

A Rugged Individualist Tatum: A Punt Within His Goal

By Bob Quincy

Charlotte News Sports Editor



This
Was
Jim

JIM TATUM: 100-35-7

JIM TATUM: 91-34-7

Those are the figures. A man's life span. His career. Those are the figures that tell so much — and yet tell so very little. He was bold, brash, benevolent, boastful, kind. A football genius.

He could be tough. A tyrant. And yet soft as putty. He was a student of the grand entrance. A Barrymore too athletic for the stage. He lived hard and toiled was his greatest pleasure. Whether you disliked him or loved him, he stood apart from the crowd, the rugged American individualist.

He was a city slicker who preferred to be a country boy. He could eat with royalty and order black eyed peas and get by with it. He was a storm of controversy but a refuge for one of his players who might need comfort. He demanded action of the men who worked under him. His union was the 24-hour work day, no coffee breaks. He could organize a plate of chop suey.

He knew football, how he knew football! His mind was a camera. He remembered the third play of the first quarter — that the guard missed a vital block — as well as the 80-yard touchdown run that broke open the game in its last seconds. He could drive his men like a mule skinner. He could make them feel like Man O'War the next instant. He was a leader.

He talked too much. Because he had something to say. "I talk too much," he would criticize himself — and then go right on talking. And the crowd would gather around him. To listen.

He was a machine. He paced his life as if he were running a 100-yard dash against a falling star. He did nothing in small amounts. He ate and drank like a Roman soldier after victory — or he would abstain and never lose his place in the crowd. He was generous. He became a miser only in setting a defense for an opponent. He had pride, but pride only in perfection.

He was born to coach. His great loves were Chapel Hill, his family and the football field. He was a human dynamo whose heart ticked by the cheers of the crowd. The heart stopped last night at 10:40 p.m. Jim Tatum was pronounced dead in a room no more than a good punt away from Kenan Stadium, two months before the eve of what he hoped might be "my best season ever."

He returned to Chapel Hill under a storm of controversy. Now it was very quiet.



TOUGH . . . and soft as putty

Willie's Assist Won't Be Scored

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Giants center fielder Willie Mays gets credit for an assist that will never show up in the National League statistics. But it's as big as a home run to 11-year-old Zuretti (Bebe) McElmore. When Bebe's condition grew worse from an appendix but his roommate, Miles Bennett, ruptured in a sandlot game, he whispered a wish to see Willie. The parents' telephone call to Scale Stadium reached Willie Thursday after San Francisco had

SPORTS

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BOB QUINCY, Sports Editor
Ronald Green—Max Muhleman—Larry Harris

2-B—THE CHARLOTTE (N. C.) NEWS—FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1959

IN CHAPEL HILL THE ROOMMATE FINALLY HAD TO GIVE UP FIGHT

By Bob Quincy

CHAPEL HILL — "The doctors say it's hopeless — but we're praying they'll be wrong." Mrs. W. D. Carmichael Jr. sat in the living room of her home here last night. It could have been any home in Chapel Hill. Nearby was Hanes Lassiter of Charlotte and Charlie Shaffer, a university official. Both had been teammates of Jim Tatum when the coach played for the Tar Heels in the 1930's.

"IT'S DIFFICULT for us to believe—Jim, this way," said Mrs. Carmichael. "I know, I know," said Lassiter. "We were all shocked." Shaffer sat solemnly. He had been on the telephone since noon, first indication that Tatum was in critical condition. "I finally gave up trying to work at the office," said Shaffer. "I'd get started on something, then my mind would drift away. . ."

THERE WERE sounds of footsteps coming up the walk. "That will be little Billy," said Mrs. Carmichael, speaking of her grown son.



JIM TATUM

"He loved Jim so much, worshipped him from the time he could toddle." Billy III walked into the room. "Is there anything new?" he asked. "Anything since Dad called last?" Billy Carmichael Jr., his father, was at the hospital. He is a cousin of the coach. "No, nothing."

"It's been more than an hour now," he said. Then hopefully, "Maybe he's taken a turn for the better. It was that way late this afternoon. They almost had given him up, then he rallied." Mrs. Carmichael said, "He was a part of this house. Billy always called him 'Bull.' A nickname. If something happens, it just won't be the same without 'Bull.'"

There was a silence. Billy III spoke. "George Barclay won't give up," he said. "He's been by my place. He says Jim will shake it. George is fighting for him." Barclay, former head coach at North Carolina, now serves as an assistant. He was Jim's roommate in college, played beside him in the line. The time was 10:45.

Fight Results

ERIE, Pa. — Bobby Hughes, Erie, knocked out Billy Akins, Erie, 4 (disqualification).
BANGOR, Me. — Donahoe knocked out 155 lb. Baskin, knocked out Victor Patton, 154, Phillips, 5. (For Great Middleweight Title).

Coaches Mourn Tatum

Athletic World Shocked At Death

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. (AP) — The death of Sunny Jim Tatum, head coach at the University of North Carolina, shocked the athletic world Thursday night. Almost immediately, condolences began pouring in to the family and to the university. Said Jim Weaver, Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner and long-time friend of Tatum's: "I knew Jim Tatum a long time as a player and a coach, and even more than that, as a friend. This is a blow not only to the University of North Carolina but even more to intercollegiate athletics as far as football is concerned. His death is mourned by all of us."

W. D. Carmichael Jr., vice president of the university and a cousin of Tatum, joined with University President William Friday in mourning the death.

ONE OF Tatum's close friends, Coach Bud Wilkinson of Oklahoma, was speechless when informed of his death. They were coaching rivals when Wilkinson was an assistant at Syracuse and Tatum was at Cornell. They served together in the Navy during World War II and Wilkinson went to Oklahoma in 1946 as an assistant. He stepped up to head coach the next year when Tatum went to Maryland.

Another coaching rival, Bowden Wyatt at University of Tennessee, paid tribute by saying, "Football has lost one of its most colorful characters and one of its greatest coaches. I have lost a close personal friend."

Two men who were associated with Tatum at Maryland called his death a "great loss to the sports world." "HE WAS one of the most outstanding figures in the sports world," said Athletic Director William W. Cobey. He was a tireless worker. He worked at his job 24 hours a day. Said Dr. H. D. Byrd, president of Maryland while Tatum was coach, commented: "He undoubtedly had one of the best organizing minds in the business. He was a wonderful fellow and one couldn't ask anything more than what he did for the administration." The present Maryland president Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, said Tatum was one of the "three or four best coaches in America."

connections brought us together many times during the years. We faced each other on the gridiron for the past several years and I always respected his coaching ability and the football knowledge he instilled in his players. Jim was a credit to our national sport both as a player and as a coach. His untimely death leaves a gap that will be hard to fill just when it appeared he would put North Carolina back in the national football picture."

ANOTHER CLOSE friend and rival, Coach Paul Aron of Wake Forest, expressed sentiments similar to other Atlantic Coast Conference coaches. "I don't think it's possible to express adequately the shock we all feel at a time like this. It leaves you a little senseless."

Aron said he didn't "dream Jim's sickness was anything as tragic as this. I have lost a warm personal friend—someone I felt extremely close to. Jim was an individual. I had the highest respect for."

Shocked officials at the University of North Carolina joined the rest in praising Tatum.

C. P. (Chuck) Erickson, UNC athletic director, said, "It's a terrible blow. We've lost a great coach and a great man in handling youngsters. It's a terrible blow. I can't take it in."

Emmett Cheek, who played under Tatum as a freshman and who assisted him at Maryland and at North Carolina, said, "It's a big shock to me. I still can hardly believe it. He had been like a father to me."

Chancellor William B. Aycock of the University of North Carolina, said, "He will be greatly missed by his thousands of friends everywhere. The university has lost an outstanding son and a fine teacher of young men."

Hornets' Hit Parade	
Player	BATTING
Brannan	77 31 25 3 2 0 17 203
Edmonson	67 27 21 1 4 0 182
Warner	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Davis	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Springfield	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Lawrence	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Mannor	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Manini	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Tenn	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Mcneely	58 27 24 1 4 0 182
Harris	58 27 24 1 4 0 182

Pitching	
Player	W L SV IP H R ER
Carter	6 11 0 25 24 4 11 14
Gardner	4 11 0 22 4 1 11 22
Lawrence	4 11 0 22 4 1 11 22
Prater	5 10 0 24 4 1 11 22
Turney	4 11 0 22 4 1 11 22
Johnson	7 14 0 27 1 11 22
Olson	4 11 0 22 4 1 11 22
Mcneely	5 11 0 22 4 1 11 22

RECORDED: 15-30
HOME RUNS: 11, DOUBLES: 14, PLAYS: 36, SERIES RECORD: 10-1
Macon 7, Gastonia 4-0, Charlotte 4-1, Jacksonville 3-4, Savannah 5-1, Asheville 5-1, Knoxville 5-1.



IN VICTORY . . . Jim Tatum was joyful man who radiated happiness



IN DEFEAT . . . Tatum took losses hard, believed winning was the only thing

WHO'LL BE NEXT COACH ON THE HILL?

CHAPEL HILL — There was speculation here today that either Jim Hickey, a three-year member of North Carolina's grid staff, or George Barclay, former head coach who later rejoined the Tar Heels staff under the man who succeeded him, would take over for the Atlantic Coast Conference school this fall as Jim Tatum's replacement.

Hickey, former head coach at Hampden-Sydney, played at William & Mary. Barclay was North Carolina's first All-America as a guard in 1934. A heavy air of sadness covered the village of Chapel Hill today as friends and co-workers mourned the death of Football Coach Jim Tatum.

On the university of North Carolina campus and uptown streets, small groups of students and townspeople talked about the hearty and shrewd mentor they depended on to put the Tar Heels back atop the national football heap.

Tatum, 46, was the victim of a swift and deadly virus. He entered Memorial hospital about a week ago, thinking he had nothing more than a touch of 24-hour virus. Only Thursday

Continued on 4th Sport Page

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