is not that the passing was weak, it was merely untested. State's corps of receivers could be one of the ACC's finest, and they are certain to get their chance to prove it. But how does the offense shape up according to quarterback Scott Smith?

"We'll put it in the air more," Smith said. "But I think with the people we have up front, we'll go ahead and hit it up the middle, a lot like we did last year."

Smith was asked just how often he plans on passing.

"If I had to put a figure on it, I'd say we'll pass 150-175 times this year. I don't think we'll be



Will it be Rickey Adams (left) or Dwight Sullivan (right) starting in Ted Brown's old spot? No one knew as of Wednesday night.

passing 200 times. I think we'll be sticking with the running game off the line to get yards up the middle.

"With our running backs now, we have two or three big play people," Smith said. "And Billy

Ray (Vickers) is back, so we'll have his consistent play."

Laboring in the shadow of Brown last year, Vickers accumulated 600 yards in averaging 4.2 per carry. Vickers' workmanlike consistency prevented defenses from isolating completely on Brown, but more importantly, he would get the grueling yards inside when they were needed. An extremely talented runner in his own right, Vickers was vital to the team's success. He will be more so this year.

"I think we'll have more passing this year," Vickers said. "But I think our running will be as strong as it was last year."

"You know, it's hard to say whether it'll be stronger. I think we'll play six backs, and this will work out good for us because it will give all of us a little more energy to play."

"I know last year I played the whole game, but with Andre Marks and Chuckie Canady coming in, I can still carry the ball maybe 15 or 20 times a game and play with that much more energy. This will help everybody out."

Vickers noted how easy it was for defenses to key on one back, but said, "With our backs, defenses will have to split up the duties."

"Last year we looked to Ted to get the job done, to make the big plays," Vickers said. "This year there are no superstars, so we will have to pull together."

Alongside Vickers, Rein may want to try either Sullivan or Adams. Described by Moody as "one of our offensive leaders," Adams is a three-year letterman playing in his final year, and at 6-1, 200 pounds, he could team with Vickers to give the backfield a physically formidable look. Sullivan has been impressive in pre-season drills; with his quickness and his size (5-10), he reminds one of "you-know-who."

Should the run falter, Rein may want to employ the pass-catching ability and open-field speed of McLean. Citing the increased emphasis on the pass, McLean thinks he might find a lot of footballs thrown his way.

"As a runner, I'm not saying I could be better than Ted Brown at receiving, just that I am more suited for being a receiver than was," McLean said. "You know, he was a great receiver, but he was a lot smaller. At 6-2 I'm a bigger target, and with a lot of short passes, being taller, I can really help the quarterback."

"In the open field I could run pretty fast, and if I'm going one-on-one with a defensive back, I like that situation because I can beat him 90 percent of the time. I run a four-five (4.5) 40, so I think I am best when I'm in the open field."

"I think our passing will be more important," McLean said. "We have the same offense that won nine games last year, and if we improve our record it'll probably be because we improved our passing."

Because the full range of talent of Vickers, Marks, Canady, Adams, Sullivan and McLean will best be received in game situations, it is unfair to them to speculate, who will start tomorrow night against East Carolina.

"We'll just have to wait and see how it goes," was the way QB Smith put it. "I've seen them in practice, and I know what they can do."

"One will show brilliancy one day while another will show brilliancy on another day," Moody said. "We're just looking for that consistency."

Should Moody and head coach Bo Rein find the successful combinations of brilliancy and consistency, there may be six more household names in Wolfpack Country.



Fullback Billy Ray Vickers can move right behind Ted Brown on State's all-time rushing list with a 1,000-yard season. (Staff photo by Gene Dees)

# 'Cup' heads State's line

by Stu Hall  
and  
Clay Perrey  
Sports Writers

There is a single space on the football field where many coaches say the outcome of the game is decided. It's called the trenches.

It's right up front where two feet separate the irresistible force and the immovable objects.

At the completion of each play they push the cleats out of their faces, uncoil their legs from beneath 600 pounds of flesh and hustle back to the huddle where they hear how to line up and do it over again.

On the defensive side of that trench for State this fall will be Simon Gup-ton and Brian O'Doherty at the tackles and John Stanton anchoring the middle guard position. Seeing a great deal of playing time will be Bubba Green, also at tackle, and at this point, four talented athletes are vying for the two outside linebacker positions.

"I feel like I've got four starters to fill the right tackle, left tackle, and middle guard spots," defensive line coach Bobby Morrison said.

Leading the forces will be Gup-ton, an All-ACC performer last year.

"We've been playing together for three years," Gup-ton said. "Everyone knows what everyone else can do and all that remains is for each one of us to do our job."

"It's so easy now to work hard. We've all been around three years and we can't work hard enough. When I was a freshman the practices were rough, they were tough to go through. But now everyone works harder than

ever on their own, cause they want to."

The 6-1, 260-pound senior was the fourth leading tackler last season with 90. He also led the team in most tackles for a loss with eight.

"I love to hit," he said. "I played offensive line in high school, but man, you just don't hit there like you can on defense."

Stanton, returning for his second year as the starting middle guard, is the leading tackler returning from last year's squad with 115 to his credit. The Had-donfield, N.J. resident was the defensive player of the game in last year's Tangerine Bowl.

"I'm trying to work hard for the best team I think we've ever had," Stanton said. "A lot has been said about this year's team."

O'Doherty is also a returning starter.

O'D, as he is known to his friends, has started the last 18 games in a row for the Wolf-pack. A broken foot didn't even stop him from playing for the junior varsity in his freshman year. In those 18 games O'Doherty has amassed a total of 104 tackles.

Handling one of the outside linebacker positions will be Joe Hannah.

"Joe is one of the most gifted athletes we have," said outside linebacker coach Bishop Harris. "At this point he is one of the finest linebackers in the country. We wouldn't trade him for anything."

"We hope he can stay healthy for 12 games. He has great football sense and he strives for excellence in every phase of the game."

There is a battle for the other

outside linebacker position. David Horning and James Butler are the two candidates.

Horning has the inside track because of his experience. Butler missed spring practice due to a lower leg injury.

Harris is still trying to sort the situation out.

"Horning has shown great improvement over last year," Harris said. "He is a different type of player also. He's heady, a lot more comfortable with himself. He is the type of player you like to coach, good size, speed, and intelligence."

"Butler works hard, he's a helluva player. He is aggressive and if he has a weakness it would have to be that he is over-aggressive, if that's a weakness."

The two players have great respect for each other.

"Horning is a good athlete, the best man will win, but it's all for the team. We'll get the job done," Butler said.

"We're both going to be playing. It's like a chain between Hannah, Butler, and me," Horning said. "We have three starters at two positions."

"I hope we all stay healthy this season because we don't have the depth that we had last year. There are no hard feelings between the two of us, we're trying to help each other."

Ricky Etheridge and David Shelton give Harris some depth in the linebacking corps.

"Both David and Ricky are solid football players, and are making excellent strides to being the kind of outside linebackers we want," Harris said. "You can say this about them—we will have no reservations about playing them in a game."



State's defensive line is led by senior All-ACC tackle Simon Gup-ton. (Staff photo by Steve Wilson)

## Nall, Lee, LeGrande join Wilson in veteran secondary

(Continued from page 2)

get on a Saturday afternoon. You come back after the game and sit in your chair and say I did this and that good, and that bad, and I'll do better next week.

"Sometimes you get hurt, and it doesn't feel good," he said. "But nine out of 10 times, if you hit right and with a lot of force—it feels pretty good. I like being able to give them a good shot."

And when the game is over, and it's been a good one, he looks forward to what he calls a "football high."

"My helmet's been tight. I take it off—and I'm tired, and I'm beat—but I feel good."

\*\*\*\*

Williams calls him the gambler of the secondary. But cornerback Ronnie Lee's the lucky kind of gambler—the kind that never seems to lose a wager.

"He's seldom out of position," Williams said. "He'll gamble to get the ball and 99 percent of the time, he'll get it. Most of the time he'll be covering their best receiver. He has a knack for knowing who's going to get the ball."

"He doesn't even know he's going to get it. He's like a center fielder. Just before a hit, he'll start moving. He has a natural feeling for who will get the ball."

Football seems to be instinctive to the 5-10, 177-pound junior from Garner.

"I've always enjoyed sports. When I was small, I used to play with older guys. After school they'd come over to my house. The older guys took me under their wing," Lee said. "They made me feel important."

He spent all of his free time playing sports, and he did well, compensating for a lack of size with great quickness.

"I was small for a while. I didn't start growing until the eighth grade."

After a somewhat frustrating experience with football in the ninth grade, Lee didn't put forth a total effort at the beginning of the 10th grade.

"I sat on the bench two games and then said, 'What am I doing here? I decided to do my best.'"

With encouragement from his high school coach, Lee thought about the possibility of a scholarship and began to consider State.

"I had a lot of friends (in Garner), and I didn't want to go

far away. If I want to be alone, I can stay at the (College) Inn," Lee said, "and I can go home if I want to see friends."

To Lee, football has been more than exercise and glory. He has been impressed with the men who have worked with him.

"I think about what I'm going to do in the future. The two people who made big impressions on me were coaches."

"My high school coach didn't worry about too many things. He doesn't have too much money, but he doesn't have problems. I want to help people like he helped me."

He's majoring in vocational industrial education and thinks he may eventually want to be a coach or a teacher. He doesn't like the idea of an eight to five job.

But right now, he enjoys playing football and being with his friends.

"Something doesn't have to be happening all the time for me to be happy," Lee said. "All I need is peace of mind."

\*\*\*\*

Donnie LeGrande says he has two different personalities—one on the field and one off the field.

Off the field, "somebody has to do something terrible to make me mad."

On the field, "I love to go out there and hit them," he said. "I'm not thinking about anything but doing my job."

"It makes you feel good playing in front of all those people. The hand playing tops it off. It makes you feel real good. You just want to go out there and hit somebody."

His record confirms that he loves what he does, and he does it well. He was the top tackler in the secondary a year ago with a total of 80.

"He can avoid blockers. It's hard for people to block him because of his quickness," Williams said. "One second he's there. The next second, he jumps around."

LeGrande had little trouble fitting into State's program. He really wanted to play, and he did his best, he said. His sophomore year, he became a starting cornerback.

"I just fell into the program. I didn't get shaky," he said. "I felt natural."

"It's an adventure in the ACC. It was like a fantasy to come to

college and play football. It came upon me so fast, it stunned me."

His hobbies and relaxation include other sports. He doesn't tire of them easily.

He could play pool 24 hours a day, he said, especially with someone who wants to learn.

When he's not playing pool—he's relaxing in the pool. He's only recently learned to swim and derives great pleasure from turning flips off the high board.

"I never land flat on my back. I just turn enough flips, I guess. At first, I couldn't swim. Now I swim like a fish. When I get free time, I might go take a dip."

He, like the others, wouldn't mind at all making football a career. But LeGrande is keeping other options in mind.

He's been to officers training camp at Ft. Bragg and to airborne school in Fort Benning, Ga. He had combat training and has jumped from both a prop plane and a jet.

He's in ROTC and could be commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation if he chooses to further a career in the service.

"You shouldn't depend on football just because you play it."

# Predictions, taking them one at a time

by Bryan Black  
Sports Editor

Bo Rein calls the Wolfpack's schedule this year the "toughest ever."

The only difference between this year's slate and last season's is that Auburn has replaced Syracuse. But looking through the schedule, with the football tradition each team has, one would have to agree with Rein. The thing Rein points out which really makes his case, is the fact that every team has improved—the pushovers are no longer pushovers.

Here's a breakdown of what one might expect to see as State's schedule unfolds:

## EAST CAROLINA, home

While State will be favored, the Pirates are as good as a bet to send Wolfpack fans home in tears as any team on the schedule. ECU battered Western Carolina last Saturday 31-6, unleashing a vicious offensive attack which piled up 514 yards in total offense.

This is a contest State's coaching staff is extremely wary about. The Pirates have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Last year, the Pack took ECU 29-13 on opening day. The year before, the bunch from Greenville soured State's opener by knocking off the Wolfpack, 28-23.

Rein is afraid of a similar thing happening.

"Emotionally, this game is hard to match," he said. "We have every reason to expect they'll play their best game of the season against us."

The Pirates are also coming off a bowl game victory, a 35-13 belting of Louisiana Tech in the Independence Bowl.

For State, this game has to be ideal to open the season with. There's no question it will be a close one, and it shouldn't give the Pack any false impressions about just how good its team may be. The pick here sees the Wolfpack as a slight favorite, certainly not more than a touchdown and a field goal.

## VIRGINIA, home

What a scare the Cavaliers gave State in Charlottesville last season. Had it not been for Curtis Rein's 50-yard punt return for a game-winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter, the Wolfpack would have been embarrassed by what most people classified as a weak Virginia club.

This year, the Cavaliers are not weak. They're not going to challenge for the ACC title, but they could decide who wins it by providing the season with a few upsets. A significant number of starters are back, 16 of 22, and Virginia has to rank as a sure bet to top last year's 9-9 mark.

The thing that will probably go the longest way in deciding just how much improved the Cavs will be is the development of sophomore quarterback Todd Kirtley. If Kirtley is able to give Virginia's offense any semblance

of consistency, something Virginia has not had for many a year, the Cavaliers may surprise a lot of people.

However, when Virginia lines up against State, it should take a superb effort from the Wahoes if they expect to stay close. After last year's narrow 24-21 escape, the Wolfpack will want to send Virginia's back to mediocrity. Also, this game will be State's first game within the conference—don't look for Virginia to come within 17 points of the Wolfpack in this one.

## WEST VIRGINIA, away

There's no question West Virginia will be vastly improved over last year, a season in which the Mountaineers finished a miserable 2-9. West Virginia is a school rich in football tradition, and if head coach Frank Cignetti doesn't take his club to a winning season, his job is as good as gone.

The Mountaineers should be able to give Cignetti the type of season he needs to keep the job, as they return 18 of 22 starters, including junior quarterback Dutch Hoffman, a pro-style passer who threw for nine touchdowns and nearly 1,500 yards last year.

This game will be State's first out of Carter Stadium, which will make it all the tougher. However, if nothing goes wrong with the Wolfpack offense in this one, it should mean victory No. 3 for State.

## WAKE FOREST, home

If the Wolfpack has anything close to a breather in its schedule, this just might be it. However, like everyone else, the Deacons should surely improve over last year. Wake Forest has posted 1-10 records each of the past two years, and it's just as possible the same thing could happen this season. Those last two sentences seem like contradictions, but the fact of the matter is that the Deacs should be a better ballclub than last year.

But Wake will have trouble bettering its record simply because of the schedule it plays. Nonetheless, with 17 of 22 starters back, the Demon Deacons could pull off some upsets.

Last season, State walloped Wake 34-10 in Winston-Salem. In Carter Stadium this year, it could be even worse.

## AUBURN, away

State may be able to breathe against Wake Forest, but Auburn will be no place for fresh air for the Wolfpack. State went down there two years ago and came away with a 17-15 victory, and the Tigers will undoubtedly want to even the series.

Auburn has 16 of 22 starters back. But that could be offset by the fact that the War Eagles have six of those starters go through surgery in the off-season. What can't be offset is Auburn's running backs, who could prove to give State its toughest test at

stopping a team that likes to get outside.

Those backs are senior Joe Cribbs and junior James Brooks. Cribbs rushed for 1,252 yards last year while playing in just 10 games. He also scored 16 touchdowns and set Auburn's single-game rushing record with 250 yards against Georgia.

That record had been held by Brooks, who got 226 yards against Kansas State in the season opener, the game Cribbs missed. In fact, Cribbs didn't start until the fifth game while Brooks led the nation in rushing through the Tigers' first three games before breaking his foot in the fourth game.

The Wolfpack will have to feel very good if it is able to win this one, even if it only duplicates the two-point win of a couple of years ago. State will probably go into this game the favorite, but Auburn's at home. The odds are high the War Eagles will upset the Pack, putting State's record at 4-1 to this point.

## MARYLAND, home

If State does lose to Auburn, the Terrapins might just take a severe beating. Last year, the Terps zapped State 31-7 in College Park and couple that with a loss to Auburn, and Maryland could be in for a long afternoon.

Maryland used to be known as the perennial powerhouse of the ACC, but the Terrapins truly embarrased the conference by being blasted 42-0 by Texas in the Sun Bowl last year.

The Terrapins return just 11 starters from last year's team and nearly all of those are on defense. Thus, Maryland's strength will lie with its defense, and if the Terps fail to come together offensively, the team could be in for its worst season in a while.

Maryland's offense was dealt a further blow when expected starting tailback George Scott was dismissed from the team early during fall practice. Scott was a proven performer, having had several 100-yard games when the since departed Steve Atkins was sitting out with injuries, which was often.

Without Scott, Maryland can only rely on 6-7 quarterback Mike Tice, and Tice is coming off a shoulder injury. If he goes out with an injury, Maryland is so thin that a walk-on freshman quarterback could end up seeing some action.

With this one at Carter Stadium, the Wolfpack will win.

## NORTH CAROLINA, home

The fact that the big rivalry is being played at Carter Stadium means about as much as a penny to a billionaire. State won at Kenan Stadium last year, while the Heels topped State in Raleigh the year before.

The point is, all the records can be thrown out for this one. Dick Crum's crew wants badly to erase all memories of the coach's first year in Chapel Hill when the

Tar Heels finished an abysmal 5-6.

And there's hardly a chance Carolina will come close to the season it had last year. There are some who feel if State doesn't win the ACC, Carolina will be the conference champ. Undoubtedly, if the Pack loses a game in the league this year, this one will probably be it.

While only returning 11 starters, the Heels boast a highly explosive offense with Matt Kupec at quarterback and Amos Lawrence at tailback. The development of the defense will be UNC's key to success, as only four starters are back.

This one may be a home game for State, but at this point, there's no conceivable way to even guess who might win it.

## CLEMSON, away

At this stage of the season, the Pack should have a few injuries. State will have played three top-flight teams in a row and then must travel to Death Valley.

However, Clemson, who was clearly the class of the ACC last year, is right at the top of State's list as far as revenge is concerned. The Tigers pounded and humiliated the Wolfpack at Carter Stadium last year, 38-10.

This retaliation, along with the fact that Clemson has only seven of 22 starters back, should make State a slight favorite in this game even though the Tigs are at home—and winning at Death Valley for the visiting team is quite an accomplishment.

Although Clemson lost the likes of superstars Steve Fuller and Jerry Butler, the Tigers will still contend for the ACC crown. Two Brownes, Lester and Bubba, should provide leadership for the Tigs on both sides of the ball.

The Wolfpack knows these two fellows well. Tailback Lester Brown got 117 yards last year at Carter Stadium, while linebacker Bubba Brown had such an outstanding game that *Sports Illustrated* named him the defensive player of the week among all players in the nation for his work against the Pack.

Clemson will make four tough ones in a row for State, but again, the Wolfpack should come out on top.

## SOUTH CAROLINA, away

This is it. The Wolfpack must win this game if the season is to be truly successful and if the big bowls are going to look in State's direction.

The Gamecocks are expecting outstanding things this year, and some pre-season polls have ranked USC ahead of State nationally. The reason for all of the optimism in Columbia is because 18 of 22 starters are back from last year.

What the Gamecocks are shooting for is the best season in the school's history, a history which shows USC not winning eight games in a season since 1903.

Last season, South Carolina was 5-5-1, the worst season Jim Carlen has had there since

becoming head coach. There's nary a chance that the Gamecocks won't better last season's mark.

Since this is an away game for State, South Carolina will probably be favored by a field goal.

## PENN STATE, home

If the Wolfpack isn't tired by now, the team must surely be getting charged up by the nuclear engineering department. This will mark six straight games against top quality opponents, and this one is the pinnacle.

*The Sporting News* ranks Penn State sixth in the nation in the pre-season, and absolutely no one is willing to place the Nittany Lions out of the top 10, even though only nine starters are back from last year's 11-1 team.

The reason everyone thinks so highly of the Lions is simple. Penn State is Penn State, and Penn State always plays football as well as anyone in the country. Joe Paterno is the epitome of college football coaches. It's as simple as that.

The loss of two defensive secondary starters—Karl McCoy and Pete Harris—to academic problems will be something Paterno will have to sort out. But with people like Larry Kubin, Bruce Clark, Matt Millen and Lance Mehl back on defense, Paterno shouldn't bother losing sleep over the situation.

The Wolfpack will have to play its best game of the year to win this one, but it is possible. However, the pick here sees Penn State topping the Pack in Carter Stadium by a touchdown.

## DUKE, away

After what the Pack will have gone through the previous six weeks, Duke will look like a pushover. However, if State approaches its final regular season game in that manner, or anything resembling the Virginia game of last year, the Blue Devils will surely poison any victory fruits the Pack may have reaped at this point.

Under new coach Red Wilson, the Devils are hoping to return to the ways of the late 50's and early 60's when they were regulars in the Orange and Cotton Bowls with players like Sonny Jurgensen leading the way. What Duke doesn't want are any more teams like it has had the past four years. 1974 was the last time Duke had a winning season, and last year the Devils wound up 4-7.

Some see Duke as so greatly improved over last year that they warrant votes to be in the nation's top 20. That seems highly speculative, but coaches around the ACC are hoping their teams don't take Duke lightly.

The Devils have 11 of 22 starters back, and when considered against last year, their season should be a fine one. However, with no letdown, State should handle Duke by at least two touchdowns.