Football Schedules A Headache

A Look at the Schedules

With the NCAA's limitation on 30 scheduled games for the year and a squad of 100 players, coaches have to care anything about the teams they schedule, they have a game with a school like Virginia Tech.

Regardless of the complaints, the schedules have been made, and except in a few isolated incidences they will not be changed.

The Roanoke Times has examined the schedules for the next two years of the seven major conference schools in Virginia, Virginia Tech and South Carolina. This study offers some interesting contrasts in the scheduling procedures of the various schools, and also permits some qualified guesses to the successes—or failures—that lie ahead.

The ACC schools are now making an effort to play a round-robin football schedule, something that has not happened lately. Virginia, for example, did not play Clemson or N.C. State in 1971 or 1972, and had to count games against South Carolina and Virginia Tech as league contests in order to meet the league requirement of five meetings.

All that changes in the future. In the next two years, all ACC teams will play each other each year, except for Wake Forest, and 1972 Virginia does not meet Wake Forest in 1971, but through 1984 the Cavaliers will play every other potential ACC opponent scheduled.

South Carolina, although no longer a member of the ACC, plays virtually a full slate of non-conference teams. The Gamecocks meet everybody Maryland and UVA next year and everybody but Maryland in the past, and in fact there have to meet No. 1 Michigan on Saturday in Ann Arbor. Virginia Tech plays three ACC teams the next two years as it starts a four-year rivalry with Clemson. The Hokies play Virginia and Wake Forest regularly.

Tech's 1976 schedule was the subject of considerable complaint, although the majority of those games were made up a decade or so ago.

The schedule is being fed up considerably for the next two years. Tech adds Memphis State, Clemson and Kentucky while playing Virginia Tech. Deletions are Southern Mississippi, Kent State and Tulsa.

In 1976, Tulsa, Auburn and Alabama replace Texas A&M, Memphis State and Richmond. Thus the schedule would appear to be even tougher.

Tech plays UVA, VMI, William & Mary, Wake Forest, West Virginia and Florida State each year. Overall, the Tech schedule becomes much more competition, but it is far from impossible.

That is not the case with Duke and Cumberland. Both these teams have to play outside the ACC:


The Duke schedule looks '77-like and '78-like and '79-like. In '78 the Blue Devils had exactly the same schedule in 78, although playing on Penn State, South Carolina, Michigan. Both Michigan games, naturally, are on the road.

Clemson plays Georgia, Georgia Tech and South Carolina, three toughies, every year. In '77, the Tigers also face Virginia Tech and Notre Dame, thus getting the railing for the hardest schedule in the area. The Citadel replaces Notre Dame in '78, and that falls to No. 2 behind Duke.

Rating No. 1 in the schedule category, however, mustn't trouble for the head coach.

Maryland, which currently is better equipped to play a Duke or Clemson schedule, is loaded with games against teams it should defeat.

The Terps have the easiest series schedule this year and are favored to go 11-4. In the next two years, they once again will meet Penn State, but that is the only sure foe. The Terps ACC schedule includes West Virginia, Syracuse, Villanova and Richmond, while, for Tech and faces Tu- lane, Louisville, Kentucky and Syracuse.

Wake Forest's 1977 slate is much more realistic with Furman, Vanderbilt, Purdue, South Carolina and Virginia Tech. Although it certainly won't be easy for the Deacs. But take a look at the Demon Deacons' ACC schedule for 1978—Virginia Tech, LSU, Purdue, Auburn and South Carolina. If you look closely you'll see that it's as qualified for the Purple Heart.

Virginia's non-league schedule next year is its most difficult ever. Texas, West Virginia, Virginia Tech, Syracuse and VMI. In 1978, the Cavs should have a schedule against the likes of Navy, Army, VMI (this is called the Pentagon series). Virginia Tech, West Virginia and South Carolina.