



CAROLINA FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

GAME TWO: CAROLINA VS. ETSU
CAROLINA 35, ETSU 3



General

- The Tar Heels opened the 100th season of Kenan Stadium with a victory, defeating ETSU, 35-3.
- Saturday was Carolina's first home-opening victory since defeating Charlotte on Sept. 7, 2024.
- The meeting between the Tar Heels and ETSU was the first between the two schools. Saturday was Carolina's first against a SoCon opponent since Wofford in 2021.
- Carolina has defeated an FCS opponent for the 26th-straight time, a streak that dates back to 2000.
- The Tar Heels have opened the 2026 campaign 2-0 for the first time since 2024, starting 2-0 for the fourth time in the last five seasons.
- At the end of the third quarter (2:28 PM), the game entered a 79-minute weather delay, with play resuming at 3:47 PM.

Offensive

- Billy Edwards tallied 244 passing yards, a season-high. It marked the first time since November of 2024 he posted back-to-back games with 200-or-more yards through the air.
- Benjamin Hall posted a career-long rush of 25 yards in the first quarter, surpassing his previous high of 19 yards. Hall ended his day with a total of 49 yards rushing, on four carries.
- Edwards connected with Jelani Thurman for Carolina's first passing touchdown of the season, a 24-yard completion to reach the endzone with 9:56 remaining in the first quarter. It was the first touchdown for each as a Tar Heel, Edwards' 20th of his career and Thurman's third.
- Freshman C.J. Sadler hauled in a career-long 28 yard pass in the second quarter. The first-year receiver totaled three catches for 66 yards in his second career game.
- Hall posted his first receiving touchdown of the season with a 26-yard pass through the air from Edwards.
- Carolina began the drive on its own one-yard line, piecing together a 99-yard drive across 10 plays, resulting in the Edwards to Hall touchdown. The drive tied the longest in school history, matching the 99-yard scoring drive against Miami in 2022.
- Demon June earned his first touchdown of the season, clocking a nine-yard rushing score with 1:20 left in the half. The sophomore ended the game with 33 rushing yards and three touchdowns on seven carries, his first career multi-rushing touchdown game.
- June became the first Tar Heel with three-or-more rushing touchdowns in a game since Omarion Hampton against Florida State in 2024.
- With a 92-yard drive resulting in June's third rushing touchdown of the game, the Tar Heels posted two 90-yard drives in a game for the first time since October 2023 against Syracuse.
- Thurman hauled in a 25-yard receiving pass in the third quarter, as the Ohio State transfer finished the game with 71 yards.
- Quarterback Miles O'Neill made his first appearance as a Tar Heel in the second half, his ninth collegiate appearance.
- On the day, 11 different Tar Heels posted a reception, and eight players posted a rush.



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Defensive

- Greg Smith ended ETSU's first drive of the day with his second interception of his career and his first of the season. This marked Carolina's second takeaway of the season and its first interception. To open the second half, Smith posted his first fumble recovery of his career.
- Jaylen Harvey recorded his first sack as a Tar Heel and second of his career for a seven-yard loss. Harvey posted his second sack of the day with 4:24 remaining in the first half, totalling a career best two sacks in the win.
- Linebacker Peyton Seellman led Carolina with seven solo tackles, and 10 total tackles.
- Xavier Lewis recorded two sacks in the first half. The sophomore has recorded 5.5 tackles for loss and four sacks through the opening two games.
- The Tar Heels allowed a field goal against the Buccaneers for only three points in the game, matching the fewest points surrendered by the Carolina defense since three against Charlotte on Sept. 6, 2026.
- The three points allowed by the Tar Heels were the fewest allowed in a game at Kenan Stadium since Sept. 12, 2012 against Idaho (66-0).

Special Teams

- Aeron Burrell handled the kickoff and punting duties for the second-straight contest.
- Burrell punted twice with matching 52-yard punts, a new career-long for the junior.

Up Next

- Carolina travels for their first Atlantic Coast Conference matchup of the campaign next weekend, visiting Clemson.
- Kickoff between the Tar Heels and Tigers from Memorial Stadium is set for Noon on ESPN.