

Technician

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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1993 Football Preview

"I love responsibility ... I like having to having to make decisions. I've never asked why I've taken [the job]. I don't care how bad we get or how good it gets, I'll never look back and wonder why."



Offense:

Ledel George will offer the Wolfpack versatility after losing running backs Anthony Barbour and Greg Manior.

Defense:

Dewayne Washington, the only returning starter in the secondary, will lead a depleted defense.

A word from the Editor

This is only the second football preview done by Technician in about 10 years. And that is the first stat, fact or figure you'll find in these 12 pages.

But, features on new coach Mike O'Cain, players and position analysis are included in this preview of the new season. I hope it will act as a guide throughout the year, while you are following the Wolfpack.

Because of the transitions and obstacles ahead of the 1993 N.C. State football team, I'm anxious to finally get this season underway. And I know you are too.

The Wolfpack have six home games, and I hope you'll be able to attend them all. And with two away games in North Carolina, this season could be as enjoyable for State fans as it will be for the players.

This preview would not be possible if it wasn't for a number of

extremely dedicated and slightly deranged people.

First, I want to thank my assistant editor Owen S. Good for editing and writing plenty of text. Copy editor Puan Wallace also spent long hours in front of a mesmerizing computer screen. The rest of my committed staff includes Jeff Drew, Jennifer Bouck, Clay Best, Josh Durham and Paul Grant. Thanks, guys.

But the strangest exhibits of resolve belong to layout/design artist Colin Boatwright and graphic assault technician Hunter Morris. If I have left anyone out, please forgive me.

I also appreciate Liz Mahncke's work on the cover photo on such short notice.



Kevin Brewer
Sports Editor

KEY

Yr-Year; Att-Attempts; Comp-Completions; %-completion percentage; Yds-Yards; Tds-Touchdowns; Int-Interceptions; Avg-Average; Lg-Longest run or catch; Rec-Receptions; Pos-Position; Tkl-Tackles; UT-Unassisted tackles; AT-Assisted tackles; TFL-Tackles for loss; PK-Placekicker; P-Punter; LS-Long snapper

Technician

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On the Cover

Coach Mike O'Cain speaks at
Meet the Pack Day.

PHOTO BY LIZ MAHNCKE

O'Cain is ready for new experience

■ As a quarterback, Mike O'Cain learned to accept responsibility and be a leader. He will need both those traits now more than ever as he takes over a top 25 football team.

By OWEN S. GOOD
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The head coach's office, like the rest of the renovated Weiseger-Brown Athletic Facility, is still incomplete, still in transition.

New N.C. State football Mike O'Cain has not fully set up shop yet. The family photos, playbooks, schedules — the things that represent what's really important to O'Cain — are in place. But the walls are barren, two chairs substitute for an interview couch and, for the most part, the office lacks the decoration of a veteran coach's headquarters.

"It's kind of a fitting way to bring in a new program, bringing in new facilities," senior defensive lineman John Akins said.

It's also a fitting representation of the legacy Dick Sheridan left for State's football program. Sheridan's successes — five consecutive bowl games, two national nine-win seasons and second-place conference finishes — helped to bring the athletic facilities up to the level of a top 25 program. Now, it will be O'Cain's responsibility to keep the football program at a level deserving of top 25 facilities.

O'Cain welcomes the challenge.

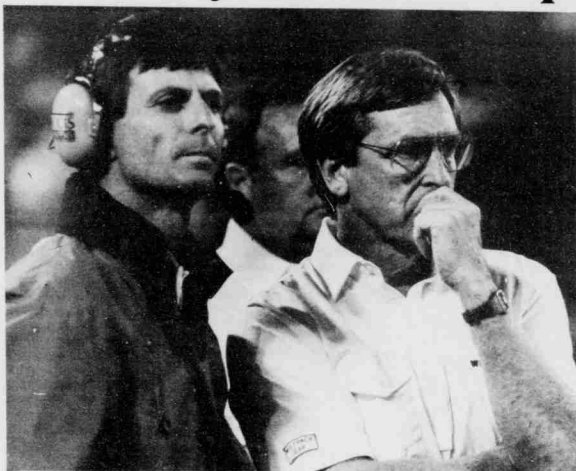
"I love responsibility... I like having to having to make decisions," O'Cain said. "I've never asked why I've taken [the job]. I don't care how bad we get or how good it gets, I'll never look back and wonder why."

And some may think that's easy for him to say now, seeing as how the Wolfpack has yet to play its first game, but O'Cain's career in football has been a study in accepting the challenges of leadership and responsibility.

For example, at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, O'Cain, under Sheridan in Sheridan's first coaching job, went from a self-described "very immature, very naive" individual with "very little self-esteem" that wanted to play wide receiver to a self-confident quarterback — a leader on and off the field.

"Being a quarterback probably helped me mature quickly because of being thrust into a leadership position," O'Cain said.

That role as a quarterback — a job that included all-state and all-American accolades in high school as well as a career as



New N.C. State coach Mike O'Cain (left) will follow in the tradition of Dick Sheridan (right).

Clemson's 10th-most efficient passer — and as a coach of quarterbacks has acclimated him to the accountability he will hold as head coach.

"Quarterbacks receive a lot more of the credit than they deserve, and a lot more of the blame than they deserve," O'Cain said. "I've been in that position ever since I've played the game."

Leadership styles differ from head coach to head coach. Some are disciplinarians; others are laid back. Some are social; others very private. His head coaching identity only eight weeks old, O'Cain appears for now to fall in between.

For starters, some players are sporting mustaches and wearing black shoes — both no-nos under Sheridan. O'Cain didn't feel it was important to put a ban on those things and stressed other aspects of his team.

"Things that I feel like are very important were still intact: strong discipline, neatness, respect, presenting the right image, playing the game way it was meant to be played on the field," O'Cain listed.

Another difference between the two is O'Cain's relationship to the players, according to Akins.

"[Sheridan] had such respect among the community and in the world of athletics, but he was also scary in the fact he was inaccessible," Akins said.

Accessibility — to players, administration, alumni, even fans — is "tremendously important" O'Cain said.

"If [the players] cannot come

and talk with me or don't, at least, feel like they can talk to me. I don't think they can feel that I really care," O'Cain said. "If they don't feel like I care for them, then some of the decisions I have to make in this position will be questioned by the individuals."

That kind of an approach is also helpful to a first-year head coach.

"For me to step in here and say I have all the answers to everything, I can't do that," O'Cain said. "Now whether I agree or disagree, I've got to make that decision, but at least I am getting all the input and all the feedback I need and I can make a better decision."

Sheridan has not been giving much feedback to O'Cain, and it appears both want it that way.

"I think he obviously feels that it's important that he stays away," O'Cain said. "He feels very sensitive to the fact that if he's over here every day, a lot of people will say, 'Mike's just a figurehead.' [Sheridan is] still running the program."

"I have to make certain decisions based on my own instincts, my feelings, therefore I can't go running to him every time something arises," O'Cain added. "For me to grow and be useful and become as good a head coach as I can, I have to make decisions on my own."

So far nothing has gone predictably for O'Cain.

"I'm not sure if I knew exactly what to expect," O'Cain said.

And although he couldn't predict how the change in head

coaches would go, the transition developed into a pleasant surprise.

"I don't think the transition could have gone any smoother," O'Cain said. "Now we must continue it on into the season."

Sheridan spoke at a team meeting Aug. 31, but has not had any contact since, O'Cain said. That could change once the team gets into the season.

"I may call him just to talk football," O'Cain said. "We may have a sticking point and he may be able to come in and say, 'Well, you could do this and this and this.'"

What makes Sheridan's departure not a program-wrecking loss is the fact that the assistant coaching staff remains intact. The hierarchical nature of football programs, as Akins pointed out about accessibility, means that players have more contact with position coaches than the head coach. That is very important.

"If they brought in a new staff and got rid of [defensive line] Coach Snipes, I wouldn't have played," Akins said. "It's good he kept the program intact. There's nothing negative about that."

O'Cain said the coaching staff made decisions to return individually, but many replied at the same time. Others were away when he was named head coach, and O'Cain had to wait.

"There were three or four on vacation. Snipes, [outside linebacker coach] Kent Briggs, [defensive coordinator] Buddy Green. He decided he would stay

on after about three or four days," O'Cain said. "But everybody else, as soon as they knew I wanted them, they wanted to stay."

Green's waiting period caused ripples, mostly among the media, because Green was considered to be close in line to the head coaching job, and being picked over might cause him to look elsewhere. O'Cain did not have large doubts about Green's return.

"I guess you always have little inclinations. Maybe part of it was timing, that they really couldn't afford to leave," O'Cain speculated.

With the coaching staff in place, Sheridan's system also remains intact. Therefore, Wolfpack fans will not be seeing a radically different team this season other than the fact O'Cain may open up the offensive game plan a little.

And the team's identity, the one thing the team can least afford to change, remains the same. O'Cain stresses emphatically the things he wants himself and his team to stand for.

"Respect — that our young men respect everyone they come in contact with. And also sportsmanship. We play the game the way it's meant to be played. Hard, tough, within the guidelines. We don't do a lot of antics, none of that crap that goes on. I want them to present the right image of North Carolina State University," O'Cain said.

That image. Whether it's labeled the Sheridan image, the O'Cain image or some other image, O'Cain wants the team to emulate it. Keep it consistent. He's even doing his part — just a little, even though all acknowledge he is, personality-wise, a far different coach than Sheridan.

When asked why he thought he got the job, O'Cain said smiling, "I have a few ideas, but I'm not going to say them."

Said with the characteristic privacy of a certain former football coach.

THE O'CAIN FILE

- 1986-93 Quarterback Coach for N.C. State under Dick Sheridan
- 1985 Assistant and quarterback coach for East Carolina under Art Baker
- 1981-84 Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator at Murray State
- 1978-80 Offensive Backfield coach for The Citadel
- 1977 Graduate Assistant at Clemson

Transition won't hurt improvement

■ Even though last year's team tied the school record for wins, head coach Mike O'Cain says the Wolfpack is looking to — and can — improve.

By JENNIFER BOUCK
Senior Staff Writer

Not only did the N.C. State football team lose 15 starters from the 1992 season, but it also lost the support of its head coach Dick Sheridan. But new head man Mike O'Cain is ready to barrel ahead into the 1993 season and improve on the Pack's 9-3-1 record from 1992.

"I am very optimistic about the season," O'Cain said. "I can't say how many games we are going to win, but we have a chance for a very good team. There has been a tremendous attitude up to this point with all the young men working very hard."

But a coaching change can frequently present problems to any team. Yet, O'Cain is confident in the transition.

"I think the biggest obstacle the team will have to overcome is not really adjusting to a new system, but instead the personality of a new head coach," O'Cain said. "But this really could be a plus instead of an obstacle. It

may come very easily from the team standpoint."

Adjustment aside, the Pack returns almost half of its starters from one of its most successful seasons, that included a postseason bowl trip and tied the school record for the most wins. But O'Cain is already looking to improve on last season.

"We were pretty good last year," O'Cain said. "We need to look into more consistency in the field goal area. Also, offensively we have got to continue to be able to run the football effectively. Defensively, we don't need to do so much improving, but we have to have young men taking the six starting places and performing well."

"Finally, we have had the opportunity in the past two years to be a top-10 football team. We have to take advantage if the opportunity arises."

One way the team can propel itself toward the top 10 is through the support of the offensive line. With four of five starters returning, the group will play an important role in the success of the offense.

"This is the first time since I have been here where we have really good depth on the offensive line," O'Cain said. "In the past we had only six to eight players capable of starting; now we are looking at 10 to 13 play-

ers that can contribute.

"On the defense, we have tradition. We have always had a strong tradition of playing fantastic defense in the past five to six years."

But, State will have a battle ahead to replace the entire defensive secondary. And O'Cain is not worried about the skills of prospective players, but rather their limited playing experiences.

"Having to replace our secondary is tough," O'Cain said. "Right now, depth at the line-backer and secondary positions are our main weaknesses. In addition, we didn't punt as well in the spring. We are trying to replace Tim Kilpatrick, which is hard."

And with a number of starters, including Kilpatrick, to be replaced, the coaches are going to have to depend on the leadership of the returning starters.

"With six starters on both sides of the ball, I feel really good about the young men in those positions," O'Cain said. "Also, the replacements have experience playing in back-up roles. The only position we really don't have any one person who has taken charge is the strong safety. A lot of the success of the players will just be a matter of getting more experience."

And, as the season begins, O'Cain said, "I won't look one

1993 N.C. State Football Schedule

Sept. 4	Purdue	7 p.m.
Sept. 11	at Wake Forest	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	North Carolina	12:10 p.m. (TV)
Oct. 2	at Clemson	1 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Texas Tech	7 p.m.*
Oct. 16	vs. Marshall	1 p.m.
Oct. 23	vs. Georgia Tech	12:10 p.m. (TV)
Oct. 30	Virginia	1 p.m.
Nov. 6	at Duke	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	vs. Maryland	12:10 p.m. (TV)
Nov. 20	at Florida State	12:10 p.m. (TV)

*denotes Central Standard Time

day past Sept. 4. It's a very important game in our program in establishing an identity for the team. It will be a tremendous challenge facing Purdue after losing Coach Sheridan. We will just have to prove ourselves."

After the season opener, State will have its share of tough matches. O'Cain expects stiff competition to come from Florida State, North Carolina and Clemson.

"Florida State, according to the experts, is the best in the country," O'Cain said. "But all of the ACC teams are very good. Carolina is always talented, and I expect them to be very good.

And Clemson is always a very strong and tough team."

Despite the tough schedule, O'Cain won't change the team goals. The same goals are held every season in concrete and he won't make an exception to those goals.

"Every year our goal is to win the ACC championship," O'Cain said. "We also want to play in a major bowl game, and there is always the possibility of a national championship. But ultimately, I want our young men to represent N.C. State with class and character, playing with sportsmanship and the way football was meant to be played."

Plenty of depth at QB spot

■ Even though Geoff Bender is, officially, the man calling signals, that doesn't mean he's a sure thing for the season. Back-up Terry Harvey is a potential starter, too.

By JENNIFER BOUCK
Senior Staff Writer

N.C. State quarterback Geoff Bender has been named the official choice to start the season opener against Purdue Saturday.

But with the loss of all-ACC second-team selection Terry Jordan to graduation and given the competition for the starting role, that is only official for now. Because quarterback coach Ted Cain is very confident in the rest of the quarterback corps' abilities.

"Terry Jordan was a very good player and one of the most efficient," Cain said. "But each of our quarterbacks and, whoever turns out to be starter, each of them has their own personalities and they will try to be the best they can be."

"We have always had an outstanding quarterback tradition here at State with the likes of

QUARTERBACKS

Player	Yr	1992 Statistics				
		Yr	Att	Comp %	Yds	Tds Int
Geoff Bender	Jr.	167	76	45.5	949	7 7
Terry Harvey*	So.	72	40	55.6	523	0 0

*1991 statistics

Erik Kramer, who went on to a professional career. Shane Montgomery, Terry Jordan and now whoever comes after him. The competition for the starting role will really be great."

Bender returns with the most playing experience after backing up Jordan for two seasons. In his role, he completed 103 of 210 pass attempts (49 percent) for 1,259 yards, including 10 touchdowns and nine interceptions. In his six starts for the Pack the team had a 4-2 record.

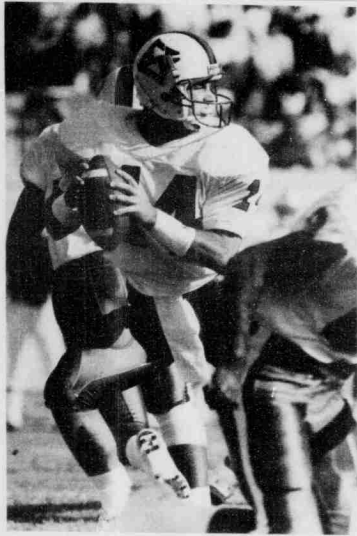
"Geoff is most likely the starter coming out of spring training," Cain said. "He is really a good leader and he knows the offense very well. He has more game experience, throws the ball well, runs the option well and basically plays all phases of the offense very well."

Terry Harvey returns to the team after redshirting his second season with the Pack. He was called into duty as a true fresh-

man in 1991 when Bender was injured in a homecoming loss against Virginia. Harvey then led State to victory in the two games he started by completing 40 of 72 passes (55.6 percent) for 523 yards.

"Terry has outstanding technique and fundamentals," Cain said. "Two years ago, he was probably the most advanced of the true freshman we have ever had. He is a good leader, and he also throws and runs the option well. His two wins against Duke and Maryland really got us into the Peach Bowl that season."

Junior Chuck Browning also has limited experience at quarterback as well as a defensive back for the Wolfpack. In his first two seasons at State, he got some playing time at quarterback, including last year's 48-13 romping of Texas Tech.



State File Photo/Alan Kenson

Quarterback Terry Harvey passed for 523 yards in 1991.

George finds multiple roles

■ Multi-Man Ledel

George will get lots of playing time this year; he fills one offensive role and two special teams positions.

BY OWEN S. GOOD
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The two N.C. State rookies who call home to tell their Mom and Dad they're on the traveling squad can't think Ledel George for saving them a seat.

That doesn't mean he's traveling light. George has packed for three people this season: Ledel the fullback, Ledel the punt returner and Ledel the punter. What the bellhops, bagboys and opposing teams have to deal with now is a solid package about to bust loose.

"Anytime you've got one man who can do four or five different things it helps your travel squad," State head coach Mike O'Cain said. "You've got one person that can do five different things. You've got other people you can take on trips."

George, a senior, was already the Wolfpack's top return man. He's just 27 yards shy of the ACC career record held by Duke's Troy Slade.

And with Anthony Barbour and

Greg Manior vacating the offensive backfield, it was accepted that George would be stepping into a rusher's role with Gary Downs.

But punting?

"Well, I'm trying to help myself out as much as possible with the scouts," George said. "And help the team out."

But this isn't resume padding. The newest feather in George's cap is probably the fletching on an arrow O'Cain plans to shoot at the enemy. Presason rumors have O'Cain liberalizing the overall game plan. George would certainly be a catalyst for special teams trickery.

O'Cain remains poker-faced about any fake-punt schemes.

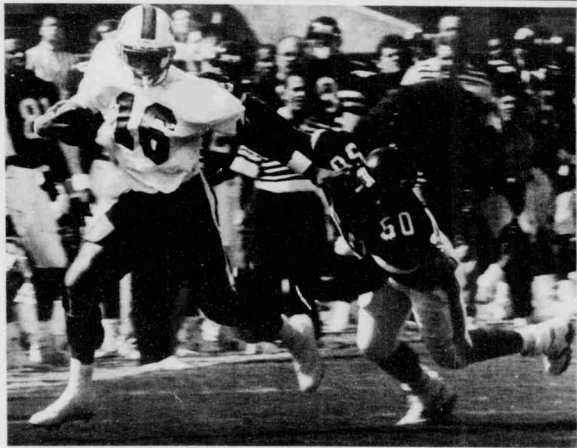
"He does give you the arm strength to let you be able to do some things, and the running ability," O'Cain said casually.

But the main thing is he's got to punt for us."

George thinks the threat of a pass will keep the opposition back.

"I don't think they're scared of me running the ball [in a punt situation]. Throwing the ball, I don't think they're going to rush or try to block [the punt]."

Which would leave him enough time to get a good snap and punt. When he "gets a good one," George claims he can rocket the



STAFF FILE PHOTO/ANGELA PROCTOR

Ledel George will be tearing away from defenders in many different roles.

ball 60 feet.

That's not bad for something George says he hasn't taken seriously since leaving high school.

But with much of the offense's focus on replacing Barbour and Manior's combined 1,838 rushing yards, it's easy to question whether George can or should accept the extra work.

The answer to both is yes. For starters, George filled six roles at Havelock High.

"Quarterback, free safety, punter, punt returner, kickoff guy and kickoff returner," George

listed. "I didn't get off the field."

And O'Cain has cast his vote of confidence.

"If we were playing Purdue today, he'd be our starting punter," O'Cain said at the Wolfpack's Aug. 12 media day. "He's still not where he needs to be in that category, but he's got three weeks to get there."

And a month before his showdown with another multi-faceted offensive back, North Carolina's Mike Thomas, George says he and Thomas, a quarterback and punter, have marked each other

as the man to beat. At least in one department.

"I've talked to him up there, and I've told him it'll be up to me and him this year — ACC punter," George said.

So is there anything bad about having a guy who can help his team out in three ways?

"It hurts you when you've got one person doing three things, and when he goes down you've got [to have] three people to replace him," O'Cain said.

Sorry, rookies. Better hope he stays healthy.

An assortment of backs replace Barbour

■ Ledel George and Gary Downs will provide a new look to an old standby in the Wolfpack offense: the backfield.

BY JOSH DURHAM
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The familiar names of tailback Anthony Barbour and fullback Greg Manior will not be heard on the public address system at Carter-Finley Stadium this year.

Due to graduation, the duo that combined for over 1,800 yards will not be with the N.C. State football team. But the names that will be broadcast, although not familiar faces, should ring a bell with Wolfpack football fans.

Senior Ledel George, renowned for his ability to run, catch, return punts and even throw for touchdowns, is expected to start at the fullback position. And Gary Downs has made great strides to earn the starting tailback job, replacing Barbour. State's third-leading, all-time rusher.

"[Downs] has worked probably as hard as anyone to get himself in the position to have a really good year," State running back coach Dick Portee said.

The 6-foot-2, 212-pound Downs knows the Pack backfield as well as anyone, starting six games as a freshman and playing in 29 during the past three years. After playing back-up to Barbour last season, Downs is ready to make the full-time transition to starter and do things a little differently than his predecessor.

"With Anthony, you give him 12 or 15 carries and he gets the job done for you," Downs said. "I think I need to carry the ball a little bit more. I'm a different type of back. I can take more punishment."

Barbour, considerably smaller than Downs, was known for his ability to dart around ends and make quick cuts. With Downs, it will be more of a power-it-up-the-middle philosophy.

"Since I'm a larger back, I think I can go up the middle more, do more dives and straight inside stuff without fear of get-

ting injured," Downs said.

While Downs is larger than a typical tailback, George is slightly smaller than the average fullback. The 6-foot-1, 211-pound George, who missed four games last season due to injuries is now healthy and confident he and Downs can fill the empty shoes left behind by Manior and Barbour.

"We're both seniors, so we know the offense pretty good," George said. "I think we can fill the spots pretty good."

And there is plenty of additional talent at tailback and fullback to fill any gaps that remain from the losses.

Senior Chris Cotton and junior Dallas Dickerson are eager to lend their services at fullback, both making the shift from other positions. Dickerson makes the move to fullback from tight end, while Cotton is a former middle guard.

"I'm going to try my best to fit in that position," Cotton said. "I'm going to work 100 percent to try to fill that spot as best as I can."

RUNNING BACKS

1992 Statistics

Player	Yr	Att	Yds	Avg	Tds	Lg
Ledel George	Sr.	13	76	5.8	0	19
Gary Downs	Sr.	45	198	4.4	3	18
Brian Fitzgerald	So.	19	63	3.3	0	19

In addition to Cotton and Dickerson, there are seven other fullbacks competing for playing time, an indicator that there is no problem with depth at that position.

"There are nine fullbacks this season," Cotton said. "There's a lot of great players back there."

Depth is not an area of concern for the tailbacks either. Sophomore Brian Fitzgerald and redshirt freshman Kevin Matier are competing for the back-up tailback role. Fitzgerald appeared in five games last season and carried for 63 yards on 19 attempts.

"We've got depth," Matier said. "We've got competition at these positions right now. That's what's going to make us better."

The strength at tailback continues with Carlos King, a freshman from Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia.

"He's going to be a good player," Matier said of King. "I played with him in the Shrine Bowl All-Star Game. He's going to be good."

With everyone seeking to contribute to the Pack's cause in their own way, there will be plenty of excitement for State fans after the Barbour and Manior years. But just don't look for the tailbacks to speed around the ends like Barbour did.

"It's a whole different type of football as far as tailback is concerned," Matier said. "We're

Seminoles head the media's picks

■ Florida State and North Carolina get most of the hype, while State's coaching transfer accounts for its only headlines in preseason magazines.

BY KEVIN BREWER
Sports Editor

Every summer there is a deluge of college football preview magazines. And every summer, most of the guides conspire to get just about everything wrong.

But they do provide plenty of conversation. As a result, Technician offers a quick overview of the predictions offered by The Sporting News College Football Yearbook, 1993 NCAA Preview and Street & Smith's College Football. The teams are listed by their average order of finish, and a coach's outlook is provided as well.

There are a few things these three publications agree on. First, Florida State will not only win the ACC for the second straight year but will also finish as the top team in the country. And if the Seminole's quarterback Charlie Ward doesn't win the Heisman Trophy, he will finish

second.

After the presumed dominance of the Seminole's, it gets kind of fuzzy.

Florida State
The Sporting News: 1
NCAA Preview: 1
Street & Smith's: 1

Last season, the Seminole finished 11-1 (8-0 in the ACC) and defeated Nebraska 27-14 in the Orange Bowl. But, there's only one problem: no national championship. That fact seems to haunt FSU head coach Bobby Bowden as certainly as the Seminole's last two, last-ditch field goals against Miami have sailed wide right.

But this season, FSU seems to have another great chance to contend for the national crown. Ward, who is expected to recover fully from surgery on his left shoulder, will lead an offense that lost only two starters from the third-highest scoring unit in the nation last year.

On defense, the Seminole lost four starters in the first two rounds of the NFL draft, including all-American linebacker Marvin Jones. But linebackers Derrick Brooks and Ken Alexander and a solid secondary will try to piece together a unit that was second in scoring

defense in the nation last season.

Clemson
The Sporting News: 4
NCAA Preview: 2
Street & Smith's: 2

Recovering from its first losing season (5-6) since 1976 won't be easy for Clemson, which enters a mad melee for second place. But seven of 11 games at home sure won't hurt.

Three different quarterbacks made the Tigers inconsistent on offense for most of last season, but sophomore Patrick Sapp has emerged from the mediocrity to nab the spot. Richard Moncrief started six games at the helm last season, but is expected to move to wide receiver.

Senior Brenston Buckner is one of the top defensive linemen in the conference, but he will be one of the few experienced players on a defense that lost six starters and features an almost all-freshman secondary. Kicker/punter Nelson Welch is incredibly talented with his feet, but he may have to learn a few more positions for the Tigers to excel.

North Carolina
The Sporting News: 3
NCAA Preview: 4
Street & Smith's: 3

Last season, North Carolina enjoyed its best season in 10 years, finishing the year 9-3 with a Peach Bowl win over Mississippi State. Just a few weeks later, its star running back Natrone Means declared himself eligible for the NFL draft.

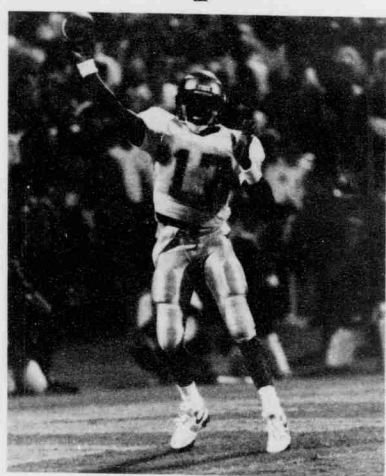
Now, the Tar Heels are looking for impact players. The departure of Means leaves the door open for another back to shine (sophomore Curtis Johnson) or for quarterback Mike Thomas to keep improving with a solid group of receivers.

Defense is much the same story. Finding a replacement for high-play linebacker Dwight Hollier and three starters in the secondary won't be easy, but Peach Bowl MVP Bracey Walker, who blocked two punts in the game and returned another one 41 yards, could easily pick up where he left off.

N.C. State
The Sporting News: 2
NCAA Preview: 3
Street & Smith's: 6

More attention has been paid to new N.C. State head coach Mike O'Connell replacing seven-year veteran Dick Sheridan than to the Pack's attempts to replace six starters on offense and defense.

O'Connell has kept Sheridan's staff intact, but he is keeping a closer eye on the more important personnel questions. Will Gary Downs, who totaled 198 yards last season, rush for 1,000 yards



COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward is a Heisman candidate.

like Anthony Barbour, or will William Strong be able to hit receivers like Mike Reid?

Along with the offensive and defensive backfields, the special teams unit is also a concern for the Wolfpack. Senior Ledel George will spend time as a running back, punt returner and punter during the year.

Georgia Tech
The Sporting News: 5
NCAA Preview: 5
Street & Smith's: 4

Georgia Tech's 1992 season can only be described as disappointing. Quarterback Shawn Jones finished his career in unspectacular fashion, coach Bill Lewis fumbled his transition and the Yellow Jackets lost five of their last six games.

Now, Tech is just trying to recover from the losses of Jones, cult-hero kicker Scott Sisson and defensive tackle Coleman Rudolph. But with sophomore quarterback Donnie Davis, the Jackets may have the second-most talented play-caller (only to Ward) in the conference.

With a solid lineup of running backs (William Bell, Jimmy Lincoln, Jeff Wright) and a quick start, the Jackets could be the team that led Florida State 24-14, instead of the one that eventually lost to the Seminoles 29-24.

Virginia
The Sporting News: 6
NCAA Preview: 6
Street & Smith's: 5

When you think of great quarterbacks, Virginia is not the first

team to come to mind. Indeed, coach George Welsh is looking for his fourth different signal-caller in four years, but they will have big shoes to fill. The Cavaliers have had three different passing-efficiency leaders in the last three years.

Junior B.J. Hawkins and sophomores Mike Groh and Symmon Willis will compete for the opportunity to replace Bobby Goodman and throw to a group of big-play receivers. Jerrod Washington and Kevin Brooks will have a tougher time replacing running back Terry Kirby.

P.J. Killian and Randy Neal are the cream of a veteran group of linebackers, but the Cavaliers' defensive strengths are sketchy at that. The biggest loss is passing-rushing menace Chris Slade.

Maryland
The Sporting News: 7
NCAA Preview: 7
Street & Smith's: 8

Maryland coach Mark Duffner made plenty of noise with his run-and-shoot offense imported from Division I-AA power Holy Cross, but it produced more excitement than results.

And although the Terrapins finished 3-8 (2-6 in the ACC), the future is not bleak. Last year's starting quarterback John Kalo and the top two receivers are gone, but it was Duffner's system that starred in the team's wins more than Kalo. Mark Mason, who led the league in rushing in 1991, returns from a



COURTESY OF GEORGIA TECH SPORTS INFORMATION

William Bell will play a role Georgia Tech's running game.

No-names still strong

■ Perhaps the strongest corps returning to State's football team is the offensive line, but one would be hard-pressed to name them.

BY JENNIFER BOUCK
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The unheralded ones.

Offensive linemen rarely receive recognition, but any quarterback will tell you that he couldn't play without support from them.

And with four of five starters returning from last season's offensive line, State's quarterbacks should feel very confident about being protected. This unit is also one of the most experienced on the team and has the opportunity to become one of the better State lines in recent history.

"This group's strongest point has to be its knowledge of the system," Pack offensive line coach Robbie Caldwell said. "All of our starters have returned except Mike Gee. It really excites me as to the future of this group. And we have a really

great group of seniors who will help lead this group."

Three Pack starters will return for their final season. Todd Ward, who will return to the center spot, will not only be an offensive line leader but a team captain as well. Eric Taylor is projected to play at the left tackle position, the quarterback's blind side.

Shawn Johnson is also hoping to return to the line at the left guard position. After missing spring training because of a shoulder injury, he has been working throughout the summer to return to action this fall.

"Shawn and Chris Hennie-Rood both had shoulder surgery in the spring and we have been a little concerned about them," Caldwell said. "But the two have been working very hard to get back and be ready for the season."

Hennie-Rood will be a contender for the right guard starting job.

Another returning starter is sophomore giant George Hegamin. At 6-foot-7 and 368 pounds, Hegamin looks to receive all-American recognition for the 1993 season. Last year,

he was named second team all-ACC at the right tackle position.

But despite the future loss of the three seniors, Caldwell is still confident in the group of underclassmen led by Hegamin.

"There are a lot of young men behind the seniors and many of these men have playing experience," Caldwell said. "We have some very good underclassmen and some of the redshirt freshmen will probably get opportunities to play too. I really think right now, eight or nine guys can be labeled as starters, which really gives us some quality depth."

Additional seniors expected to give back-up and leadership are Chuck Cole, who should be in the hunt for playing time at tackle, and James Newsome, who should be a key reserve at the center position.

"These seniors really play a big role in the games," Caldwell said. "They have all paid the price, preparing for this day to come. They are excited about graduation, but they also realize for many of them, this will be their last season of football."

As the underclassmen move up through the ranks, the offensive line should remain strong for several years to come. In addition to Hegamin and Hennie-Rood, the group of Robby Johnson, Lamont McCauley, Chad Ray and Jonathan and Kenneth Redmond all will be looking for additional playing experience this season. McCauley will begin his first season at guard, after moving from defense in spring training.

"This really is an exceptional



STAFF FILE PHOTO/ANN KENON

Captain Todd Ward will start at center for the third year.

class," Caldwell said. "They have been developing great work habits. Most of them are ready to stand up and be noticed as leaders."

"Hopefully, I will be able to play all of these guys, but their work will definitely speak for itself. If they do what they are supposed to do, their time will come."

With such a large and talented field on the line, Caldwell has high expectations for his group. In addition to the team goal of an ACC title, Caldwell would like to see his players earn various

honors. "Really, I would like to see all of them make all-conference," Caldwell said. "It would make me very proud to see them do that, but I know that's very hard to do. As a coach, you want to see your young people rewarded. For the offensive line, it's really about the only recognition they can get."

But some important steps will have to be taken to achieve those successes.

See OFFENSIVE LINE, Page 11 ▶

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player	Yr	Skinny
Eric Taylor	Sr.	Plays at either tackle spot
Shawn Johnson	Sr.	Bench presses 450+ lbs.
Todd Ward	Sr.	Captain, third-year starter
Chris Hennie-Rood	So.	Replaces Mike Gee
George Hegamin	So.	All-ACC second-teamer
Jonathan Redmond	So.	Plays at tackle and guard

Receivers return with a number of questions

■ This year, State's wide-outs look to answer the five Ws on the field. One is already covered.

BY CLAY BEST
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The questions are abundant for N.C. State's group of talented receivers.

Who, what, when, and where are the questions that remain to be answered by Wolfpack wide receiver coach Jimmy Kiser's unit. But the question of why the Pack's unit will be one of the best in the ACC has already been answered before the first snap of

the season. The State unit is strong from top to bottom and has several receivers capable of becoming the Pack's big-play man, or the go-to receiver.

"We do have a great group coming back," Kiser said. "And it's an experienced group."

Who will continue the tradition of Worthen, Jeffries and Davenport?

Seniors Ray Griffis and Robert Hinton, along with all-ACC flanker Eddie Goines look to lead in the race for playing time this season.

Goines caught 46 passes for 580 yards and three touchdowns last season. While Griffis led the

Pack with an average of 14.2 yards per reception, and Hinton has gained a reputation for making the great move and catch throughout his career.

"We all have a great tradition to live up to here," Goines said,

"with the likes of Charles [Davenport], Naz [Worthen] and Haywood [Jeffries] coming before us. We're looking forward to the challenge of living up to that same high quality of play."

Also in the mix for extended playing time this year are Brian Davenport, Mike Guffie and Jimmy Grissett. Davenport looks to step out of the shadow of his brother Charles, and Guffie's size at 6-foot-3 and 198 pounds will increase his chances of starting for the Pack. Grissett's quality work on the scout team last year and in spring practice will be his biggest asset going into this season.

"I'm looking to play more of a role this year," Davenport said. "I'm excited about the situation this season and I'm looking forward to playing a little more this year."

What will be the passing game's role in the State attack this year?

The talk around the ACC is that the offense will be more open under new head coach Mike O'Can. And although that talk



STAFF FILE PHOTO/LIZ MAHINKE

Ray Griffis caught 17 passes for the Pack last season.

RECEIVERS

1992 Statistics

Player	Yr	Rec	Yds	Avg	Tds	Lg
Eddie Goines	Jr.	46	580	12.6	3	49
Robert Hinton	Sr.	23	323	14.0	2	52
Ray Griffis	Sr.	17	241	14.2	1	42

See RECEIVERS, Page 11 ▶

Lineman can't catch a good break



Carl Reeves will miss the entire season after breaking his leg Aug. 24. Last season, he led the team in sacks with 10.5.

■ In one week, injuries turned the Wolfpack's defensive line from a deep and experienced group into a questionable factor.

BY PAUL GRANT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Injuries

They have come back to haunt N.C. State's defensive line. Once as deep as any front three in the conference, injuries hit the Wolfpack linemen hard last week.

Returning starter Carl Reeves broke his leg Aug. 24 while tackling back-up quarterback Chuck Browning during a scrimmage. Browning and Reeves both landed on Reeves's leg. Now, Reeves will be out for the season.

"[Reeves] did it to himself," defensive line coach Jeff Snipes explained. "He sacked the quarterback, and when his leg came down, he and the quarterback's leg came down on [Reeves's] leg. It's unfortunate things like this happen."

Reeves set school records in sacks (10.5) and in tackles for losses (20) last season. He also

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN					
1992 Statistics					
Player	Yr	Pos.	Tkls	Sacks	Hurries
Carl Reeves*	Jr.	DT	80	10.5-111	19
Daryl Beard	Sr.	M	16	1-9	1
John Akins	Sr.	DT	40	4-46	17
Eric Counts	Jr.	DT	24	1-9	2

*out for season

finished third in the conference in sacks, and his 80 tackles led the team's defensive linemen.

Fellow defensive tackle John Akins, despite a season-long shoulder injury, played through the pain last year and is now questionable for Saturday's game against Purdue.

"It's a day-to-day thing," says Snipes. "I'm making my plans without him. He's rehabbing. If he can come back, he will."

Last season was Akins's best, as he posted career-highs in tackles (63) and sacks (four). Akins, a three-year starter and a team captain, will bring experience and brilliant technique to the tackle position.

In addition to the injuries suffered by Reeves and Akins, true freshmen Kyle Blalock and

Lateef Patterson have also been plagued by nagging injuries.

Although injuries have knocked the Pack down, it does not look to be out. Sophomores Mike Harrison (6-2, 269) and Nick Kukulinski (6-4, 287) will be available at the tackle positions. Both saw action last season, lettering as true freshmen.

In order to add more depth to the defensive line, true freshman Delaine Manley may see action at the tackle position although he was expected to be redshirted this season. Senior Pat Threatt (6-3, 260) is another solid player prepared to contribute at the tackle position.

"We are really excited about

See DEFENSIVE, Page 12 ►

State's linebackers shouldn't miss a beat

■ Don't believe the hype, Tyler Lawrence says, of the prediction State's second-year will not recover from losing six players.

BY CLAY BEST
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

N.C. State linebacker Tyler Lawrence says will power is the key. He should know.

The senior has heard the predictions of an eventual drop-off of the Pack's defensive dominance for four straight years, and he's tired of it.

"There's been too much made of six guys leaving," Lawrence said. "I feel that we are capable of doing the job."

This season, Lawrence will lead State's group of linebackers, who will attempt to maintain the outstanding tradition left by the likes of Vaughn Johnson, Bill Cowher, Billy Ray Haynes, Keith Battle and David Merritt. It's a task the 1993 Pack line-

backers are anxious to meet.

And with Lawrence, a first-team all-ACC selection last season, and Damien Covington, the ACC's second-leading tackler, anchoring the middle of the defense this season, the outstanding tradition should continue.

"We've got a lot of talent this year, and a lot of guys who are anxious to play," Covington said. "We're just looking to play well and make big plays for the defense."

But the two open slots will supply the questions that must be answered before State's unit gains the respect awarded to former State linebacking units.

"We've got a good experienced group and one very good player," said Kent Briggs, State's outside linebacker coach. "And we've got two players who started eight games at the position opposite Tyler."

Senior Loren Pinkney started six games for the Pack last season, recording 30 tackles and two sacks, while Ed Gallon start-

ed two games and notched 25 tackles. The loss of underclassman Keith Battle to the NFL left the Pack with an unexpectedly open slot.

"Yes, we lost Keith Battle last year, and he was a great player. But with Loren returning with a lot of experience, I think we'll be all right," Briggs said.

The race for the open slot on the inside is also going to be a battle, according to State inside linebacker coach Ken Pettus.

"We've got an interesting situation at inside linebacker," Pettus said. "We lost the number one tackler in the league, but I'm not worried about that slot with Covington returning after a great spring. And at the other spot, it's a dogfight."

Senior Greg Giannamore is the leading candidate to fill the opening.

Giannamore played in 13 games last season, recording 67 tackles, including a 17-tackle day against Maryland.

"Greg has done an outstanding job for us as captain of our special teams," Pettus said. "And we look for more outstanding things from him."

Sophomore Carlos Pruitt is also competing for the open slot. He had 59 tackles last season with nine-tackle games against Clemson and Appalachian State.

Pettus will look to four freshmen to provide depth to his



Senior Tyler Lawrence wants to receive all-ACC recognition. Last year, he made 62 tackles and two sacks.

group.

But the key for State's unit this season will be if it works together. But Lawrence wants to put those worries aside early on also.

"Both the inside and outside linebackers work good together as a group," Lawrence said. "We've got a lot of talent there, and there's a lot of hustle out there on the field in this group. So yes, there's a lot of talent all-around out there."

Both Lawrence and Covington have set special individual goals for the season ahead.

"I think the main goal for me, individually, this season is to make all-American," Lawrence

said. "Since I made all-ACC last year, anything else I would have to consider a letdown."

For Covington, it's completing a goal he set last season. "Last year, one of my goals was to lead the league in tackles and I was second," Covington said. "So this year, I want to fulfill that goal and make big plays for our defense."

"We've got the makings of a fine group," Briggs said. "Of course, to have a good season we've got to work hard in both the preseason and throughout the season to be as successful as we can be."

LINEBACKERS

1992 Statistics

Player	Yr	Tkls	Sacks	Hurries
Tyler Lawrence	Sr.	82	2-10	2
Damien Covington	Jr.	149	1-8	4
Gregg Giannamore	Sr.	67	0-0	0
Loren Pinkney	Sr.	30	2-14	1

The 'Chief' will find the limelight

■ Cornerback Dewayne Washington has lived in virtual anonymity. This season, he will lead the Wolfpack's secondary as the only returning starter.

BY JEFF DREW
STAFF WRITER

His teammates call him the "Chief." A more fitting nickname might be the "Shadow."

Dewayne Washington, after all, has spent his first three years at N.C. State in the shadows of more publicized teammates Snake Vinson, Mike Reid and Sebastian Savage. He has also spent much of the last two seasons shadowing receivers as a starting cornerback on the Wolfpack's nationally-ranked defense.

And when Washington is shadowing a receiver, about the only thing that gets through is sunlight. Forward passes tend to be knocked away or, more often than not, thrown in another direction.

While Savage and Reid were earning all-ACC and all-American recognition last season, Washington was quietly establishing himself as one of the best cover men in the ACC. Washington's three interceptions matched Savage's total and his 10 passes-broken-up was one

short of his teammate's mark.

"Dewayne was probably our best man-to-man defender last season," said Buddy Green, State's defensive coordinator and secondary coach. "He's very consistent, which is the most important thing about him. You know what to expect from Dewayne every game. You know you can depend on him a lot back there."

Green will be depending on Washington a lot this season. As the only returning starter in the Wolfpack secondary, Washington will be called upon to shade some of the top receivers in the country, while earning his nickname as the leader of the defense.

"I hope to lead by example," said Washington, who was elected by his teammates to be a tri-captain this year. "It's kind of weird thinking of myself as the main guy in the secondary this year, but I guess I am. I just want to provide a good example for our young players."

Washington has already made an impression on junior cornerback William Strong.

"Dewayne has the best feel for the game I have ever seen," said Strong, who will start at the other cornerback position. "I think Dewayne is the best cornerback in the ACC. He has great vision and great feet, and he's got great speed. I just try to

do what he does."

What Washington has done in his three years at State is continue the success he enjoyed as a cornerback at Northern Durham High School. As a high school senior, Washington earned all-American honors by intercepting seven passes and blockings seven punts during the Knights' 12-1 campaign.

The 30-mile move to Raleigh the next year did little to slow Washington down. An immediate contributor as a true freshman, Washington made nine tackles as an extra defensive back and special teams member. He stepped up to the starter's role as a sophomore, contributing three interceptions and breaking up six passes in the Pack's 9-3 campaign.

And while Washington says he has had time for little besides football during his Wolfpack career, his coaches and teammates said that he has made a big difference off the field.

"Let's just say that Dewayne Washington is the type of guy you want your daughter to go out with," Green said. "He's always been a quiet leader and a real solid role model."

"Dewayne's just a very special person," Strong said. "He's such a good corner and he sets the pace for the secondary. He's the type of leader I like. He doesn't yell or scream. He just shows



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Dewayne Washington has always been covering receivers like a blanket. This season, he will provide leadership.

you how to do things the right way."

Of course on a team of more than 100 players, there are bound to be a few critics.

"I just want to say that Dewayne Washington is not very attractive," said defensive tackle John Atkins, a Wolfpack tri-captain and team comedian. "Sure

he can cover receivers, but he isn't pretty to look at."

There are probably a lot of receivers who would agree with that sentiment. Getting covered by the Chief probably means a long day out of the spotlight. And who besides a Shadow would like that?

Defensive backfield starting new tradition

■ Dewayne Washington has faith in his defensive understudies, who will be replacing Mike Reid, Ricky Turner and Sebastian Savage.

BY JOSH DURHAM
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Tri-captain Dewayne Washington is back for another year in the N.C. State secondary. The question is, where are Mike Reid, Ricky Turner and Sebastian Savage?

Savage and Turner's years with the Pack ran out, and Reid passed on his final year of eligibility to give the NFL a try.

Not to worry, says Washington, who is confident the less-experienced defensive backs will be able to step up and do the job this season.

"I don't think here at N.C. State we really lose [D.] Washington," said Reid. "We just reload. The guys that we have stepping up in [Reid, Turner and Savage's] positions are real talented. I think they're going to be as good as."

Washington knows what it's

like to start a new season with a new secondary. Two years ago, the team was dealing with the losses of Jesse Campbell, Snake Vinson and Joe Johnson. Washington, along with Turner and Savage, stepped up and filled in the vacancies.

"Mike Reid turned out to be better than Jesse, and we never lost a beat in the secondary," Washington said. "Losing Mike is a big blow, but I believe we'll be as good as or better than we were last year. We've got some guys who can play."

Besides the new names and faces of this year's Pack secondary, the biggest difference is the size of the defensive backs.

"The guys back there won't be as big as we've been in the past," Washington said. "That might shock a lot of people because we've usually been pretty big, especially at strong safety."

Ricky Bell, 5-foot-10 redshirt freshman, has already been named the starter at the strong safety spot, the position vacated by Reid. While Bell's ability has yet to be tested against ACC competition, his speed has been impressing everyone.

"Ricky Bell is a completely different player than Mike Reid," Washington said. "[Bell] has some aspects of the game [in which he does better than Reid]. He's got a lot of speed and he has that low center of gravity, which I think is going to help him a lot."

Another Pack defensive back with blazing speed is junior cornerback William Strong, who has also been given a starting job. In 10 games last season, Strong played everywhere from special teams to all four spots in the secondary. Certainly, Strong's versatility is a plus, but he says his main weapon is his speed.

"The only thing I think I really have is the speed. That's it," Strong said. "Everything else comes with that."

That's modest talk for the man who racked up 23 tackles last season and was named Pack Specialist of the Week for a seven-tackle outing against Maryland. Strong also picked off a pass against Florida State.

"I don't like to brag," Strong said. "I'd rather have other people talk about me."

SECONDARY

1992 Statistics

Player	Yr	UT	AT	Tkls	TFLs
Dewayne Washington	Sr.	51	15	66	3-6
William Strong	Jr.	23	0	23	1-3

Former State head coach Dick Sheridan had good things to say about Strong, calling the spring play of Strong and Washington the "best spring performances by any pair of cornerbacks since we've been here."

While an impressive spring showing by Strong may have been more than was expected, there were no questions about whether Washington would be able to do the job.

Washington, dubbed "Chief" by his teammates and defensive coordinator Buddy Green, brings experience to the otherwise untested secondary. He played in all 12 games last season, compiled 51 solo tackles and even returned a blocked punt for a touchdown against Virginia.

"We've got a solid starter with Dewayne Washington," Green said. "He's been an outstanding player for the last two years."

With three of the pieces in place now for the Wolfpack secondary, the only question is who to place in the free safety position.

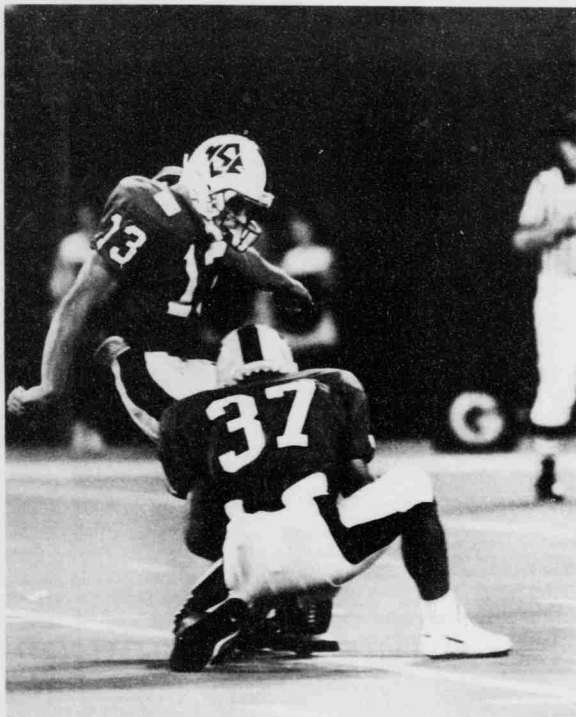
Junior Mike Johnson, sophomore James Walker and freshman Larry Austin are currently battling it out for the free safety job. Austin emerged from spring drills as the leader in the race, but anything can happen in the fall's two-a-day practices.

"The free safety job is wide open," Green said. "When we come out of two-a-days, there'll be a starter at that position."

Bell assures everyone that no matter who the four starters are, they'll be able to get the job done.

"The four starters that are out there will be capable of doing the job," Bell said.

Videtich, George lead special teams



Steven Videtich will attempt to improve on last season's performance with other young specialists. STAFF PHOTO/LZ MAHRICK

■ The Wolfpack specialists coach, known for lengthy speeches, has an even longer list of worries for the 1993 season.

BY JEFF DREW

STAFF WRITER

When N.C. State specialists coach Henry Trevathan stepped to the podium at the Wolfpack's media day last month, the audience bristled. Many had been present the year before when Trevathan delivered a 20-minute discourse on the importance of a good kicking game. The thought of a repeat performance had many reporters searching for their pillows.

But Trevathan was mercifully brief in his presentation this year. He added few embellishments while running through the list of candidates for each special teams skill position. A thankful audience applauded in approval.

Junior place-kicker Steve Videtich probably understood what his coach was going through. After missing six of eight field goal attempts, combined, in the 16-13 loss to Georgia Tech and the 13-13 tie with Virginia Tech last season, Videtich took the blame for the setbacks. State fans began to bristle everytime he stepped on the field.

A more experienced Videtich hopes to win the fans' approval this season. A strong leg should again provide good range and an offseason spent working on his mechanics should improve his accuracy.

"It was hard at times last year, but that's the nature of being a kicker," Videtich said. "Coach Trevathan worked us hard in the spring and I hope that will help me be more consistent this season."

A more consistent Videtich should make Trevathan's job easier as he enters his eighth season in charge of the Pack's special teams. Place kicking, in fact, is the least of Trevathan's worries.

"I think we are very strong at place-kicker with Steve Videtich," Trevathan said. "I thought he had a very good year last season and he was six of nine from beyond 40 yards, which is exceptional. He just needs to work on being more consistent from closer in."

If Videtich falters, Trevathan can call on experienced back-up Jimmy Szikszai. State's kickoff specialist, Szikszai possesses the team's strongest leg. But like Videtich, Szikszai needs to work on his accuracy, both on field goals and on kickoffs.

Trevathan doesn't have much

experience to work with at punter. All-ACC selection Tim Kilpatrick is gone, leaving three candidates fighting for his position.

Starting fullback Ledel George is winning the battle so far, Trevathan said. George, who's also the Pack's punt returner, was a punter in high school and he wouldn't mind adding another line to a crowded football resume.

"Hey, I'll do what it takes to get the [NFL] scouts' attention," said George, a senior. "Anyway, I like to punt ... And, yes, it gives us some options in terms of fake-punt possibilities."

Junior Chad Robson and redshirt freshman Jason Price are other punting possibilities. Robson, who was the back-up punter behind George at Havelock High School, is a walk-on who has punted once in game competition. Price, an all-state quarterback in Tennessee, is on scholarship after averaging over 40 yards per kick in high school.

"[Robson and Price] have been a little disappointing so far, but they have talent," Trevathan said.

When not kicking the ball away, George will be adding on to his all-time Pack punt return yardage record. George has returned 190 punts for 994 career yards in his first three years in Raleigh and needs just 27 more yards to break the ACC record.

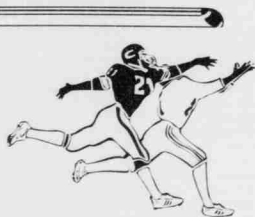
With Anthony Barbour and Reggie Lawrence lost to graduation, State is without any experienced kickoff returners. Sophomore receiver Brian Davenport, junior receiver Eddie Goines, sophomore running back Brian Fitzgerald and redshirt freshman Kevin Matier are the leading candidates to step in on the goal line.

State does have experience at the long snapper spots. Senior tight end Miller Lawson has snapped for PATS and field goals for the past two seasons while junior guard David Inman returns for a third year as the Pack's punt snapper.

Freshman safety Larry Austin and junior safety Chuck Browning are competing to handle Lawson's snaps as the Pack's holder for field goals and extra points.

SPECIALISTS

Player	Yr. Pos.
Steve Videtich	Jr. PK
Ledel George	Jr. P
Miller Lawson	Sr. LS
David Inman	Jr. LS
Jimmy Szikszai	Jr. PK



Catch the Action!

Nobody covers Wolfpack Football like Technician

Quarterback

Continued from Page 4

"Chuck will start at quarterback in August," Cain said of preseason scrimmages. "He is a very smart athlete and will make the right decisions. Plus he has some game experience under his belt."

The final competitor for the starting job lacks playing experience on the varsity squad, but may make up for it with his skills. Redshirt freshman Scott Reeves took advantage of Harvey's absence in spring training to gain experience running with the varsity squad.

"Scott had a good spring training," Cain said. "He is a big, strong quarterback. With his learning the offense, he should have a good future here at State."

With this competitive group, Cain hopes the young men will

reach some big goals. And on the way to those goals, there will be several key points to that success.

"Really, the keys to their success will depend on the offense in general, with each player knowing his assignments and using good fundamentals," Cain said. "At the quarterback position, the number-one importance will be being a good team leader. The quarterback needs to know the game plan and have good execution of the plan. My number-one goal for them is to have no mental mistakes."

And with the start of the season right around the corner, Cain is excited about the prospects of what might happen this year.

"They have all been working really hard this summer," Cain said. "They will be physically well prepared for the camp in August. We (the quarterbacks and I) are all very excited about the season and the opportunities it may bring."

Offensive Line

Continued from Page 7

"Setting goals is a big factor in anything," Caldwell said. "We need to take one game at a time. We have to establish the run consistently and cut down on quarterback sacks to the point of eliminating them. Also, we need to control the game and keep the ball on offense."

With these improvements, Caldwell sees the offensive line being highly successful this season. And not only successful on the field, but after they complete their careers and move on to other pursuits in their lives.

"They are a very special bunch," Caldwell said. "They have all learned to not be selfish which is really a great deal due to the kind of people they are. Even though they often aren't recognized, they are always appreciated."

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Receivers

Continued from Page 7

has all of State's receivers excited, it's talk Kiser doesn't agree with.

"I don't agree with that assessment," Kiser said. "This offense averaged close to 400 yards per game last season ... and although we certainly want to improve as an offense, and we'll do whatever it takes to do that, whether it be running more or throwing the ball more."

"If we need to throw the ball more, certainly, I think we're capable of doing that because of the experience factor we have. But we're just going to do whatever we need to be successful."

But that same talk has most of the receivers more excited than ever.

"Sure, that talk gets us pumped a little," Griffis said. "I came from a wide-open offense in high school, and I'm very excited about the prospects of this season."

When and where will each receiver make their mark this season?

Goines appears to be the leading candidate to fill one of the starting spots for the Pack, while Griffis and Hinton should fall in

as the Pack's two and three receivers.

Although Goines has gained respect as a deep threat, both Griffis and Hinton have shown the same abilities. Like Griffis' 42-yard reception against Carolina last year to set-up a crucial State touchdown. Or Hinton's diving 52-yard catch against Duke last year where he managed to hold on after separating his shoulder on the play.

And all the rest of the Pack's receivers possess the speed needed to break the big one at any time.

When the Pack needs the crucial reception on third-and-long, it will likely look to the precise routes assigned to Griffis or the sure-handed Hinton.

"We have a good, solid group that will produce good, healthy competition," Kiser said. "What we want to try to accomplish is a group of guys who are capable of helping us do all the things we need to do on the field to be successful."

"We've got an outstanding group from top to bottom," Griffis added. "It's going to be really competitive this year and the competition for starting jobs and even playing time is really going to be tough."



There will be an organizational meeting Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. for all interested in trying out for the Wolfpack baseball team. The meeting at Doak Field is mandatory for all who want to try out for a spot.

Secondary

Continued from Page 9

Washington will see to that, because in addition to wanting State to repeat as ACC leader in defense, "Chief" has another special reason.

"We have this thing here that when we go to bowls only seniors get rings," Washington said. "It would be especially important to me if I get a ring this year."

Running Backs

Continued from Page 5

going to run more power options in the mind with bigger backs."

And as for the rest of the offense, O'Cain might have a few more tricks up his sleeve than former head coach Dick Sheridan.

"I think we might try more trick plays," George said.

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ACC

Continued from Page 6
broken collar bone.

Maryland finished last in the ACC in total defense and scoring defense last season, including surrendering 69 points to Florida State. And six starters from that unit are gone.

Duke

The Sporting News: 8

NCAA Preview: 8

Street & Smith's: 7

The good news for Duke coach Barry Wilson was receiving a vote of confidence by athletics director Tom Butters after last season. The bad news is he still has to coach the Blue Devils.

One more positive is their abundance of experience. The Devils have 17 of 22 starters back, including 10 fifth-year seniors. Ohio State transfer QB Joe Pickens and wide receiver-kick returner Brad Breedlove should lead an offense that averaged 25 points last season.

Eight of Duke's returning starters are on a defense that

gave up 31 points last season, so its best defense will be a good offense. Right tackle David Watfle had 71 tackles (17 for losses) and four sacks last season.

Wake Forest

The Sporting News: 9

NCAA Preview: 9

Street & Smith's: 7

Jim Caldwell, the less-heralded of the two new coaches in the ACC, has plenty of work to do in his first season after seven years as an assistant at Penn State.

But expectations simply cannot be too high after the plethora of losses the Demon Deacons have suffered one year after a surprising Independence Bowl win. They have lost 12 starters, including quarterback Keith West and running back-punt returner George Coghill.

On the up side, Todd Dixon is one of the most explosive receivers in the country and will make quarterback candidates Jim Kemp and Rusty LaRue look better. Defensive ends Mike McCrary and Maurice Miller are solid, but that's as good as Wake's defense gets.

Defensive

Continued from Page 8

Pat," Snipes said. "He knows the system really well and he should get more playing time this season."

Last season, middle guard Ricky Logo earned first-team all-ACC recognition, but he has been lost to graduation. And Snipes does not seem too concerned about the vacant position.

"Ricky was a big loss, but we have guys who are willing and able to step in at any time," Snipes said.

For now, Snipes does not know who will step in at middle guard, but he has narrowed it down to two capable players, senior Darryl Beard (6-1, 258) and junior Eric Counts (6-2, 250).

"Counts and Beard are battling for the position right now," Snipes said. "Both of them are up for the challenge. They are both really strong and extremely tough."

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