Clemson, Carolina

Clemson, with a 6-4 record, will meet Carolina at its Frank Howard Field Saturday before an estimated crowd of 52,000 people.

With its record the Tigers are in a similar situation to USC last year when the Gamecocks beat Clemson 32-20 in Columbia to spoil their season at 7-4. This year Carolina takes a 4-6 record into the game, winning four of its last five games.

Clemson, which has won two consecutive USC-Clemson games before losing last season, has a 40-28-3 edge in the 71-game series.

With a few exceptions Clemson has an experienced team. The Tigers do start two freshmen on defense—tackles Thad Allen and Jeff Mills—and one on offense—split end Steve Gibbs, but four offensive and five defensive starters are seniors.

Similar to Carolina, the Tigers have won four of their last five games, and the lone loss in that stretch was a 29-28 game against Tennessee in which the Volunteers scored in the last part of the fourth quarter to squeak out the win.

Clemson has a high-scoring conference is capable of scoring points quickly. The Tigers have scored 23 points to beat Georgia Tech to beat North Carolina last season and 28 last week to beat Virginia.

Indicative of their explosiveness, the Tigers scored on a 9-yard pass play from quarterback Mark Fellers to flanker Craig Bradshaw in the 4th quarter. In the same game Fellers and Bradshaw also hooked up on a 55-yard scoring pass, Bradshaw's only other reception in the game.

In the game Bradshaw, a junior, and Steve Oliphant scored with 152 yards receiving on two catches, breaking the old record of 146 yards Bradshaw, who was whiling for injured regular flanker Joey Walters, is not expected to start in the game Saturday because Walters has recovered from his injury.

Clemson's top rusher this year is sophomore Ken Calloway, who has gained 612 yards on 134 carries for a 4.6 yard average. He also has 5 touchdowns. Paul Mathews, a senior, is next with 472 yards on 117 attempts for a 4.0 yard average. Don Testerman, with 348 yards in 61 carries, is Testerman's backup and the Tiger's third running back.

Mark Fellers, a senior, in Clemson's quarterback and probably will play the entire game since he substitutes. Mike Och, a backup quarterback, suffered a separated shoulder against Virginia and will miss the Carolina game.

Clemson's coaching staff has nominated eight players for All-ACC honors. Each team's nominations are sent to the ACC which then makes the final all-conference selections.

Rivalry recognized by all

USC not shaken by underdog role

BY STEVE PARKER
Sports Editor

The fact that Clemson is ranked as an eight or nine point favorite over Carolina doesn't bother Coach Paul Dietzel one bit, but, while he sees the evening by keeping the game off the field, he doesn't expect that to be the game's outcome.

Despite Clemson having a better record, being 6-4 to the Gamecocks' 4-6, and playing at Death Valley, where the Tiger's appear invincible this season, Dietzel rated the game as a toss-up and, of course, expects his Gamecocks to emerge the winners.

"This game is one in which you really don't know what to expect," Dietzel said Tuesday. "Mistakes could play a big factor and that's what could near its head."

Dietzel, who will be coaching his final game at Carolina and probably his final collegiate affair, is 4-4 lifetime against the Tigers, going 2-2 at Clemson and 2-2 at home. So, he doesn't expect the site of the game really matters.

"The site of the game doesn't make any difference, Dietzel said. "The poorest game we played was right here at Carolina (USC's 1971 loss in which quarterback Glenn Norris threw five interceptions) and the best game was up at Clemson (the fine 7-3 game in which Tyler Hellams' punt return for a touchdown decided the 7-3 game)."

Physically, Dietzel said, Carolina is in fair shape for the classic confrontation. Defensive standout Bill Cregar, Gerry Mott and Jerome Provence are all injured starters, who Dietzel expects to be able to play. Also, backup quarterback Ron Bass will suit up and should be ready to spell a full-speed Jeff Grannif if needed.

Defensive coordinator Sam Mitchell, who has been scouting the Tiger team, said Clemson's offense is capable of beating a team either with ball control or with his high-powered offense. "If they can't move the football on you, they come with the big play," Mitchell said. "Well shoot, and they'll kill off the play-action pass so its disciplined.

"But we've got to stop the cheap touchdowns," Mitchell continued. "They bang you all day and then throw a long touchdown. We've got to stop that."

But Mitchell added, Clemson is just a bowling ball of a team, running a disciplined veer which resembles that of North Carolina State very much. Carolyne, of course, had great difficulty stopping the Wolfpack veer in a 42-27 score.

While Mitchell respects the Tiger offense, Carolina's offensive coordinator, Bob Czepka, who scouting the Clemson defense, had far less words of praise.

"I think right now, they're playing as fine a defense as any team we've expressed against this year," Czepka said, while singing out almost every player in the Tigers' defensive line-up for special praise.

While the Tigers' record and the game is one which would seem to be on the side of the Tigers, Carolina does have at least one edge. Most of the Gamecocks' personnel played for the Tigers also, as a possible invitation to the Tangerine Bowl could rest on the game's outcome.

But for Carolina, the game will merely serve as an indication of just how successful the Gamecocks' season turnabout was.

\[---\]

\[---\]