

Tar Heels Fire Davis

Written by Mike Kelly
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To no one's surprise (except for football coach Butch Davis) the University of North Carolina fired Davis Wednesday night.

The termination came after the new Board of Trustees met in closed session and discussed the future of the football program. Chancellor Holden Thorp said in a statement that the firing was a result of the cumulative damage to the university during the past year.

"Athletics and football are an important part of this University, and a successful football program is essential to the overall health of our athletic program," Thorp continued. "That's why we have to put this behind us and move forward."

The university is being investigated by the NCAA for nine alleged rules violations, including academic fraud and excessive benefits. The university is set to appear before the NCAA's committee on infractions Oct. 28 to answer questions concerning these violations.

Davis was 28-23 during his four-year stay with the Tar Heels. Possible candidates to replace Davis include, assistant head coach Sam Pittman, offensive coordinator John Shoop or defensive coordinator Everett Withers. Davis, who was a defensive line coach and defensive coordinator under Jimmy Johnson with the Dallas Cowboys (1989-94), is 103-77 during his 14-year head-coaching career at the collegiate and professional levels.

He was 51-20 during his six-year stay at the University of Miami, and he led the Hurricanes to an 11-1 record and a No.2 national ranking in his final season at the school in 2000. He also coached the Cleveland Browns in the National Football League for four years, going 24-34 during that stretch before his dismissal in 2004. He was an analyst on the NFL Network prior to his hiring at North Carolina in November of 2006.

The Tar Heels open the season at home against James Madison (which upset Virginia Tech last fall) on September 3.

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