behind 14-0 midway in the first quarter.

But the Deacon's offense has had its problems this season. Missing, due to graduation, from last year's 6-5 squad are half of the line, quarterback Larry Russell and Wake all-time rushing leader Larry Hopkins. Also, Ken Garrett has not matched his season of a year ago. As a result, the Wake offense has been averaging under three yards per play, and has not scored a touchdown since Oct. 14.

Mired in a miserable season Harper, has had the luxury of experimenting with freshman in his starting lineup. "We brought ten freshmen with us and nine of them played. At one time we had all nine freshmen in there. They played for most of the fourth quarter. I saw some encouraging things out of them tonight, there were times we moved the ball like a team with a bunch of freshman in there," said Harper.

Carolina coach Paul Dietzel finally got a chance to play several of his freshmen. "We finally got a chance to see little Russ Jackson in there and I'll be darned if he doesn't hurt his knee the first time he carries the ball," said Dietzel. Jackson's first varsity carry resulted in a five-yard gain for USC. Jackson's knee injury is not expected to be serious.

"We wanted to give Jeff Grant some experience running the team and I thought he did a fine job." Grant was at the helm for most of the second half and led Carolina to late scores.

Another first-year man seeing extensive action for Carolina was defensive tackle Jay Saldi. "We came out of the N. C. State game in the worst physical condition we've been in all season. "Rick Brown was really banged up, and didn't play tonight. LeHuep and Austin were doubtful, although they did see some action, but we were faced with the prospect of playing without Brown, Austin and LeHuep. So we decided to bring Jay up and he did an outstanding job. All the young players filled in well," explained Dietzel.

misread as a plea from a man in trouble. And Dietzel is not in trouble at the present time, no matter what any local 'experts' say.

The most disheartening aspect of this year's football team is that it was expected to be strong. The schedule was full of teams like Appalachian State, Wake Forest, Virginia and Virginia Tech. Even more painful is the possibility that a team with as much talent as Carolina has could very well not win another game this season.

No matter how hard it is to accept, USC cannot, or at least has given no sign that it can, defeat a better team. There are no Dick Harris's or Warren Muir's to rely on.

When the Gamecocks face a team of equal or worse standing, they can handle their opponents with ease. There is something lacking within this squad, be it motivation, spirit, ability or pure coaching ability.

It is unfortunate that USC has not been able to excel on the football field. It is also unfortunate that Dietzel has had to undergo such verbal and written torment while he is trying to establish a powerful football team. Regardless of what anyone thinks of Dietzel as a coach, he has to be affected to a certain degree by the all-knowing critics.

And it's also ironic that while the critics are seeking a winner, they are in fact making things a lot harder for Dietzel, who has the same object in mind.

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