

WEEK THREE
NORTH CAROLINA at WAKE FOREST

Wake Forest beats North Carolina 24-18 in nonconference game

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Jamie Newman and Wake Forest had gone from dominant to hanging on, with North Carolina on the verge of yet another fourth-quarter comeback in a suddenly tense finish.

Yet these Demon Deacons have proven they can come up with big late-game plays, too.

Newman directed a clock-draining fourth-quarter drive, then watched as the Tar Heels ran out of time on their desperate final possession in Wake Forest's 24-18 win Friday night in an unusual nonconference matchup between same-state Atlantic Coast Conference teams.

"Making those first downs and driving the ball, that drive was the game-saver," Demon Deacons coach Dave Clawson said. "Because if they get the ball back at midfield or on their 30 with 4 1/2 minutes left and three timeouts, I wasn't feeling real good about it."

Newman and the Demon Deacons (3-0) took care of that.

The Tar Heels (2-1) had just closed a 21-0 deficit to 21-18 on Sam Howell's second fourth-quarter touchdown pass with 6:09 left, and the pressure increased when Newman took a sack to set up a second-and-16.

But Newman hit Scotty Washington for a 27-yard gain over the middle, then followed three plays later with a 4-yard scramble on third down to keep possession. That drive ultimately forced the Tar Heels to use all three of their timeouts, though not before Wake Forest had burned 5 minutes and tacked on a field goal.

That 12-play, 61-yard drive wasn't as dramatic as the one Newman led in the opener, ending with winning fourth-down touchdown throw with 1:08 left to beat Utah State.

It was a winner all the same.

"We stayed calm on the sideline," Newman said. "We didn't panic. We've been in those situations before."

UNC had a final drive, but the game ended when Michael Carter didn't get out of bounds in time on a run to set up a final desperation heave from just across midfield.

"The first half, we didn't feel like ourselves," Howell said. "Most of that is because of me. I didn't play very well in the first half. We just fought as hard as we could in the second half and ended up running out of time."

THE TAKEAWAY

UNC: The Tar Heels came in brimming with confidence after rallying from 20-9 down against South Carolina in the opener, then beating Miami on Howell's TD throw with 61 seconds left last week. This time, they dug themselves a hole they couldn't come back from with a miserable first-half performance then couldn't get the late-game stop quick enough to pull off another rally.

"I didn't think we played well emotionally in the first quarter and parts of the first half," UNC coach Mack Brown said, adding: "We weren't used to this position to be in."

Wake Forest: The good news is Wake Forest spent much of this one pushing the Tar Heels around, with Kenneth Walker running for 94 yards and receiver Sage Surratt having a career-best day with nine catches for 169 yards and a 51-yard TD catch from Newman. The bad news is Wake Forest didn't finish particularly well outside of that clock-killing drive, watching a well-in-hand game get unexpectedly tense in the final minutes.

THE FINAL PLAY

The Tar Heels were running out of time after Howell was taken down on a 3-yard run, forcing a hurried fourth-down play. Carter took the handoff and headed toward the UNC sideline for 13 yards with a chance to get out of bounds and stop the clock.

But Carter was pushed out of bounds by tacklers, and officials ran off the field immediately without a replay as Wake Forest's bench began spilling onto the field to celebrate.

"Honestly I kind of slowed down to try to set the blocks up," Carter said. "If I would've just run straight out of bounds, we probably would've had probably like 3 seconds left. But I thought it was going to be the last play of the game. That was a mental error by me."

INJURIES ABOUND

UNC didn't have starting receiver Antoine Green, center Nick Polino and defensive lineman Jason Strowbridge due to injuries, then lost offensive lineman Jordan Tucker to an apparent leg injury. For Wake Forest, No. 2 rusher Cade Carney didn't play due to injury, though Clawson said he was available in an emergency.

OUT OF THE ACC

This one doesn't count in the ACC standings. The teams had agreed in 2015 to play this year and in 2021 instead of waiting until 2022 for their next ACC matchup amid the 14-team league's scheduling rotation for teams in opposite divisions.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
UNC	0	0	3	15	18
WAKE	7	14	0	3	24

Scoring Summary -----

	UNC	WAKE
FIRST QUARTER		
WAKE TD 3:02 Jamie Newman 5 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)	0	7
2 plays, 20 yards, 0:28		
SECOND QUARTER		
WAKE TD 14:54 Jamie Newman 6 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)	0	14
5 plays, 78 yards, 1:44		
WAKE TD 12:04 Sage Surratt 51 Yd pass from Jamie Newman (Nick Sciba Kick)	0	21
5 plays, 85 yards, 1:38		
THIRD QUARTER		
UNC FG 0:41 Noah Ruggles 49 Yd Field Goal	3	21
4 plays, 36 yards, 2:14		
FOURTH QUARTER		
UNC TD 9:21 Michael Carter 11 Yd pass from Sam Howell (Noah Ruggles Kick)	10	21
6 plays, 80 yards, 3:02		
UNC TD 6:09 Dyami Brown 17 Yd pass from Sam Howell (Sam Howell Pass to Garrett Walston for Two-Point Conversion)	18	21
5 plays, 80 yards, 1:36		
WAKE FG 1:09 Nick Sciba 32 Yd Field Goal	18	24
12 plays, 61 yards, 5:00		

Team Stats	UNC	WAKE
First Downs	14	21
Passes for First	7	8
Rushes for First	7	12
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	2-16	5-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-3	0-1
Total Yards	333	436
Total Plays	67	74
Avg Gain Per Play	5.0	5.9
Net Yards Rushing	144	222
Rushes	37	48
Yards Per Rush	3.9	4.6
Net Yards Passing	189	214
Comp-Att	18-30	14-26
Yards Per Pass	6.3	8.2
Times Sacked	6	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-26	-6
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	10	8
Punt Average	46.0	47.8
Penalties	7	2
Penalty Yards	43	15
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	29:21	30:39

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
NORTH CAROLINA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Michael Carter	13	96	7.4	0	50		
Javonte Williams	9	27	3.0	0	17		
Jace Ruder	3	21	7.0	0	22		
Dazz Newsome	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Sam Howell	11	-2	-0.2	0	8		
WAKE FOREST							
NORTH CAROLINA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kenneth Walker III	13	94	7.2	0	21		
Jamie Newman	19	78	4.1	2	11		
Christian Beal-Smith	15	51	3.4	0	14		
PASSING							
NORTH CAROLINA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Sam Howell	17	28	182	6.5	2	0	25.1
Jace Ruder	1	2	7	3.5	0	0	19.2
WAKE FOREST							
NORTH CAROLINA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jamie Newman	14	26	214	8.2	1	1	68.1
RECEIVING							
NORTH CAROLINA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Dyami Brown	3	84	28.0	1	55		
Dazz Newsome	7	62	8.9	0	32		
Michael Carter	2	22	11.0	1	11		
Javonte Williams	2	10	5.0	0	7		
Emery Simmons	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Garrett Walston	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Sam Howell	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Rontavious Groves	1	-4	-4.0	0	0		
WAKE FOREST							
NORTH CAROLINA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Sage Surratt	9	169	18.8	1	51		
Scotty Washington	2	31	15.5	0	27		
Christian Beal-Smith	2	17	8.5	0	12		
Jaquarii Roberson	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		