



### Dandy Dozen of Tar Heel Magic Moments

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It's been 78 years since a ravine south of the University campus was outfitted with two sets of concrete viewing stands, a small fieldhouse and a loud-speaker system at a cost of \$313,000. The bills were paid by UNC alumnus William R. Kenan Jr., (1894) and the stadium dedicated as a memorial to his parents. From Tatum to Justice, from McCauley to Bryant, from Ellis to Bly, Kenan Memorial Stadium has been host to many magical moments on idyllic fall afternoons. Following in chronological order are a dandy dozen of the most memorable.

1. Carolina 14, Virginia 13, Nov. 24, 1927 -- Duke and N.C. State were mere pipsqueaks on the schedule in the early days (the Heels lost only seven of their first 34 games combined against these backyard rivals). THE game was Virginia, the contest being played each year on Thanksgiving Day. The biggest crowd to see a Tar Heel game to date had been the 14,000 fans who jammed the wooden bleachers at Emerson Field and stood at ground level to watch a 3-3 tie with Virginia two years earlier. On this bright Thanksgiving Day, Carolina unveiled its new venue, "unsurpassed for beauty for any sports arena in the nation," opined the Chapel Hill Weekly. A standing-room crowd of 28,000 watched as the Tar Heels took a 14-0 lead into the fourth quarter but had to withstand a late rally. A missed extra point by Bick Cardwell following Virginia's first touchdown was ultimately the margin of victory.
2. Carolina 34, Texas 7, September 25, 1948 -- An outbreak of air-sickness compounded by oppressive heat in Austin (not to mention the prowess of Longhorn quarterback Bobby Layne) combined to embarrass the Tar Heels to 34-0 early in the 1947 season. The Heels of the Charlie Justice Era circled the rematch a year later in Chapel Hill for revenge. Though preseason polls weren't conducted at the time, the Longhorns were considered the best team in the country entering the late-September season-opener. A record crowd of 43,500 descended on Kenan Stadium -- Texas visitors reportedly offering \$250 or oil-well leases in exchange for good seats. The Tar Heels burst to a 21-0 lead 12 minutes into the game and never looked back, posting their lopsided win. Justice had 127 yards total offense, scored two TDs and threw for two others, one to Art Weiner and one to Bob Cox.
3. Carolina 13, Navy 7, October 5, 1957 -- Native son Jim Tatum was in the second year of his resurrection project at Carolina after directing Maryland to the mythical national championship in 1953. One of his stiffest early challenges came against the Naval Academy, unbeaten and ranked No. 6 in the nation. The Midshipmen and QB Tom Forrestal possessed, in Tatum's view, "the best college offense I've seen." But the Tar Heels ripped off five Forrestal passes, including one by 230-pound tackle Leo Russavage that he returned 32 yards for a Carolina TD. The Tar Heels, meanwhile, did not throw one pass, as QB David Reed elected to run the ball instead of throw on eight called option plays.

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"This victory was worth a million dollars to our kids because it gives them the confidence they've lacked," Tatum said.

4. Carolina 21, Michigan State 15, Sept. 26, 1964 -- Despite a mediocre won-loss record of 36-45 over eight years and an eventual firing following the 1966 season, coach Jim Hickey nonetheless engineered a half-dozen giant-killings during his tenure. Over a five-year run from 1960-64, the Tar Heels won home games over Notre Dame, Tennessee, Georgia and Michigan State. The latter was one of the most significant, coming against a Spartan team of coach Duffy Daugherty that had tied for second in the Big Ten the previous year. Carolina was at its apex in the Hickey era, coming off a 9-2 season, ACC title and Gator Bowl win in 1963. Sophomore QB Danny Talbott scored two TDs and fullback Ken Willard scored another as Carolina built a seemingly comfortable 21-0 lead through three quarters. But the Spartans reeled off a furious rally, and it took an interception by Gary Black at the Carolina 15 in the last minute to secure the win.

5. Carolina 22, Florida 7, Oct. 19, 1968 -- Coach Bill Dooley was in the second year of his rebuilding effort when the seventh-ranked Gators of coach Ray Graves visited Chapel Hill. The state had been in the clutches of a prolonged drought in the fall of '68, but Hurricane Gladys solved the water problem by dumping inches of rain on the area and buffeting stretches of the coast near Wilmington with winds up to 100 mph. Don Hartig kicked three field goals, including one a school-record of 47 yards in length, and Florida fumbled a wet football eight times. Watching in the stands that afternoon was a member of the Tar Heel freshman squad, linebacker John Bunting. "I'll never forget sitting in that hurricane watching the older guys have some fun after all the hard work they'd put in," Bunting says. "Those guys were so competitive, they had fire in their eyes. That was a special moment in my life."

6. Carolina 59, Duke 34, Nov. 21, 1970 -- This was the day O.J. Simpson was dethroned. This was also the day the Tar Heels put themselves in position for a Peach Bowl bid, the first of six bowl games in Dooley's decade-long tenure. Carolina tailback Don McCauley became the most prolific single-season rusher in NCAA history, ripping through Duke for 279 yards and finishing the season with 1,720 yards. That put him 11 yards in front of the mark set two years earlier by the Southern Cal tailback and Heisman Trophy winner. McCauley scored five TDs on a workhorse load of 47 carries. "When we came here, a bowl bid was out of the question," said McCauley, a member of Dooley's first recruiting class. "Now Ö." The Tar Heels did receive that coveted bowl berth, playing Arizona State and losing by 22 in an Atlanta snowstorm.

7. Carolina 16, Duke 15, Nov. 25, 1978 -- First-year coach Dick Crum inherited a roster-full of talented players in his first season in Chapel Hill. But the Tar Heels had trouble adjusting to a new veer offense Crum installed and sputtered early in the year. By their season-ending finale against Duke, however, Crum was back to the Power-I formation of the Dooley days with sophomore Amos Lawrence on the marquee. It looked like a dismal ending to a dismal season, with Duke holding a 15-3 lead with 4:11 to play. But the Tar Heels drove 66 and 61 yards for touchdowns, with Lawrence scoring on a gutty draw play call from 11 yards out and 13 seconds remaining. So crushing was the loss that Duke coach Mike McGee was fired afterward. Crum, meanwhile, built on the positives from the rally and began his winning ways with a 9-3 season in 1980.

8. Carolina 26, Georgia Tech 14, October 24, 1992 -- Mack Brown steadily climbed his way out of the black pit of consecutive 1-10 seasons in 1988-89, and by his fifth year as the Carolina head coach, his program was ready to explode. On consecutive Saturdays in October, 1992, the Tar Heels beat two Top 25 ACC rivals—Virginia and Georgia Tech. The latter win wasn't secured until a fourth-quarter defensive stand thwarted Tech and its all-star quarterback, Shawn Jones, who pleaded unsuccessfully with officials to quiet the rabid Tar Heel crowd. Brown had to be escorted off the field amidst a celebratory melee, and one of the razed goalposts was later found on Polk Place. "I'm proud that big-time football is back in Chapel Hill," Brown said. The Heels went on to the Peach Bowl that year, posting their first of four bowl triumphs under Brown.

9. Carolina 45, Clemson 0, Aug. 31, 1996 -- Carolina inaugurated the most dominating two-year stretch of defensive mastery in school history with a

thorough dismantling of perennial nemesis Clemson on opening day. From the first snap, cornerbacks Dre Bly and Robert Williams lined up nose-to-nose with Clemson's receivers, and linebackers Brian Simmons, Kivusama Mays and James Hamilton blitzed from every angle. The defense directed by coordinator Carl Torbush held Clemson to 91 total yards, an average of 1.9 yards a snap and created four turnovers. The game also marked the debut of the new West Coast offense installed by offensive coordinator Greg Davis and run by junior-college transfer QB Chris Keldorf, who would go on to be named first-team All-ACC. "Great protection," Keldorf said afterward. "I had all day to throw. Look -- no dirt on my uniform. "

10. Carolina 41, Florida State 9, Sept. 22, 2002 -- In a decade of competing against perennial powerhouse FSU since its entering the ACC, the Tar Heels had been outscored 307-90 in absorbing nine straight losses. After opening the 2001 season with three straight defeats under first-year coach John Bunting, there was not much reason to expect a reversal as college football resumed play after a week off in respect for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Bunting, for one, believed the Tar Heels had a chance. "It could be the biggest win in school history," he told his players the week of the game. "I for one believe we can do it." The Tar Heels took Bunting's words to heart, playing a near-perfect game. Freshman QB Darian Durant and senior Ronald Curry hit for big strikes in the passing game in the third quarter, passing 52 and 53 yards for scores to break open a close game. The defense led by Julius Peppers, Ryan Sims and David Thornton humbled the Seminoles as FSU suffered its worst regular-season loss in 16 years.

11. Carolina 30, N.C. State 24, Oct. 9, 2004 -- The 2004 season had seen its ups -- the Tar Heels, after two years of dismal defense, showed some backbone in stopping Georgia Tech and keying a 34-13 win. The year had seen its downs as well -- whippings at the hands of Virginia (56-24 on the road) and Louisville (34-0 at home). With arch-rival N.C. State coming to Kenan Stadium for a night game, it was time for Carolina football to make a stand. And what a stand the Heels made, thwarting a last-minute Wolfpack thrust to the Carolina goal. State tailback T.A. McClendon was stopped inside the one yard-line on second down by Tommy Davis, then on third tried an airborne assault on the goal. But he was stopped by freshman tackle Khalif Mitchell, who also stripped the ball loose and ignited a frenzied celebration by Tar Heel fans.

12. Carolina 31, Miami 28, Oct. 30, 2004 -- The Tar Heels followed their win over State with an embarrassing thrashing at Utah, falling 46-16. During the off-week prior to a home game against No. 3 Miami, Bunting and the Tar Heels did some soul-searching. "I asked them to put football No. 1 in their lives for four weeks," Bunting said. The Tar Heels delivered what was arguably the biggest win in school history when freshman Connor Barth connected on a 42-yard field goal on the last play of the game, sparking another deluge of Tar Heel fans to storm the Kenan Stadium turf. Darian Durant hit 21 of 29 passes. Chad Scott ran for 175 yards. The defense stood firm when it needed to. The win propelled the Tar Heels to a 3-1 finish, a bowl berth in the Continental Tire Bowl and a contract extension for Bunting.

The 2005 Tar Heel season is set to begin. Where's the next "magic moment" going to come from?



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