THE DAILY CLIPS

August 28, 2012

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252-328-6481
Johnson is ECU's starting QB
By Nathan Summers
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Like it has the last four years, the East Carolina football team entered its first game week of the new season knowing who its leading man was on offense. But it wasn’t such an easy choice this time.

The ECU depth chart, released on Monday in advance of the Pirates’ season-opening clash with Appalachian State on Saturday, was highlighted by junior quarterback Rio Johnson in the top spot at quarterback.

The decision by third-year head coach Ruffin McNeill and offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley was the result of a roughly nine-month battle between Johnson and sophomore Shane Carden, neither of whom has started a collegiate game.

“It was the closest quarterback race I’ve been around. It was not like it was in 2010,” McNeill said at his initial Monday press conference of the season, referring to his first year at the helm and the corresponding arrival of record-breaking passer and two-year starter Dominique Davis from junior college.

“Rio has done a good job the last few days of leading the team, managing the team, and so has Shane,” McNeill said. “It was a tough call, but we had
to get somebody ready. There’s only one position and we had to get somebody ready to go.”

Although McNeill referred to Carden — who was hand-picked by McNeill and staff out of Episcopal High School in Houston during their first recruiting campaign for ECU — as the “second starter,” he’ll only see action if Johnson struggles or is injured.

McNeill said the race wasn’t merely close between the top two candidates, either, noting that senior Brad Wornick and redshirt freshman Cody Keith also scored high in evaluations.

“All four of them were in the percentage range,” McNeill said. “In the last few days, Rio managed the team a little bit (better), but not by much. It came to a point where we had to get one guy ready. The team reacted positively.”

Depth chart, etc.

Sophomore inside receiver Danny Webster is not on the two-deep for Saturday, but it wasn’t exactly clear if was because of lingering effects of offseason knee surgery or the aftermath of a Friday night car accident, or both. Webster does not appear on this week’s injured list, though McNeill indicated Monday he was not 100 percent, and the coach also said he hoped Webster would have been on the depth chart had he not been in the car accident.

“I think he’s OK,” McNeill said of Webster, who finished fourth on the team with 43 receptions last year. “He went to the Havelock-New Bern (high school) game, and he came back and fell asleep (at the wheel). I’m glad. ... that there was nothing anymore tragic than that.”

In Webster’s stead, senior Derrick Harris assumed the starting role at the H slot, ahead of redshirt Cedric Thompson.

Other notable depth chart decisions include the projected pecking order of junior Michael Dobson, senior Reggie Bullock and junior college transfer Vintavious Cooper in the planned running back committee.

True freshman Jabril Solomon is slated to debut as the top backup behind junior Reese Wiggins at the X receiver position.

On the defensive front seven, junior Lee Pegues will take over a full-time starting role, though he’ll likely rotate with sophomore Chrishon Rose and redshirt Jonathon White. Despite his experience, junior Justin Dixon will fill in behind returning starter Matt Milner on the other side.
Sophomore Maurice Falls is in line to make his first career start at outside linebacker opposite junior former end Derrell Johnson.

In the secondary, JUCO transfer Adonis Armstrong will make his first ECU start in place of senior and projected starting field corner Leonard Paulk, who has been sidelined throughout August with a knee injury. Sophomore Lamar Ivey will make his first start at strong safety but will rotate with JUCO newcomer Chip Thompson.

In the kicking department, sophomore Warren Harvey is the Pirates’ new kicker and junior Trent Tignor won the punter’s job after a couple of seasons as holder.

Injuries

The Pirates spent most of last season bogged down with injuries, spent most of the offseason addressing them and then inevitably adopted a few new ones by way of summer camp.

The injured list for Saturday, however, is slim.

Paulk is the only certainty to miss. Doubtful is redshirt outside linebacker Montese Overton (concussion). Questionable with a left hip injury is senior cornerback Kris Sykes, while probable for the Pirates are OLB Chris Baker (left hip), OLB Jake Geary (left leg) and Milner (left foot).

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
I hope East Carolina University becomes a stakeholder in the review of the “3-unrelated rule.”

Increasing the amount of renters to more than 3-unrelated has been promoted as a way to reduce crime. This is a single-minded approach based on the notion that giving investors and landlords a bigger piece of the action will result in greater crime protection for the university neighborhood.

There are other options offered by a variety of stakeholders for safely maintaining the university neighborhood. Perhaps ECU is already involved in this process as there are a large number of college students and employees living in the area. Does ECU have a public position on “3-unrelated” and where is this institution on whether this rule will or will not make its students and employees safer?

DAVE SCHWARTZ
Greenville
White Cross—A UNC administrator apologized for past mistakes and told rural residents again last week the university has no plans to expand its animal-holding facility in Bingham Township.

The words from Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Bob Lowman did not reassure neighbors of the Bingham Facility.

They repeatedly asked state regulators for a full environmental impact statement before signing off on the university’s latest plans to dispose of wastewater at the site.

Technically, Wednesday night’s public hearing at the White Cross Recreation Center was to collect new information for the state Division of Water Quality to consider as it reviews UNC’s request to modify its wastewater permit.

Jeff Manning, a supervisor with the DWQ, said the state typically does not require environmental impact statements when an applicant plans to spray treated wastewater over fields, as the university has done and wants to resume at the Bingham Facility.
But neighbors said that’s the only way to know what’s in the wastewater and to assess how the facility may have already affected their groundwater and Collins Creek, a polluted stream that feeds the Haw River and eventually Jordan Lake.

“You have to look at their track record of compliance,” said John Runkle, an environmental law attorney.

“There’s been a whole series of violations: not doing tests, not telling people. (These) are pretty serious matters.”

A brief history

UNC has housed research animals at the facility, once commonly called “The Farm,” on Orange Chapel Clover Garden Road west of Carrboro since the 1970s.

The facility made headlines in May 2010 when the university paid a $15,000 state fine for leaking an unknown amount of treated wastewater into Collins Creek. UNC officials first suspected that a partially filled 1.6 million gallon storage pond was leaking the previous October, according to university correspondence. They did not notify the state until December as they continued to investigate the problem.

The spill surfaced as UNC planned to add three buildings and expand from 85 dogs to up to 450 dogs and 150 hogs. After repeated treated-wastewater leaks, it shelved the plan and returned a $14.5 million federal grant when it determined it would need another $20 million to make the expansion work.

The facility in rural southwest Orange County houses dogs used in hemophilia research in a pair of decades-old buildings. A third building was intended to house dogs for a muscular dystrophy researcher who has since left the university.

The university has been pumping and hauling the Bingham Facility’s waste to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority treatment plant since it shut its system down two and half years ago.

“This has been a noisy and smelly process for us and our immediate neighbors,” Lowman said at last week’s hearing. “It’s also very expensive.”

Now, UNC wants to rebuild the system at a cost of $900,000, building a 1.2 million-gallon clay-lined storage pond and spreading treated wastewater with higher-quality plumbing material over a larger area.

“To sum up, we made some mistakes at Bingham,” Lowman said. “We’re sorry for them, and we’ve learned from them.”
No plans, no money

Although Lowman says the university has no plans – and no money – to expand, neighbors remain wary. About 100 people attended Wednesday’s hearing.

Nancy Holt said she worries about contaminants in irrigated wastewater spreading through the air.

“Do you actually know what, if anything, is in the water from the animal building?” she asked.

The university is converting its animal-holding areas to dry bedding, but once a permit is renewed, workers will use water to hose down cages and holding areas after the dry bedding is scooped up, Lowman said. Small patches of soiled bedding will be removed frequently and the whole kennel hosed down every few weeks, he estimated.

The water will likely remove small amounts of urine, he said.

Residents are also worried about their groundwater.

“UNC has not historically acted as a good informer or a good neighbor,” Elizabeth Hilborn told the hearing officers. Neighbors can’t afford to take chances with contaminated water affecting their wells and drinking water, she said.

“There is no alternative,” she said.

Lowman said at the hearing that tests of monitoring wells under the old permit showed “no pattern of contamination.” Tests of the university’s drinking-water well and another well on an adjoining property “also found no concerns.”

At one time, Lowman suggested the university might test neighbors’ wells. In an interview Thursday, he said isn’t sure he ever “used the word ‘promise’,” and at this time, there is no money for testing.

Plus, he said, he was advised the results, if they found contamination, would not prove where it came from. Many rural wells are polluted, often by the homeowners’ septic systems, he said.

Several people asked why the university needs such a large holding pond and spray area.

Lowman said the pond has to be big enough to contain treated wastewater for periods when the land is saturated and cannot be sprayed. The irrigation area is getting bigger because the university plans to spray the same volume
of treated wastewater as before over more acreage, reducing environmental impact. The modified permit does not increase the maximum amount of treated wastewater that can be sprayed, 3,500 gallons per day, and Lowman said the university may end up spraying far less.

“There is no hidden agenda here,” he said Thursday.

“I assure everybody the only reason we (proposed) larger fields was to minimize the impact on the surrounding area,” he said. “We thought we were doing the right thing.”

The public comment period on UNC’s draft permit application ends Sept. 4. Comments may be sent to the Division of Water Quality, Aquifer Protection Section, Land Application Unit, 1636 Mail Service center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1636, Attn: Nathaniel Thornburg

Schultz: 919-932-2003

The Violations

• UNC paid a $15,000 state fine in May 2010 for leaking an unknown amount of treated wastewater into Collins Creek. The leak likely contained very low levels of nitrogen and fecal coliform, state officials said.

• State regulators issued UNC a violation notice in April 2010 for filling in 0.04 acre of wetland to build a gravel road and 0.10 acre of wetland to construct a pond to hold treated wastewater.

• A third notice cited the university after broken pipes spilled 1,800 gallons of treated wastewater onto the ground at the Bingham Facility in late February 2010.
Duke study pinpoints a benefit of breast-feeding

By Jay Price - jprice@newsobserver.com

DURHAM—It’s widely known that human milk makes for healthier infants than formula, but not all of the reasons are clear.

Duke University Medical Center researchers may have just found one: Human milk promotes the growth of “biofilms” of beneficial bacteria that line the intestinal tract of healthy babies, helping digestion and the development of the immune system and acting as a barrier to bad germs.

The study, which appears in this month’s edition of the journal Current Nutrition & Food Science, is the first the researchers know of that looks at the effects of infant nutrition on the way these bacteria grow, said William Parker, an associate professor of surgery at Duke and senior author of the study.

Among other implications, it could be a step toward engineering healthier formula for babies who can’t get human milk, said Parker.

The research team grew key types of bacteria in four types of samples: cow’s milk, breast milk, several brands of milk- and soy-based infant formula, and an antibody found in human milk known to help establish an infant’s immune system.

The bacteria grew in all four. But in the cow’s milk and formula, each of the one-celled organisms floated around freely by itself. In breast milk, they grew in the filmlike colonies that are normally found in the intestinal tract. In the antibody, the results were mixed.

Earlier studies have shown that breast milk has a host of beneficial effects including reducing rates of flu and respiratory infections in infants and protecting against later onset of several diseases.

The results of the new study underline the complexity of how human milk produces benefits for infants, said Dr. Miriam Labbok, director of the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Gillings School of Global Public Health.

“This is a really neat finding,” Labbok said. “It’s an interesting thing and one of those ‘wow’ moments you get when you are studying how human milk and other things work together.”
She said the study helps increase understanding of the effects of human milk, and that it could lead to other discoveries.

Labbok was skeptical, though, of the notion that it could lead to better infant formula. The complexity of the effects of human milk on infants means that just pulling out one benefit and trying to mimic it wouldn’t work.

Parker said his group doesn’t have money to research how the findings might improve infant formula. The Duke researchers are planning to work with N.C. State University scientists to at least explore one question raised by the study: Whether cow’s milk could do a better job creating the beneficial biofilms.

It’s possible, he said, that the scientists might have gotten better results by using something other than store-bought, processed milk, and instead had used, say, milk straight from the animal.

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Editorial

UNCW should shine under new system emphasizing efficiency, quality

North Carolina has a constitutional obligation to fund its public universities, but they have a duty as well: to provide a good education, at reasonable costs, and to graduate the vast majority of students who enroll in four-year degree programs. A policy approved by the UNC Board of Governors would reward schools that do the best job.

That is a sensible way to allocate increasingly limited state resources and puts more emphasis not on how big a school is, but how well it educates and graduates its students. As with all programs in their early stages, it may need tweaking as it goes along, but it is difficult to argue with the concept.

The new funding mechanism should benefit the University of North Carolina Wilmington, which historically has posted high graduation rates and has by necessity done more within a very tight budget – if the Honorables see fit to pay for it. In fact, UNCW had a big role in promoting the concept of funding according to performance. Former Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo was a big proponent of that idea, as was former UNC system President Erskine Bowles.

The board of governors adopted a similar performance-funding policy last year, upon Bowles' recommendation, but the General Assembly denied the request for an $11.5 million funding request. Even so, schools have been required to measure a series of goals for the governors. This year the board adopted an improved and more individualized version of the policy, with the expectation that money would be available in the 2013-14 academic year. We'll see.

But considering the debate among politicians and others over the "value" of a college degree, this is precisely the type of system that should be encouraged. In addition to academic standards, the policy also puts a premium on efficiency in operations and holding down the cost per degree awarded.

Our universities are not and should not be trade schools, but they should help steer students into courses and programs that not only expand their understanding of the world around them but also help them put what they
have learned toward a career. Whatever course of study a student chooses, the ultimate goal should be graduation within a reasonable time frame.

While not everyone attends a four-year college, our public universities benefit our economy and, by extension, the people of North Carolina. A study by UNCW economist Woody Hall estimates the university is responsible for more than $1 billion in economic activity, or about 4 percent of the local economy. UNC schools in other communities have similar impact.

In that light, it is particularly encouraging to see the UNC system making an extra effort to demonstrate that students not only get a good value for their tuition dollars but also that the universities are taking care to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money.
NCSU orientation classes for athletes a hot topic for Carolina fans

Submitted by Dan Kane

UNC-Chapel Hill fans tried to take a page out of their rival Wolfpack fans' notebook this week by using a message board to draw attention to what they view as suspect academics at N.C. State University.

What they have focused on are two courses offered to athletes at NCSU, identified as USC 103 and USC 104. They found data from a course ranking website showing that no one received anything less than an A in the fall 2011 semester, and one of the instructors is also an academic coordinator for football players.

So are these classes 'gimmes' for athletes? Not according to Carrie Leger, the director of NCSU's Academic Support Program for Student Athletes. What they amount to, she said, are the same university orientation classes that many incoming N.C. State students take -- USC 101 and USC 102 -- that are each worth one credit hour. The typical course at most universities is worth three credit hours.

USC 103 and USC 104 are designed for freshman student athletes, she said, because their academic experience is complicated by the hours they spend practicing and competing, and because of NCAA requirements they have to fulfill to remain eligible to play.

"Having a course specifically for student athletes is and has been a best practice," Leger said. "I'm 15 years into the profession, and it has been an effective good practice in all those years."

She said many colleges have similar classes, and some allow up to three credit hours for them. The orientation classes do count toward a student's grade point average.
Not everyone takes USC 102 or USC 104, she said. Just those who still haven't picked a major, or anticipate changing to another major.

She said academic counselors teach the classes, just as academic counselors in NCSU's First Year College teach the orientation classes for nonathletes. She released average grades for both sets of classes that show similar academic performance:

From the period beginning with the fall 2008 semester and ending with the spring 2011 semester, nonathletes averaged a 3.53 and a 3.44 for USC 101 and USC 102, respectively, while athletes averaged a 3.64 and 3.38 for USC 103 and USC 104, respectively.
Endowments Grow From Chalkboards to the Sidelines

By ADAM HIMMELSBACH

Joel Smilow, a former chairman and chief executive of Playtex, is a philanthropist whose name is attached to hospitals, Boys and Girls Clubs, and buildings at Yale, his alma mater.

But for Smilow, whose college athletics career did not progress beyond intramurals, perhaps the most unusual outcome of his benevolence is a permanent link to the Bulldogs football team. In 1988, he gave $1 million to endow Yale’s coaching position. Future coaches would forever be the Joel E. Smilow ’54 Head Coach of Yale Football. The title does not exactly flow, but the money from the endowment does.

“The athletic director has jokingly referred to me as the owner of the Yale football team,” Smilow said.

Seven of the Ivy League’s eight football coaching jobs are endowed, along with numerous positions in other sports. The premise is that these coaches are also teachers, part of the academic fabric of their institutions.

The only Ivy League football team that does not have an endowed position is Brown. That job had been named after one of the university’s most famous alumni, Joe Paterno, but the honor was removed in July.

Endowments in athletics are similar to those in academics. The donation is invested, and a portion of the return is distributed each year.

The glaring difference between some endowed professorships and coaching chairs is that coaches never receive tenure.

“In terms of athletics, unfortunately, we just don’t work that way,” Columbia Athletic Director Dianne Murphy said. “You’ve got to win. It’s just a different animal.”

Coaching endowments are prevalent in Bowl Championship Series conferences, too. The football programs at Stanford, Vanderbilt, Boston College and Northwestern, for example, have endowed positions. Michigan State, Rutgers, Duke and Texas Tech are among those seeking donors for theirs — with required donations as high as $5 million.
“Given the current fiscal climate, especially places where people are really passionate about football, it doesn’t shock me at all that a Michigan State or Michigan would try to do this,” Dartmouth Athletic Director Harry Sheehy said. “They have such passionate fan and alumni bases that it just makes sense.”

In major conferences, access to luxury suites and trips to bowl games could lure potential contributors. But those perks are not a prevalent option in the Ivy League, where the football culture is more subdued.

Smilow has received three Ivy League championship rings through Yale, and earlier this month he was scheduled to greet the team for the start of fall practice.

“It’s the same way people in the art world, if they give money or a valuable painting to a museum, they then get on a personal basis with the curator,” Smilow said. “It’s another path to that world that they are interested in mixing with.”

Athletic directors said most major donors realized their gifts did not buy them decision-making power. But there has been some dissension.

In 2011, Robert G. Burton asked Connecticut to refund his $3 million donation to the football program after it neglected to consult with him before hiring Paul Pasqualoni as the Huskies’ coach. Burton later retracted his request.

Connecticut’s football position is not endowed, but the case illustrates the potential for conflict when a donor’s name and money are permanently attached.

“Most of our donors understand, and we’re pretty upfront about this, that personnel decisions will be left to the administrations,” said Joe Karlgaard, Stanford’s senior associate athletic director for development. “We involve them, but to say we consult with them is too strong.”

Roger Weiss, whose $750,000 gift endowed the Roger J. Weiss ’61 Head Coach of Football chair at Cornell in 1982, said he had recommended candidates for the Big Red’s football openings.

“I’ve submitted names that they didn’t hire, too,” he added. “It’s not ‘This came from Roger Weiss, so we have to hire him.’ And they don’t contact me and say, ‘Roger, who do you want to be the next coach at Cornell?’”

Thomas Stephenson was a two-year letter-winner on Harvard’s football team before graduating in 1964. He created a $2 million endowment for the
Thomas Stephenson Family Head Coach for Harvard Football in 1994. Stephenson said he did not meddle in the team’s operations, just as he would not tell an endowed professor how to fashion a curriculum. He speaks to Crimson Coach Tim Murphy several times a year, he said, and they sometimes golf or eat together.

“It’s two friends talking about a subject they love and enjoy,” Stephenson said. “It’s not Tim reporting to me because I happened to be the endower of the chair.”

In the spring, an anonymous donor endowed Stanford’s offensive coordinator position and called it the Andrew Luck Directorship of Offense, named after the quarterback who was drafted No. 1 over all by the Indianapolis Colts in April.

The gift received national attention, ostensibly because it was named after such a recognizable figure. Karlgaard said that six weeks after the position was named, a donor endowed one of Stanford’s assistant men’s basketball coaching positions in honor of a former board of trustees chair, and that it was mostly unnoticed outside Stanford.

Other donors have also used their endowed coaching positions as a way to honor someone else. Henry M. Paulson Jr., a former Treasury secretary and Goldman Sachs chairman, was an offensive lineman at Dartmouth from 1965 to 1967. In 2000, Paulson’s $2 million gift established the Robert L. Blackman Endowed Coaching Position, honoring his former coach.

“It was only after I looked back after having spent time in the financial world and the business world that I realized how much I had learned, and so many others had learned from him, in terms of life lessons,” Paulson said.

Paulson said that he had not attended a Dartmouth football game since graduating and that he did not follow the team during the season. He said he did not expect to be consulted during coaching searches, either.

“If they needed to rely on me to find that person, they’re in big trouble because I haven’t played football in 40 years,” Paulson said. “I’m just not one of those guys that hangs around locker rooms and wants to give money to the football program, help pick coaches, go back to games and have good seats.”