By BILLY COX
Gamecock Sports Writer

Carolina upends Blue Devils, 24-16

For a football team that's supposed to be 0-2 right now, Carolina sure is off to a lousy start.

The Gamecocks invaded Durham, N.C., the Blue Devils' own back yard (where they went undefeated last year), and made Duke their second victim of the young season. In completing their 24-16 win USC rolled up 355 total yards—282 on the ground—jared the Devils for 3 three fumbles, and gave a textbook lesson on how to run a flawless veer.

A strong showing of Carolina fans, though, was unable to sit back and grin until a frenzied series of events occurred with just less than three minutes left. Freshman quarterback Mike Dunn, who was moving the ball steadily upfield, faded back to pass, his team down by five.

Carolina defensive back Jason Adamski intercepted at the Duke 45, returned it seven yards, and fumbled after being hit. USC's Bill Currier recovered, was hit late, and drew a 15-yard penalty. Four plays later Bobby Marino popped in a 34-yard field goal for the clincher.

Although USC head coach Jim Carlin was generally pleased with his squad's performance he was still reserved when questioned about Carolina's potential.

"I don't talk much about what I'm satisfied with," Carlin said. "I talk about what I'm disappointed with. People keep saying 'Coach, when are you gonna be satisfied?'"

I'm gonna be satisfied when we correct the mistakes we've been making."

Carlin was bothered by the Gamecocks' kickoff and secondary coverage, "sloppy tackling," and specifically, the lack of first half opportunism.

After Grant zigzagged in from one yard out to complete a picture-perfect 61-yard drive off his own three.

Although USC got the ball back possession, Duke fumbled on its 28. The Blue Devils' first two incomplete end zone passes later, a Marine attempt was wide to the right.

The Blue Devils got off only two more plays before starting quarterback Bob Corbett pitched out to the invisible man, and Scott Blackman recovered on the Duke 16. Duke's defense tightened up again, with Bobby Marino shot going astray.

Following a Duke field goal, Carolina got the machine cracking up again. Grant mixed the plays up beautifully, calling on Casey Carter, Tom Anderson, and big Clarence Williams (who burned up 114 yards for the day) on the option pass to spearhead the drive.

Grant took it over from the one, capping a 12-play, 61-yard drive in 4:36.

"I wasn't satisfied personally with my performance," Grant later reflected on his 102 total-yard afternoon, "but again, you're not gonna have a great game every week, and as long as we win, I'll take a bad performance anytime."

A clover at the opposing offense revealed sharply contrasting styles of attack. While the Gamecocks nibbled up yardage in slow, grinding fashion, Duke relied on the big play, that sudden explosion, to add fangs to its advancing.

The Blue Devils had the tools. The Gamecocks' kickoff and secondary coverage, "sloppy tackling," and specifically, the lack of first half opportunism.

The Gamecocks secondary honest, too, as well as presenting a balanced offense.

Duke also rotated quarterbacks quickly. Corbett was bailed out by quick pocket passes. Hal Spears, who in turn was yanked for Dunn. It was Spears who guided Duke to a late first half touchdown, to trim USC's lead to 14-10. Williamson smashed over for a one-yard score.

Duke struck back immediately on the next series. Spears relieved primarily on Gore to take him down to the one where he sneaked over to cut it at 21-16. A two-point conversion pass failed.

While the fourth quarter was a see-saw of possession changes, with Duke linebackers Dave Duke and Dave Winter operating with bone-shattering efficiency (14 tackles apiece), Carolina's defense rose to strangle the Blue Devils' potential.

Before the game, an electric message had flashed across the scoreboard: "This is a different G.C." No one in Durham or Atlanta will argue with that.

McGee somber, quiet after losing to USC

Wallace Wade Stadium sits like a crumbling, lifeless memorial to another era. It's ancient, but now meaningless gesture. Named for the Duke coach who took the school to three Rose Bowls, games now draw half-capacity crowds to its drab stone confines.

The South end zone has no seats, no field house, nor even a steep hill for students to rest on. There is no need for additional seating, really.

Nor is there a need for renovation.

On Saturday afternoon, as the sun began to burn away the haze, Duke's head cheerleader tried to turn on his audience by dancing, chanting, and telling jokes. An hour later he threw up his hands, grimaced, and moaned, "Oh well."

In fact, the Blue Devil supporters looked most alive when reports of Maryland's win over arch-rival North Carolina started flooding in. But it didn't ease the sting. Duke lost again.

In the depths of a dark and musty lockerroom, some 10 or 11 reporters sat waiting, like vultures, to hear the excuses. Some smiled at each other sarcastically.

Blue Devil coach Mike McGee shuffled in soberly and took a seat in front. "I really don't have much to say," he began quietly.

"It was obvious that mistakes early in the game got us in poor position," he continued. "Our defense played well against a good offensive team, but our offensive execution early in the game (no two quick first quarter fumbles) was a problem."

After a passage, he said in monotone, "As the game wore on, we didn't improve greatly."

McGee's voice trailed off.

McGee then saluted Jeff Grant and Clarence Williams in USC's 30-point win as well as Art Gore's electrifying runs.

We've got an important conference game coming up," McGee intoned listlessly, trying to change pace. "But this game was awfully important, too."

McGee shouldn't be blamed for his opening loss. If you schedule Southern Cal you're going to take a pounding anyway. But Saturday he was on the short end of a 24-16 score with Carolina, a team forecasters said was down and gasping at the start of nine even before it had played its first game.

Add it to that Duke sports department official was heaping praise on the Blue Devils' best teams in history.

McGee concluded his press conference in silence. One of the two reporters who had stayed until the end got up and said, "Thanks, Coach," when they both exited without a word.

McGee just didn't have much to say.

Clarence Williams led all rushers with 114 yards.