

Heels, Illini Agree To Football Series

Written by Staff Reports

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North Carolina and Illinois have agreed to a two-year home-and-home football series to be played in 2015 and 2016. Carolina will play host to the Illini in Kenan Stadium on Sept. 19, 2015, and will travel to Champaign on Sept. 10, 2016.

Carolina and Illinois have met just twice on the gridiron with the most recent contest occurring in 1987. The Tar Heels won both of the previous matchups, including a 27-0 win in Champaign in 1971, and a 34-14 victory in Chapel Hill in 1987. Carolina has not faced a Big Ten program since a loss at home to Wisconsin in 2005.

Carolina also has completed its 2014 non-conference schedule with the addition of home games against Liberty (Aug. 30) and San Diego State (Sept. 6). The Tar Heels will also play non-conference road games at East Carolina (Sept. 20) and at Notre Dame, which were previously announced. The date of the Notre Dame game will be released by the ACC at a later time.

Carolina's only prior meeting with San Diego State came in the 1998 Las Vegas Bowl. Led by Bowl MVP Ronald Curry, the Tar Heels defeated the Aztecs, 20-13, as both teams struggled to move the ball under extremely windy conditions.

Carolina and Liberty have never faced each other in football.

Future Schedules

2014

Home: Liberty (Aug. 30), San Diego State (Sept. 6), Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh, NC State

Away: East Carolina (Sept. 20), Notre Dame (TBD), Clemson, Miami, Virginia, Duke

2015

Home: Illinois (Sept. 19), Wake Forest, Miami, Virginia, Duke

Away: NC State, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh

Neutral: South Carolina (Sept. 5 in Charlotte)

2016

Home: NC State, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh

Away: Illinois (Sept. 10), Florida State, Miami, Virginia, Duke

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Photo Courtesy: Larry Fedora, UNC Athletics