Taneyhill a budding Heisman candidate?

Associated Press & STAFF REPORTS

Now that the Southeastern Conference has finally recognized South Carolina quarterback Steve Taneyhill, thoughts of a Heisman Trophy are starting to creep into the picture.

Taneyhill was the runaway pick Monday for SEC player of the week after throwing for five touchdowns and 354 yards in a 52-14 victory over Vanderbilt.

"I don't want to jinx anything right now, but I read the papers and see who the best players in college football are," Taneyhill said. "If I'm in that group, that's great."

Taneyhill hasn't been mentioned with Ohio State running back Eddie George, Florida State runningback Warrick Dunn and Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier for college football's biggest individual prize.

Even SEC quarterbacks Danny Wuerffel of Florida and Peyton Manning of Tennessee get more hype than Taneyhill, who is ahead of the two in passing.

OTHER NOTES:

For those of you who are traveling to Knoxville Saturday to see the Gamecocks go up against the fifth-ranked Tennessee Volunteers, plan to get a first hand lesson on what the word "Tradition" is all about. Here are some impressive numbers that might show some "how it's done" in the SEC.

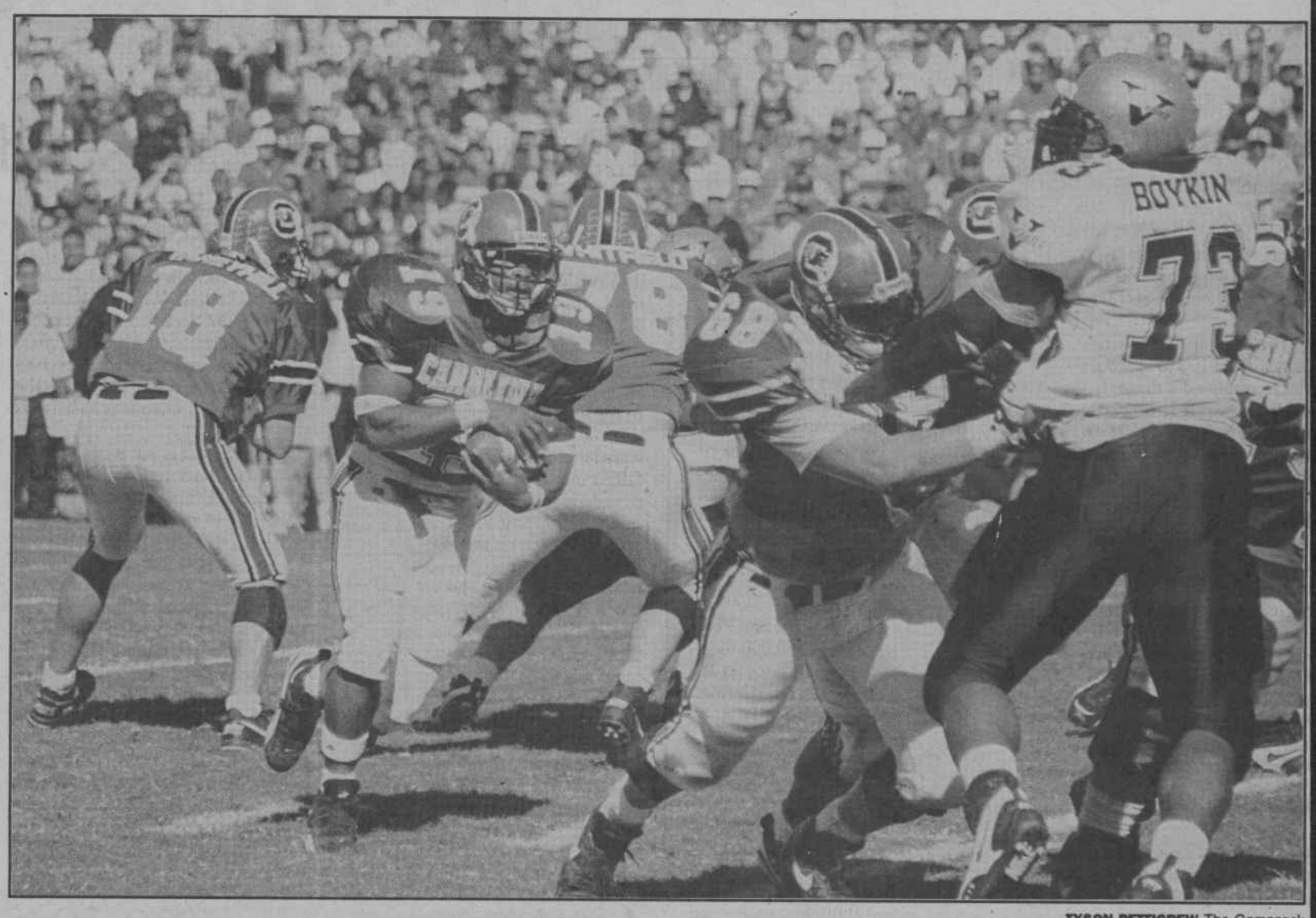
■ 73,000 true believers attended the Orange and White game in 1986, nearly 27,000 more than had ever before watched a spring practice scrimmage anywhere on Planet Earth. To put this in perspective, Carolina usually gets around 8,000 for their spring game. Also, USC usually only draws over 73,000 in huge games.

■ Tennessee stands second only to Michigan in attendance since almost the beginning of time. If the Wolverines aren't careful, UT may move right past them in 1996 when Neyland Stadium is enlarged to more than 100,000 capacity.

■ Tennessee was distinguished as the first university in the South to successfully recruit high profile black athletes such as Condredge Holloway, Stanley Morgan and Willie Gault.

■ Tennessee has a rich history that includes the amazing accomplishment of going through a regular season (1939) without giving up a point, the last team in the nation to shut out every opponent.

■ Another model for tradition: Almost every year since 1985, Tennessee has been a consistent challenger for national honors by ranking in the top 10 at some stage of the season, including at least two preseason polls this year.



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

Duce Staley heads for one of his 97 yards rushing in Saturday's 52-14 win over Vanderbilt. Staley and the Gamecocks will get to see how they match up against the big boys Saturday when they head to Knoxville, Tenn. to take on the Tennessee Volunteers. The game has recently been picked up by Jefferson-Pilot as the SEC Game of the Week. Kickoff is at 12:30 p.m.

Resurgent Panthers looking for unprecedented third sraight victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dom Capers' patience has been rewarded.

Two weeks ago, people were wondering if the Carolina Panthers would ever win. Capers kept responding by saying his expansion team's 0-5 start was no reason to panic. The Panthers were doing the right things, he said over and over, but they weren't doing enough of them.

Now Carolina has a chance to become the first expansion team ever to win three games in a row. And Capers once again is urging everyone to stay calm.

"I felt if we could take care of business and our guys would mature and we could come together as a team and keep working at things, then we could become competitive," he said Monday.

The Panthers have overcome an 0-5 start to win two in a row heading into Sunday's game at New England. No expansion team has ever won three consecutive games.

"I didn't have any illusions coming in here that everything was going to fall into place and we'd be 6-0 or 7-0," said Capers, whose team defeated New Orleans 20-3 on Sunday.

"To me, it was a challenge of starting from scratch and being able to build something and hopefully see it develop and see the team come together. And I've seen a lot of those things happening to our football team. I felt when we were 0-5 that I had seen a lot of those things happen."

Most of those things were happening on the Panthers' defense, which was ranked 11th in the 30-team NFL through Carolina's first six games and has not allowed a touchdown in the past two games.

The Panthers held the Jets to 138 yards, including just 25 on the ground, in a 26-15 victory two weeks ago. Against the Saints, Carolina forced five turnovers, including four interceptions of Jim Everett.

Numbers like that help make up for an offense that has been inconsistent, especially at quarterback, where rookie Kerry Collins has seen his numbers plummet.

Two weeks ago, Collins failed to pass for 200 yards for the first time as the Panthers' starter. On Sunday, he didn't even reach triple figures, having to settle instead for completing 8 of 21 passes for 48 yards.

Capers pointed out that even though Collins struggled, he still got the Panthers into the end zone following a pair of third-quarter turnovers by the Saints and directed a scoring drive later that went 67 yards.

"And this is the first game this season that we have not turned the football over," Capers said. "Even though we're sputtering and struggling at times, we didn't make the really foolish errors."

The Panthers' young offensive line, which features two rookie starters, lost its most experienced member Monday. Right tackle Derrick Graham, who is in his sixth year in the NFL, will be out 3-4 weeks with a knee sprain. Graham likely will be replaced by Mark Dennis, an eight-year veteran who joined the Panthers as a free agent.

"Guys have been rallying all season long and staying focused, taking care of business," Capers said. "This is the most positive momentum we've had."

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Student Ticket Distribution

USC-Clemson Ticket Lottery?

USC Gamecocks vs. Clemson

All students who have paid the University Fee for fall 1995 may register by having their ID card scanned for the lottery in the Russell House Room 205 on:

Wed, October 25, 1995 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thur, October 26, 1995 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fri, October 27, 1995 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lists of all students selected in the lottery to receive a ticket will be posted on Monday, October 30 at noon in the Student Government Office and in various residence hall lobbies. There will be a primary list and three lists of alternated.

Tickets will be distributed as follows:
1. Individual ticket pick-up at the Russell House Room 205

Wed, November 1, 1995 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thur, November 2, 1995 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

2. Any tickets remaining after Thrusday, November 2, 1995 will be available to the first alternate list on Friday, November 3, 9:00 am - noon; Second alternate list noon - 2:00 pm; third alternate list 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Any tickets remaining after 4:00 pm will be available to any student who paid their activity fee but did not enter the lottery from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm on Monday November 6, 1995.

- Students must present a validated ID when picking up a ticket and when entering the stadium on game day.
- There will be block seating for the Clemson game.
- There will be guest ticket validations for the Clemson game.
- All band members and scholarship athletes are ineligible.

Winner of the 1995 "Best Collegiate Magazine" GB