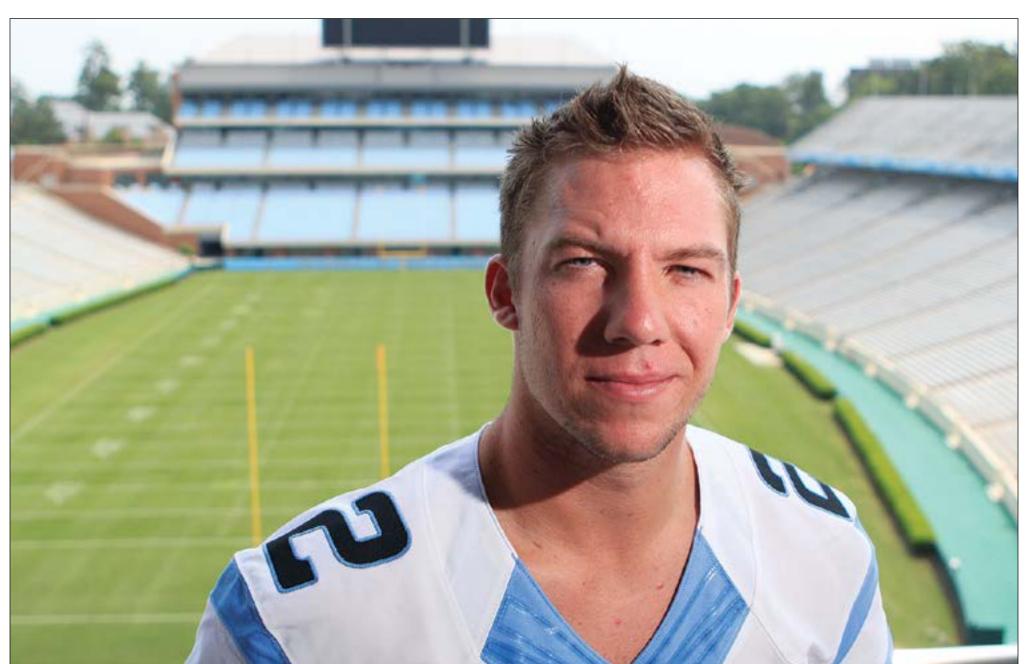
FOOTBALL PREVIEW



DTH/KATIE SWEENEY

Renner, the comfortable captain

By Brooke Pryor Sports Editor

Leading up to North Carolina's season opener against South Carolina, one name has been on the lips of every coach, player and analyst associated

Except for Bryn Renner's. "What's his name?" Renner asked. "I thought he quit. I thought he retired early."

Renner, of course, was joking. He knows exactly what's coming for him Thursday night. Jadeveon Clowney will be gunning for him from the other side. Renner will be protected by an offensive line anchored by preseason first team All-ACC lineman James Hurst.

Renner enters the season with a ear of a new playbook under his belt looking nothing like the inconsistent signal caller from early last season.

A rocky start

In the beginning of the 2012 sea-

son, Renner's three interceptions through the first three games showed he wasn't completely comfortable making decisions in coach Larry Fedora's new system. Renner had previously started under Everett Withers in a pro-style offense and threw for more than 3,000 yards in his sopho more season.

But in the first few games of Fedora's inaugural year, Renner struggled to replicate the same pro-

duction from the year before. Renner admits to often forcing the offense, rather than trusting the plays to naturally develop.

'I was threading the needle when I didn't have to, which is just my mentality that I had to grow out of," Renner said. "I was trying to go for a deep ball here and there and really forcing my will on the offense

"But I realized the offense is going to take care of itself if I do my job."

Mowing through opponents

Learning a new playbook in the

few weeks of the preseason is no easy feat, and Renner admits that the team often felt frenzied in trying to keep up with a frantic no-huddle offense.

But as the season went on, Renner comfortably settled into Fedora's offense, and it showed. Renner threw 13 touchdowns in the final six games of the season.

The same playful personality shown at UNC's pre-South Carolina interviews manifested on the field

SEE **RENNER**, PAGE 8

Morris and Blue take charge

The duo is tasked with replacing Giovani Bernard.

By Henry Gargan Senior Writer

When you add a Romar Morris to an A.J. Blue, does the sum equal a Giovani Bernard?

With the record-breaking tailback beginning to make waves for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals, North Carolina's offense hopes the efforts of Morris and $\rm \bar{B}lue~can$ provide a ground attack as potent as the threat Bernard posed last season.

But perhaps that's not a fair question. After all, Blue and Morris both played crucial roles alongside Bernard last season.

Morris is a redshirt sophomore who spent his freshman season returning punts, blocking kicks and picking up yardage in all sorts of ways.

Blue is a redshirt senior who recently turned 24. Injuries and other adversity have prolonged his stay at UNC.

This season he and his teammates hope his experience will anchor the otherwise youthful backfield.

Freshmen runners Khris Francis and T.J. Logan are falling into the supporting roles Morris and Blue occupied last season, and the older backs have taken it upon themselves to make



DTH FILE/CHLOE STEPHENSON

Romar Morris is one of two seasoned running backs faced with the task of replacing Giovani Bernard.

sure the freshman duo will be prepared to step up when the time comes.

It's been clear since the spring that the task of filling Bernard's shoes will fall to Morris and Blue.

"(Bernard) was a great player, he was a game-breaker, but Blue and Romar have been there, they've had plenty of time themselves, and I trust those guys to get the job done," senior offensive lineman James Hurst said.

Blue's nine rushing touchdowns were second only to Bernard's 12 last season.

Morris rushed for two scores last season, but after impressive performances in the spring game and preseason practices, the Salisbury, NC native has emerged this season as Blue's equal in competition for Bernard's job.

"I think Romar has been the guy that's really stepped up out there," coach Larry Fedora said on his weekly radio show last spring.

But regardless of who lines up for the opening snap in Columbia, S.C. on Thursday, Hurst said he and the rest of the Tar Heels know it will take the combined, complementary efforts of Blue and Morris to achieve the desired result an ACC championship.

"Blue is a veteran, he's hard-nosed, he's really going to run downhill and get the tough yards that you needthird and short, third and goal, whatever," Hurst said.

"Romar, he's kind of your home run. You look up and he's in the endzone. I think it's great that we're going to have two backs like that working together."

sports@dailytarheel.com

Soph receiver driven for more

Quinshad Davis wants to build on last season's success.

By Robbie Harms Senior Writer

Quinshad Davis is, according to his Twitter, just a young man trying to make it, and the sophomore receiver could be well on his way.

He has the frame — 6-foot-4 and 205 pounds, and growing - the talent - 61 catchesfor 776 yards last season, both UNC freshman records and, perhaps most impor-

tantly, the desire. Davis, from Gaffney, S.C., emerged as one of UNC's top options last season as a true freshman, and he has no

plans to regress. "We should be the ones that y'all look to see and be like, 'Oh man, what a catch, what a run," he said of this year's corps of receivers. "We

should be that group." It's not often a kid two years out of high school is the specter in ACC cornerbacks'

dreams, but it's not often a freshman has a season like Davis' last year. He played in all 12 games, starting 10, and had a catch in each one. He tied the ACC record for catches in

one game with 16. He was



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG

Quinshad Davis (left) celebrates with quarterback Bryn Renner (right) in a Thursday night win against Virginia.

named an honorable mention freshman All-America by CollegeFootballNews.com. 'He's so athletic and has

such great body control in the air," coach Larry Fedora said. Davis was a cherished

recruit, South Carolina's Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior, and came to UNC carrying a set of expectations rare for an 18-year-old.

And it took fewer than 10 minutes for Davis to show the world he'd arrived. The catch came late in the first quarter of UNC's season opener against Elon. Quarterback

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NON-ACC FOES

2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Thursday, Aug. 29	South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	6 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7	Middle Tennessee State	Chapel Hill	12:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 21	Georgia Tech	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
Saturday, Sept. 28	East Carolina	Chapel Hill	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 5	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	TBA
Thursday, Oct. 17	Miami	Chapel Hill	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 26	Boston College	Chapel Hill	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 2	N.C. State	Raleigh	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 9	Virginia	Chapel Hill	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 16	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 23	Old Dominion	Chapel Hill	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 30	Duke	Chapel Hill	ТВА





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Veteran Rettig leads the Eagles

By Wesley Lima Staff Writer

In a top-heavy Atlantic Division that boasts conference favorites Clemson and Florida State, first-year Boston College coach Steve Addazio and the Eagles face a tall task of clawing their way back into the ACC elites.

Facing the Seminoles in the fourth game of the season



week after a West Coast visit to No. 24 Southern California

will be a trial by fire for a team coming off a 2-10 campaign last season.

"To get our program prepared for what we have to be prepared for in a short amount of time is really challenging," Addazio said. "I tell them every day we're in a foot race."

Fortunately for the former Temple head coach, the man at the helm of the offense is fourth-year starting quarterback Chase Rettig.

Rettig threw for more than 3,000 yards last season.

Despite playing for a slew of offensive coordinators since he started as a true freshman, Rettig said he hasn't had difficulty with any

QUICK HITS: BOSTON COLLEGE

- Head coach: Steve Addazio
- 2012 record: 2-10, 1-7 ACC
- 2012 Atlantic Division finish: Sixth place
- Projected Atlantic Divison finish: Seventh place
- Date with North Carolina:

of the transitions.

Oct. 26

This is my fifth system in three-and-a-half years, so it's not the most ideal situation, but you've got to approach the game as a professional," Rettig said.

For this season, Addazio has brought in a familiar face to run his offense. Ryan Day who served as a receivers coach at Boston College before leaving to join Addazio at Temple for one season — is back with the Eagles, and is re-establishing his relationship with Rettig.

"He really thought highly of me, so obviously I respect him a lot," Rettig said. "I think it's been a good relationship since he's been out here. We've been getting closer with each other."

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James Hurst (68) celebrates after tailback A.J. Blue (15) scores a touchdown against Virginia Tech last season. Hurst is the most experienced player on UNC's offensive line, having made 36 career starts.

Hurst ready to lead UNC's line

By Jonathan LaMantia Senior Writer

For an offensive tackle like North Carolina senior James Hurst, the prospect of your assignment blowing by you and drilling your teammate - with little you can do but trail behind and pick the teammate off the ground - is devastating.

"Our job is to protect those guys in the backfield," offensive line coach Chris Kapilovic said. "You miss a block, your quarterback could be in the hospital that day. They trust us and in turn we have to have unbelievable focus."

South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney is the kind of player who tests that

The 6-foot-6, 274-pound Heisman Trophy candidate recorded 13 sacks and 23.5 tackles for loss last season. Most memorably, on a play immortalized as "The Hit," Clowney broke through the Michigan offensive line and swallowed up running back Vincent Smith.

Clowney's legend grows with each replay of "The Hit," and he was recently called "He Who Cannot BeBlocked"

in a New York Times profile. Hurst — the most seasoned UNC veteran with 36 starts - intends to block him.

"It's going to be 60 minutes of probably the best player I've ever got to block, but I'm looking forward to it," Hurst said. "He's a great player, and if you want to take your game to the next level, you're going to have to play the best player."

Hurst, who at 6-foot-7, 305-pounds was selected to the preseason All-ACC first team, has NFL aspirations, and his matchup against Clowney will likely be watched closely by NFL scouts. CBSSports.com projects Hurst as the sixth best offensive tacklein the 2014 draft class, which could land him in the draft's first two rounds.

"If you're going to have to go into a contest where their best guy is out there, you want to put your best guy out there, and I have 100 percent confidence in (Hurst)," Kapilovic said.

Though Thursday's test looms large, UNC has a season beyond Clowney and South Carolina, and it is by that body of work that Hurst's offensive line will be judged.

After three years of play-

ing with veterans, Hurst now holds seniority, and has adjusted to his new role as vocal leader of the line.

"Middle of the game, say we have some adversity and are down a few scores, I feel like I've got to say something to the guys to get them going a little bit, and turn the tide," he said.

Vocality doesn't necessarily come naturally to the hulking yet relatively soft-spoken Hurst, but Kapilovic believes Hurst acts as a perfect foil to the coach's bad cop role, lifting his teammates' spirits after the position coach scolds them.

Offensive coordinator Blake Anderson said Hurst is the right kind of role model for the offensive line, which also features redshirt junior center Russell Bodine and redshirt sophomore left guard Landon Turner, who have 18 combined starts.

"With some guys that are young, that haven't had a whole lot of experience," Anderson said, "to be able to draw from a guy that's calm, that's experienced, that's been through the fire as many reps as he has, that's got to be helpful for everybody."

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PEOPLE TO WATCH:

UNC DEFENSE

The 2012 Tar Heel defense ranked fifth in the ACC, allowing an average of 25.7 points per game. UNC lost many defensive players, including linebacker Kevin Reddick and defensive tackle Sylvester Williams.

Kareem Martin, Defensive end



Martin returns as a starter for his senior season with great expectations. The 6-foot-6, 265-pounder was selected to the 2012 All-ACC Second Team and enters this year with Preseason All-ACC honors.

As a junior, Martin regis-

tered 40 tackles - 15.5 for a loss. Martin also notched four sacks for a total loss of 32

Martin recorded a seasonhigh seven tackles against Duke last year and is projected to be North Carolina's top returner on defense.

Tim Jackson, Defensive tackle



Jackson is a flexible defender with the capability of playing both defensive end and tackle. The 6-foot-5 285-pound senior recorded 18 tackles last season, half of which were unassisted.

His four tackles against Duke last year matched a sea-

Jackson also had four tackles for a loss in the 2012 campaign, including one sack.

An Exercise and Sport Science major, he earned All-ACC academic honors last season.

Jabari Price, Cornerback



Price, a returning starter, is expected to be a leader in the secondary for North Carolina this season.

The 6-foot-0, 200-pound senior has started 17 games in his three years at UNC, 11 of which were during his junior

Price had the third-most tackles for the Tar Heels last season with 76 and lead the team with nine pass break-

Parker was a key component for UNC in 2012, registering at least four tackles in every game.

Tre Boston, Free safety



Boston returns for his senior season after leading North Carolina in tackles last season with 86 — 49 of which were solo stops.

Those numbers earned the 6-foot-1, 205-pound safety an All-ACC Honorable Mention last season and 2013

Preseason All-ACC honors. Boston also earned ACC Defensive Back of the Week honors two times last season.

The senior started all 12 games at safety in 2012, and leads all returning starters in interceptions with four last season and eight for his career.

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ACC FOOTBALL NEWCOMERS

to Carrier Dome

By Dylan Howlett Staff Writer

There aren't many sure things for first-year Syracuse coach Scott Shafer, except for a rare mainstay in a college football landscape swept up in a sea of change.

"The Carrier Dome's a really unique place," Shafer said of the Orange's enclosed home field since 1980. "A spe-

cial place it's one of the 'Last of The Mohicans' with the indoor facility at

an NCAA

Division I program." The Dome will serve as a small shred of familiarity to its primary tenant this fall when Syracuse officially joins the \overrightarrow{ACC} — a move that many perceive as more aptly suited to the Orange's men's basketball team than its chronically

inconsistent gridiron gang. Syracuse annually stum-

bled in the now-defunct Big East, a much weaker football conference compared to the

"When you look at the ACC, there are higher-ranked opponents, more quality opponents, different styles of play," said senior offensive lineman Macky MacPherson. "You have a lot of real fast guys in the ACC. You got to respect that."

Avoiding a rude awakening will hinge on finding a new quarterback to replace standout Ryan Nassib, a casualty to the NFL.

Shafer must wade through a long list of candidates, headlined by Drew Allen, a senior transfer from Oklahoma.

Whoever emerges victorious from the quarterback contest earns the privilege of leading the Orange through its first ACC slate.

QUICK HITS: SYRACUSE

- Head coach: Scott Shafer
- 2012 record: 8-5, 5-2 Big
- 2012 Atlantic Division finish: None
- Projected Atlantic Division
- finish: Sixth place
- Date with North Carolina: None in 2013

Despite his team's list of challenges, Shafer isn't interested in hoisting a white flag. After all, he said, the ACC still has to visit the Carrier Dome. 'We look forward to get-

ting them in there and trying to knock the hell out of them a little bit and play the game the way it's meant to be played," Shafer said.

"It'll be a lot of fun."

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Syracuse brings ACC | Pittsburgh seeks stability in new conference

By Daniel Wilco **Assistant Sports Editor**

Pittsburgh football is used

to change In the three seasons since the end of 2010, a slew of

coaches have

headed the team. But as coach Paul Chryst

enters his second season at the helm, it's an opportunity for the team to finally settle into a groove. And the Panthers must once again prepare for an adjustment as 2013 marks the first season they will be playing as a member of the ACC.

Redshirt senior wide receiver Devin Street has been on the team through its recent game of head coach musical chairs and views the recent string of personnel change as a great learning experience.

"It was an experience that was hectic," Street said. "But at the same time, it was an experience that I'd never take back."

You have to kind of see

the coach as a different person ... just because they have the same label, doesn't mean they're the same."

What doesn't have the same label for Pittsburgh this vear is its division. In the Big East native's inaugural season in the ACC, the Panthers will face members of their new conference eight times.

Senior defensive lineman Aaron Donald said he is looking forward to the competition the conference change brings.

"Just to have the opportunity to play teams that we never got the opportunity to play against, just to compete against new players and a new team, it's going to be fun."

Donald anchors a defense that ended the 2012 season ranked No. 17 in total defense. Matt House, Pittsburgh's secondary coach last season, was promoted to defensive coordinator in February.

"He was the one that in my mind, (I) felt really good about him, tried to talk to him. If we could find someone that was going to be significantly better than great,

OUICK HITS: PITTSBURGH

- Head coach: Paul Chryst
- 2012 record: 6-7, 3-4 Big East
- 2012 Coastal Division finish: None
- Projected Coastal Division
- finish: Fifth place • Date with UNC: Nov. 16

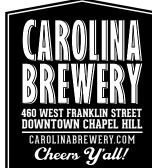
right?" Chryst said. "But I felt

really good with Matt..." Donald is admittedly excited about his team's new conference, and said uncertainty in how his team will match up

does not affect their mentality. "I can't tell you what we're going to do, I can't tell you we're going to be this and that because we haven't played a game of football yet in the

ACC," Donald said. "But we're going to go out there and compete, that's what I can say."

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Clemson claims preseason No. 1

By Andrew Tie Staff Writer

When senior Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd sat down with reporters at the ACC Football Kickoff, he joked around with teammate Spencer Shuey.

There was a real sense that Boyd felt comfortable in his own

skin. Even with monumental pressure as reigning ACC

Player of the Year and leader of the media-predicted ACC champions in 2013, Boyd answered each question with a smile and the savvy of a fifthyear senior who's been there, done that.

Though Clemson was close to an ACC title last year, coach Dabo Swinney said Boyd would be more adept to handle the pressure and attention as a favorite this year.

"At the end of the day, we have to focus on Clemson, our formula for success, our plan of preparation and that's really all that matters," Swinney said.

With a talented team and a relatively weaker conference, the ACC title is within the Tigers' grasp. But the team isn't ready to start the celebrations just yet.

"You still got to go out and play and perform and win those games," said Shuey, a senior linebacker.



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG

Former UNC safety Matt Merletti (25) makes a tackle on a Clemson ball carrier. The two teams played last in 2011.

Everyone — media, players, coaches, fans — knows the championship hopes for Clemson rest squarely on the shoulders of their fifth-year senior signal caller.

Swinney said Boyd has continued to progress and improve, even upon a remarkable year in which he threw for more than 3,800 yards to go with 46 total touchdowns.

"He should play consistently at a high level, take care of the football and play within the system at the highest level since he's been here," Swinney said.

Boyd's focused, yet calm demeanor reflects his comfort in the spotlight. He'll be counted on one last time to lead a program to greatness, but luckily for him, he knows

QUICK HITS: CLEMSON

- Head coach: Dabo Swinney
- 2012 record: (11-2, 7-1 ACC)
- 2012 Atlantic Division finish: First place
- Projected Atlantic Division finish: First place
- Date with North Carolina: None in 2013

how to win, even with a target on his back.

"When I decided to come to Clemson, I said I wanted to win a championship," Boyd said. "I'm excited to get one more shot at it."

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Blue Devils boast veteran experience

By Madison Way Staff Writer

When Duke defeated North Carolina last season with a late fourth-quarter touchdown, it could have been considered a

surprising upset. The Blue Devils had 17 con-



secutive losing seasons and the program hadn't been to a bowl game since it

earned a trip to the 1995 Hall of Fame Bowl.

That postseason absence ended in 2012.

Duke finished the year with an even regular season record and played Cincinnati in the Belk Bowl. Duke left that game with another "L" in the results column, but the program was beginning to look like it was headed in a positive direction.

"I expect us to be a bowl team this year," coach David Cutcliffe said. "I expect our players to expect that."

The landscape of the team has changed. Cutcliffe pointed to a new defensive scheme as a sign that the team is continuing to make improve-

"Oh, we're going to be better. I know we're going to be better than we were a year ago," Cutcliffe said. "We're better physically, we're more experienced up from where the ball starts and I like what our defensive staff has done in preparing this team."

Duke returns preseason All-ACC selection Ross Cockrell. The redshirt senior cornerback started all 13 games for the Blue Devils last season and recorded 71 tackles.

For Cockrell — a redshirt senior — the Blue Devils' bowl game appearance last year was just another step along the road of solidifying the team as a legitimate football threat in the ACC.

"You feel like you've made it," Cockrell said of the bowl appearance. "When the standard for so long has just been to make it to a bowl game, and then you finally do it, you're kind of like, 'Oh man, we're here now. We've made it. We've arrived.' But in reality, you are nowhere close to arriving."

The trend of redshirt seniors and juniors taking leadership roles is also evident on the offensive side of the ball.

The Blue Devils' offense took a hit when starting quarterback Sean Renfree was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the 2013 NFL Draft, but redshirt junior Anthony Boone has comfortably taken Renfree's space.

Though the starting quarterback job is new to him, Boone expressed confidence in his - and his teammates' -

experience and passion. "(We have) guys that got a taste of winning games, and once you get a taste, you want

DTH FILE/CHLOE STEPHENSON North Carolina quarterback Bryn Renner throws a pass during the UNC-Duke matchup on Oct. 20, 2012.

QUICK HITS: DUKE

- Head coach: David Cutcliffe
- 2012 record: (6-7, 3-5 ACC)
- 2012 Coastal Division finish: Fifth place
- Projected Coastal Division finish: Seventh place
- Date with North Carolina: Nov. 30

more," Boone said. "We want more wins. We're hungry."

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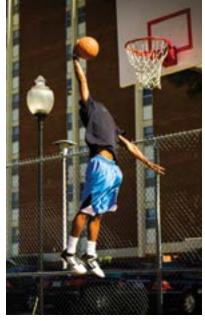














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Miami seeks ACC crown Virginia must

By Carlos Collazo Staff Writer

After several seasons of disappointment following NCAA sanctions and scandals, coach Al Golden hopes to lead the 2013 Miami football team back to dominance in college football.



Miami, which is predicted to win the Coastal Division

of the ACC, tied for first in the division last year despite starting many unproven underclassmen from the beginning.

This season, the team returns a talented group of veterans. But according to Golden, that talent doesn't guarantee success.

"What I'm looking for is the best team," Golden said. "I don't want to have the

QUICK HITS: MIAMI

• Head coach: Al Golden

- 2012 record: 7-5, 5-3 ACC
- 2012 Coastal Division finish: Tied-first place
- Projected Coastal Division finish: First place
- Date with North Carolina: Oct. 17

most talent, but a team that understands the game and understands how to not beat itself \ldots how to execute and eliminate all the things that causes teams to lose."

Senior quarterback Stephen Morris and sophomore running back Duke Johnson are expected to lead Miami's offense.

Morris threw for 1,131 yards and 11 touchdowns over the



Former UNC wide receiver Dwight Jones (83) catches a pass in 2011. The Tar Heels defeated Miami 18-14 in the 2012 season.

final four games of the season. "Stephen is very, very talented," Golden said. "Nothing speaks to his football acuity better than the fact that he's had three different coordinators and now he sees the game

from a concept standpoint. "He's very smart and it shows up on the field."

Johnson, who is ranked the

top running back in the ACC, finished second to Clemson's quarterback Tajh Boyd in the ACC Player of the Year predictions.

Morris and Johnson will look to lead their more seasoned team to the ACC crown.

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count on young roster

By Kate Eastman Staff Writer

It is no surprise to Virginia's football coach Mike London that the odds are stacked against him.

The Cavaliers must rebound from a disappoint-



ing 4-8 season and will play an ACC nonconference

schedule considered to be one of the toughest in the confer-

Both offensive and defensive coordinators are brand new, and the Virginia roster features a mere nine seniors.

But London, who is entering his fourth year at the helm of the Cavaliers, is ready to take on the challenge.

"It's true there's very (little) senior leadership, but they're guys who've been in the program for a few years now and they understand how we want things done," London said.

"There's a good young core and nucleus of players that are very talented."

This Virginia team, comprised of more than 70 freshmen and sophomores, will need to show immediate maturity in their first two games of the season versus Brigham Young on Aug. 31 and Oregon on Sept. 7.

London will look to the experience of his revamped coaching staff, which he claims to be the best in the country, to lead this young team to success.

Responsibility will also fall on the shoulders of senior offensive tackle Morgan Moses. The 6-foot-6, 335-pound lineman is Virginia's only representative on the preseason all-ACC team.



DTH FILE/SPENCER HERLONG

UNC players celebrate during last year's meeting with UVa. The Tar Heels won the game 37-13 in Charlottesville, Va.

QUICK HITS: VIRGINIA

• Head coach: Mike London

- 2012 record: 4-8, 2-6 ACC
- 2012 Coastal Division finish: Sixth place
- Projected Coastal Division finish: Sixth place
- Date with North Carolina: Nov. 9

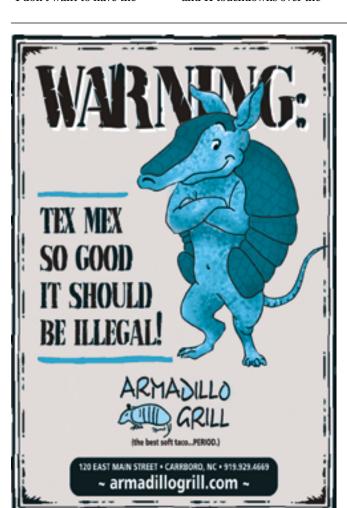
Moses will be challenged with replacing Oday Aboushi, who is now a rookie with the New York Jets, at left tackle. Last season, Moses lined

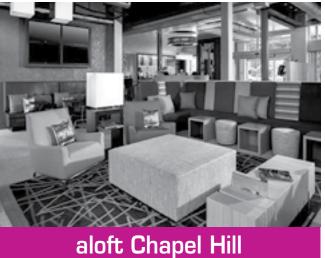
"Being on the left-handed side is more natural for me," Moses said.

up on the right side.

"Coming into that position, I feel like the coaches and quarterbacks definitely feel comfortable with me being on the blindside. I'm just ready to take that task

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NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

STARTERS

OFFENSE

Left Tackle **Left Guard** Center **Right Guard** Right Tackle **Tight End**

Quarterback

Tailback

68 - James Hurst (6-7, 305, Senior)

70 - Caleb Peterson (6-5, 300, RS Freshman)

60 - Russell Bodine (6-4, 310, Junior)

78 - Landon Turner (6-4, 320, Sophomore)

71 – John Heck (6–6, 300, RS Freshman)

85 - Eric Ebron (6-4, 245, Junior)

2 - Bryn Renner (6-3, 225, Senior) 21 - Romar Morris (5-10, 185, Sophomore)

81 - Kendrick Singleton (6-2, 200, Sophomore)

Wide Receiver Wide Receiver 6 - Sean Tapley (6-1, 185, Junior)

Wide Receiver 14 - Quinshad Davis (6-4, 205, Sophomore)

DEFENSE

Defensive End Defensive Tackle Nose Tackle Bandit Will Linebacker Ram

Cornerback

Free Safety

Strong Safety

95 - Kareem Martin (6-6, 265, Senior)

96 - Ethan Farmer (6-3, 295, Junior) 93 - Tim Jackson (6-5, 285, Senior)

8 - Norkeithus Otis (6-1, 240, Junior)

9 - Travis Hughes (6-2, 225, Junior)

Mike Linebacker 33 - Nathan Staub (6-2, 240, RS Freshman)

20 - Brandon Ellerbe (6-0, 220, Junior)

4 – Jabari Price (6–0, 200, Senior)

10 - Tre Boston (6-1, 205, Senior)

26 - Dominique Green (5–11, 185, Freshman)

Cornerback 7 - Tim Scott (5-11, 190, Junior)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker **Punter Deep Snapper**

Punt Return

18 - Thomas Moore (5-10, 200, Junior) 30 - Tommy Hibbard (5-10, 190, Junior)

67 - Mack Lloyd (6-0, 230, Senior) OR

61 - Connor Fry (6-2, 240, Sophomore) Holder 30 - Tommy Hibbard (5-10, 190, Junior)

5 - T.J. Thorpe (6-0, 200, Sophomore) OR

3 - Ryan Switzer (5–10), 175, Freshman)

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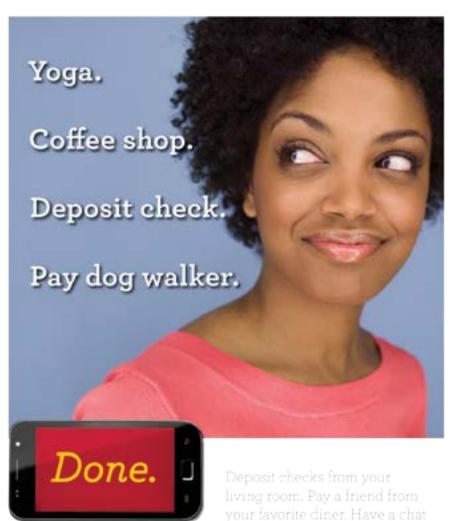
SMITH THE SPEEDSTER



DTH FILE/KATIE SWEENEY

oy Smith (81), a junior wide receiver, works on a cutting drill during North Carolina's preseason. Last season, Smith worked primarily on special teams as a punt returner. He is a member of the track team and returned 12 punts for 167 yards in 2012. This season, sophomore T.J. Thorpe and freshman Ryan Switzer are slated to be the team's primary punt returners.





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RENNER

FROM PAGE 1

during the final stretch of 2012. Renner, along with walk-on quarterback Caleb Pressley developed the 'iMow' touchdown celebration, a mime of mowing a lawn capped with a Tiger Woods-esque fist-pump. The duo were tight-lipped about the celebrations planned this season, but there's a chance iMow will be reprised.

"If the game's going well then I'll bring it back," he said.

A new Renner

This season, Renner said he feels much more confident heading into the season opener than he did a year ago.

"You feel so much more comfortable going to the line of scrimmage knowing where your read keys are for everybody," Renner said.

His teammates are noticing. "(Renner's) really stepped up his game," said tight end Eric Ebron. "He's a lot more smooth, a lot more decisive, a lot more confident within himself."

The key to his comfort? A couple talks with Fedora and offensive coordinator Blake Anderson.

By the conclusion of the season, Renner eclipsed T.J. Yates' UNC record for singleseason total offense with 3,394 yards.

At the end of this year's preseason, Fedora named a laundry list of improvements in his starting quarterback.

"The ability to understand when he has to make the throws and when he doesn't, when he has to punt, how you have to try to move the chains," Fedora said. "All the big things in just managing a football game."

While there's one name frequently tossed around leading up to Thursday's game, Renner is concerned with a different name: Tar Heels.

"The offense needed me to work that hard," he said. "Everyday I want to prove to my team that this is my team."

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DAVIS

FROM PAGE 1

Bryn Renner received the snap out of the shotgun, dropped back, let fly and watched. Davis beat his corner off

the line, turned for the ball, and saw the corner tip it. The ball shot into the air, Davis readjusted, tipped it himself, and brought it down as another Elon defender shot toward his knees. His first career catch carried

an important message: Davis was here, unaffected by hype and unfounded expectation.

Now comes even greater anticipation. Davis was named to the watch list for the Biletnikoff Award, given annually to the nation's best receiver.

Davis pays no mind to the hysteria, and he's not sated by last season's success.

"He is still that very eager football player," Fedora said. "When you talk to him, his eves kind of get big, and he's listening and absorbing everything you say."

Fedora told him to get stronger. Davis hit the weights. Fedora told him to step up his game. Davis worked tirelessly all summer.

"He's not that skinny birdchested kid when he came into camp or came the summer before," Fedora said.

He's just a young man trying to make it, and this season is simply another step.

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Former UNC defensive tackle Sylvester Williams (92) celebrates after making a play in last season's meeting between N.C. State and the Tar Heels on Oct. 27. UNC defeated the Wolfpack 43-35.

NC State to fill quarterback spot

By Grace Raynor **Assistant Sports Editor**

They didn't have an answer a month ago at the ACC's Football Kickoff, and Rashard Smith and Dontae Johnson still don't have one now.



Soon the decision will be made public, and the athlete that will lead Smith,

Johnson and the rest of the Wolfpack on the field as quarterback will make his debut against Louisiana Tech . But for now, the Wolfpack remains quiet.

"Your guess is as good as mine," said Johnson, a cor-

"But to be honest, I'm comfortable with Pete (Thomas), Manny (Stocker), Brandon (Mitchell) — the transfer from Arkansas — or the incoming freshman. Whoever we put in, I'm going to have confidence."

The Wolfpack is forced to replace Mike Glennon, who was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the third

round of the NFL Draft in April. Glennon registered 32 touchdowns in his career and maintained a .626 completion percentage, good for second best in school history.

Smith, a wide receiver who used to be a cornerback for N.C. State, said that he has enjoyed new coach Dave Doeren's high-tempo practices where the entire team works out together.

"In previous years, sometimes we come out and we don't see the offensive line," he said.

"Now we come out and we're working as a group building that bond with the offensive linemen, building that bond with the defensive linemen.'

That high energy stems from Doeren and his coaching staff.

"If you don't coach with passion, you can't coach for me. I'm just going to tell you that right now," Doeren said.

"To me, it's a sport built on passion, and competitiveness, and fire. I don't like being around guys that don't have it."

As for Doeren — who comes to Raleigh from

QUICK HITS: N.C. STATE

- Head coach: Dave Doeren
- 2012 record: 7-6, 4-4 ACC
- 2012 Atlantic Division finish: Third place
- finish: Third place • Date with North Carolina:

Projected Atlantic Division

Nov. 2

Northern Illinois — taking over a young team that he feels maybe underachieved last season comes with its questions.

We won the league my first year at Northern (Illinois), so I don't know if I'm going to have that kind of success here in year one," he said.

But there is one thing he's certain about.

"I'm very fortunate to have a schedule like (ours)," he

"Eight home games with a new quarterback? I guarantee our quarterbacks are ecstatic."

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Georgia Tech flirts with new formations

By Max Miceli Staff Writer

Georgia Tech's triple option offense is one of the most unique offensive schemes in football. And throughout the years, it's become coach Paul Johnson's bread and butter.

As Johnson begins his sixth season at the helm of the Yellow Jacket football team, everyone knows what he plans on doing - run the ball.

"His M.O. is that he's hardnosed and he's going to run the football," senior lineman Will Jackson said. "Coach is an option guy. That's what



he does. I think anything we run will have some

option principals to it." But during spring ball, the team flirted with the idea of running plays out of the shotgun and pistol formations.

While Johnson doesn't plan on changing anything drastically, there are some benefits Georgia Tech could see from giving opposing defenses more to expect.

Senior defensive end Jeremiah Attaochu said if the Yellow Jackets took advantage of quarterback Vad Lee's arm, the team could be that much more difficult to stop.

"From what I've heard talking to other guys, they come in with one game plan, one defense they do against our offense," Attaochu said. "I doubt they even work on coverage for our offense."

Johnson said he doesn't think teams are catching up with his triple option offense, which was evident by his offense averaging nearly 34 points per game in 2012.

But according to Jackson the addition of another facet in the Yellow Jackets offense wouldn't hurt.

'It's just one of those things where you want to keep the defense honest," Jackson said.



Georgia Tech senior running back David Sims (25) scurries away from UNC linebacker Tommy Heffernan (55) last season.

"They've got to watch a little **QUICK HITS:** bit more tape of us running the pistol and some zone read stuff, and that's less time they spend watching our traditional triple option, counter option and under center

Jackson believes that Johnson's implementation of the pistol formation in 2013 is primarily a tailoring of the scheme to its players in an attempt to play to the strength of players like Lee.

stuff."

Johnson, who doesn't think there's a "magic defense" that can stop the triple option, doesn't plan on changing too much in 2013. "You know, we're going to

try to throw it a lot," Johnson

GEORGIA TECH • Head coach: Paul Johnson

- 2012 record: 7-7, 5-3 ACC
- 2012 Coastal Division
- finish: Tied-first place Projected Coastal Division finish: Fourth place
- Date with North Carolina: Sept. 21

said jokingly. "We may look at (the pistol) and tweak it a little bit, but we're going to do what we do."

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Hokies aim to forget 2012 season

By Lindsay Masi

the opportunity to forget the many mishaps of a highly

anticipated 2012 season can't

Staff Writer For Virginia Tech fans,

come soon enough. After finishing last season 7-6, the team's worst single



Hokies aim to regroup

and utilize their key returning players.

"I'm excited about trying to get back to taking this football team and getting the chemistry right and building it to where we can have the success that we have had for a number of years," coach Frank Beamer said.

The 2013 Hokie squad is led by senior quarterback Logan Thomas, a 2011 All-ACC second team selection who led the team in passing and rushing last season.

And while he didn't quite live up to last season's hype, Thomas is ready to put that behind him and show the country who he really is -ahard worker, a determined

VIRGINIA TECH

• Head coach: Frank Beamer

• 2012 record: 7-6, 4-4 ACC

- 2012 Coastal Division
- finish: Fourth place Projected Coastal Division
- finish: Second place • Date with North Carolina:

leader, and a man on a mis-

"I'm on a mission for one thing, and that's to win more games and to be the best we can possibly be," Thomas said. "I've started from last year not letting anybody slack off, not cutting corners or anything like that."

Though he has always been considered a leader on the field, this year's senior status will bring even more responsibility. And that's something Thomas doesn't take lightly.

"I'm going to come out here and give it everything I've got," he said. "I don't care what people say about me,

what people do." And what better way to



DTH FILE/KEVIN HU

A Virginia Tech tailback carries the ball against the Tar Heel defense last year. The Hokies rushed for 77 yards in the game.

test his team's resiliency than starting off the season facing the top team in college football — Alabama.

"If you play a team like Alabama and you play well, there's always a positive in that," linebacker Jack Tyler said. "You're always going to gain something ... we're mindful of our first game because of the caliber of Alabama. We know we can't take this lightly."

Beamer agrees that the opportunity his team has to face the Crimson Tide is one that will benefit them no matter the outcome.

"What happens with Alabama is your football program's better ... regardless of how that game turns out, your program's better," he said. "It's a tremendous opportunity. You're playing against the best team in college football. That's how you approach this thing."

"It's not easy — it's work."

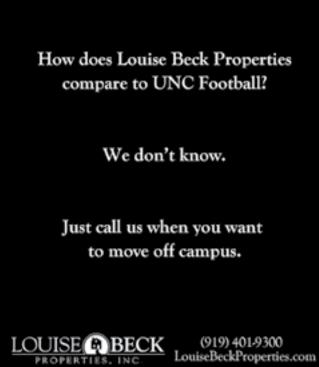
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Wake Forest strives for full season

By Brandon Chase Staff Writer

Heading down the stretch last season, the Wake Forest football team ran out of gas. Injuries, poor off-the-field decisions,



looked like a promising campaign into a fourth straight losing season.

"Honestly, by the end of the year we were a bad football team," coach Jim Grobe said. "We were really beat up — we had some issues with our team, about some of the decisions some of our guys made

and by the end of the year, we were running on fumes."

But one of the reasons for Wake Forest to be optimistic going into the 2013 season is the return of wide receiver Michael Campanaro, who led the ACC with 79 catches in 2012 despite missing two games with a broken hand.

The redshirt senior is looking to put his injury behind him and help lead the ACC's worst team in scoring offense last year back to a bowl game.

Last year, Campanaro's injury exposed a glaring hole in the Wake Forest offense, something Grobe said he knows must be rectified if the Demon Deacons are going to put points on the board against a tough schedule.

"We got to the point (last season) where it's almost every play we call 'Go to Mike," Grobe said. "So I think from that we've just got to find a little bit more balance."

Grobe has pledged to return to his patented misdirection running attack. And senior quarterback Tanner Price will look to help the offense easily transition back into the scheme that led the Demon Deacons to the 2006 Orange Bowl.

But ultimately, ensuring Wake Forest's rise back to relevancy will be determined by the team's eight returning defensive starters led by senior linebacker Justin Jackson.

"As a group, I think we're going to be pretty good,"

OUICK HITS: WAKE FOREST

- Head coach: Jim Grobe
- 2012 record: 5-7, 3-5 ACC
- 2012 Atlantic finish: Fourth place
- Projected Atlantic finish: Fourth place
- Date with North Carolina: None in 2013

Jackson said. "We have a lot of returning players. These guys really know the system and we should be able to get going pretty fast."

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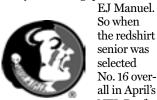
DTH FILE PHOTO

A UNC ball carrier plunges over the goal line against Wake Forest in 2011. The Demon Deacons defeated UNC last season.

Coker, Winston fight to replace Manuel

By Aaron Dodson Assistant Sports Editor

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher knew he would eventually have to say goodbye to two-year starting quarterback



the redshirt senior was selected No. 16 overall in April's NFL Draft,

Fisher and the Seminoles were already set to usher in a new quarterbacking era.

At FSU's annual spring game the team's two frontrunning candidates for the job — redshirt freshman Jameis Winston and redshirt sophomore Jacob Coker made a name for themselves while carefully ushering Manuel's into the past.

The two signal callers combined for 391 passing yards and three touchdowns, including a 58-yard strike on Winston's

first pass of the game.

Though Fisher has yet to select a starter, he has high expectations for his two young quarterbacks.

"I expect some great decisions, a lot of touchdowns and a lot of wins," Fisher said. "I think you have two guys that are very talented, very capable and that the team respects very so much."

But without Manuel and 11 other players from the 2013 Orange Bowl-winning team, will Florida State match its success from last season?

After finishing 2012 atop the ACC, Florida State was selected second in an ACC preseason media poll, 80 votes shy of top-ranked Clemson.

"We know they don't think we're the top dog," junior wide receiver Rashad Greene said. "So there's a lot of proving that we want to do week in and week out."

Despite heading into the season without a starter at quarterback or as the top team

QUICK HITS: FLORIDA STATE

- Head coach: Jimbo Fisher
- 2012 record: 12-2, 7-1 ACC
- 2012 Atlantic finish: First place
- Projected Atlantic finish: Second place
- Date with North Carolina: None in 2013

in the ACC, senior defensive back Lamarcus Joyner has all the faith in his close-knit team.

"Some teams may have superstars," he said. "But we have a lot of guys that are going to take care of each other. And when you've got 11 guys playing for each other, you may not have one guy that may be an All-American, but you're going to win a bunch of football games."

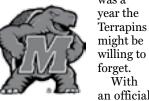
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Terrapins prepare for last season in ACC

By Ben Salkeld

Staff Writer

Maryland's previous season, plagued with so many injuries that freshman linebacker Shawn Petty started four games at quarterback,



willing to forget. With an official move to the Big Ten conference planned for 2014, the Terrapins hope to move on from last year's misfortunes

and make their final season in the ACC one to remem-Even with the impending conference move, stability may be key, especially for a Maryland team that will bring back its previous offensive and defensive coordinators for the first time since coach

"The sky is the limit," redshirt senior quarterback C.J.

Randy Edsall was hired in

2011.

Brown said. "We have a lot of guys coming back ... Now that we're coming back in our second year of our offensive and defensive coordinators, we're a lot more comfortable. We're building upon where we left off — that's a lot better than starting off from scratch."

Brown, who sat out last season after sustaining a torn ACL in the preseason, said he is now 100 percent healthy and ready to compete in the program's 61st and final year in the ACC. "Yeah, it's our last year to

partake in the ACC, but we're excited for the opportunity and we're going to go out and represent Maryland the best we can. Hopefully we'll go out with a bang and have some fun doing it." Senior cornerback Dexter

McDougle said he has similar feelings of optimism.

"This year, I feel like we're going to shock some people," McDougle said. "We have everybody in place that we want. There (are) no excuses. (There is) no reason we shouldn't excel this year and

MARYLAND

QUICK HITS:

- Head coach: Randy Edsall
- 2012 record: 4-8, 2-6 ACC • 2012 Atlantic finish: Fifth
- Projected Atlantic finish: Fifth place
- Date with North Carolina: No date in 2013

accomplish all of our goals." Edsall said he is excited by the prospect of a goodlooking freshmen class, a number of players returning from injury and the return of a core of proven offensive players.

Brandon Ross, the team's previous leading rusher, will be a sophomore, and sophomore wide receiver Stefon Diggs will return as the only Terrapin named to the preseason All-ACC team.

"I feel like being the last team to play in the ACC for the University of Maryland is special," McDougle said. "The way to be remembered is to go out the right way and win the ACC championship."

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PEOPLE TO WATCH:

UNC FRESHMEN

The 2013 UNC roster has 18 true freshmen and 14 redshirt freshmen. Here's a look at the standouts:

Ryan Switzer, Wide receiver



A two-time West Virginia Player of the Year, Switzer will play an active role in an offense looking to replace Giovani Bernard, who was selected by the Cincinnati Bengals in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft.

As a senior at George Washington High School in Charleston, W.Va., Switzer notched 206 carries for 2,379 yards and 32 touchdowns. His 103 career touchdowns are good for a top five finish in West Virginia state history.

The first team Parade All-American could also see time on special teams.

Khris Francis, Tailback



An early enrollee, Francis came to UNC in January and joined the team for spring practice.

In the annual Spring Game, he had 20 carries for a gamehigh 101 yards. A native of Durham, Francis

notched 2,100 yards and 27

twice. ESPN.com listed him as a top-30 running back in the

country.

offensive back of the year

touchdowns as a senior at

Hillside High School. He played

on North Carolina's Shrine Bowl

team and was the conference

Dominique Green, Safety



Howard comes to Chapel Hill from Wilcox County High School in Rochelle, Ga.

With 1,630 yards his senior season, he went down in Georgia state history for registering the second highest receiving total in a single

He also notched 19 touchdowns and 115 catches that same season.

FSPN.com named him the No. 24 wide receiver in the country and the No. 22 player in Georgia. In 2012, Howard was a

MaxPreps Small School All-American selection.



Green joined Francis in January as an early enrollee and began spring practice.

A walk-on at UNC, the Laurinburg native earned backto-back All-Conference honors in high school.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound defensive back was a wide

receiver in his freshman and sophomore campaigns before becoming a safety for his last two years of high school.

His 102 tackles his senior season helped lead his team to a perfect 15-0 season that ended with a state champion-

T.J. Logan, Tailback



Though he only appeared in the fourth quarter twice his senior year of high school, Logan still put together a 3,146 yard, 47 touchdown season.

That, combined with a dominant junior season, allowed him to finish his final two sea-

sons in high school at Northern Guilford in Greensboro with 5,614 yards and 85 touchdowns.

His 510 yard, eight touchdown performance in the state championship game led his high school team to a 3AA

Mitch Trubisky, Quarterback



Trubisky will look to fight for the backup quarterback position behind veteran Bryn Renner.

He also enrolled in January and in the annual Spring Game completed 10 of 18 passes, throwing one 20-yard touchdown.

The Associated Press named

him Ohio's Mr. Football, recognizing him as the best high school player in the state.

He threw for more than 9,000 yards in his high school career - 4,063 of them coming in his senior campaign alone.

He goes down in Ohio state history as a top 10 passer.

Jon Heck*, Right tackle



Heck, who redshirted last season is a 6-foot-6, 300-pound offensive lineman out of Jacksonville, Fla.

As a senior at The Bolles School, he led his team to a 13-1 finish and a state championship title.

Heck beat out Kiaro Holts

and John Ferranto for the starting position at right tackle.

Football is in his genes, as his father was also an offensive tackle and was a member on Notre Dame's 1988 championship team. He then went on to coach collegiately and now coaches with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Caleb Peterson*, Left guard



Peterson also redshirted in 2012, and is now back, ready to compete for time on the offensive line.

A 6-foot-5, 300-pound native of Auburn, Ala., Peterson was an ESPN four-star prospect. With his help, his high

school team held down an 8-2

record during his senior season and made a run at the sate playoffs.

His brother also plays football collegiately as a redshirt junior offensive lineman.

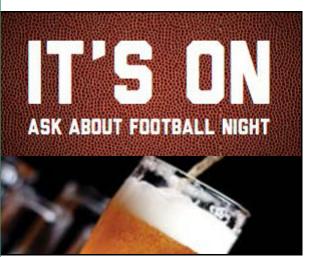
ESPN.com listed him as the No. 11 offensive guard in the country.

*Redshirt freshman





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