**UNC beats Wake, clinches Coastal Division**

The 15th ranked North Carolina Tar Heels defeated the Wake Forest Demon Deacons 36-34 on Saturday night in Winston-Salem.

With the win the Tar Heels won the Coastal Division and clinched a spot in the ACC Championship game against Clemson.

Both offenses combined for over 1000 yards on offense. The Tar Heels were led by their freshman quarterback Drake Maye, who completed 31 of his 49 passes for 448 yards and three touchdowns.

The scoring started early in the first quarter as the Tar Heel offense scored on their first two possessions of the game. Maye was able to find wide receiver Josh Downs for a 12-yard touchdown, one of his three touchdowns on the night. Running back Elijah Green found the endzone on the next possession as he scampered in for a 5-yard touchdown to put the Tar Heels up 14-0.

The Demon Deacons offense responded after that when quarterback Sam Hartman found wide receiver Taylor Morin for a 7-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

After that a shootout ensued.

"What a great night for quarterbacks," said Mack Brown, North Carolina Head Coach.

Maye and Hartman went back and forth and torched the opposing teams’ defenses throughout the second quarter. Maye found Downs again for a 7-yard touchdown and then the next Deacons possession ended with a 1-yard touchdown run for running back Christian Turner.

After the Deacons forced the Tar Heels to punt, Hartman found wide receiver Donavon Greene for a 7-yard touchdown to tie the game at 21 with four minutes to play until halftime. However, that was enough time for Maye to connect with Downs again for a 20-yard touchdown, but a missed extra point gave the Tar Heels a 27-21 lead at halftime.

The connection between Maye and Downs was something that many teams have tried to stop but have not yet done.

"He is a phenomenal player, and he has a knack for getting open and he makes my job so much easier," Maye said.

After that the momentum shifted towards the Demon Deacons at the start of the third quarter. After the defense stopped the Tar Heel offense on fourth down, Hartman found wide receiver A.T. Perry for a 32-yard touchdown to give Wake a 28-27 lead. The Tar Heels responded with a 10-play, 69-yard touchdown drive that gave the Heels a 33-28 lead, but the ensuing two-point conversion was stopped by the Wake defense.

The Demon Deacons responded when Hartman found Greene again this time wide open for a 60-yard touchdown to take a 34-33 lead but failed to extend it when the North Carolina defense stopped them on their two point try.

The next Tar Heels drive ended when the Wake defense stopped them on fourth down in the red zone to open the fourth quarter.

After an offensive explosion in the first three quarters, both defenses tried to make a stand in the final 15 minutes. The game was decided by two crucial turnovers by the Wake offense. The first a fumble by Hartman in the red zone and another an interception by safety Cam'Ron Kelly led to a 33-yard field goal by kicker Noah Burnette that gave the Tar Heels the 36-34 lead.

The interception is the one that Hartman would like to have back.

"It was just a fraction late I saw A.T. but I did not see the safety and that ones on me," Hartman said.

After a turnover on downs by the Wake offense. The Tar Heels only needed one more first down to get the victory and they got it on a 2-yard quarterback sneak by Maye.

On the final kneel, jubilation erupted from the Tar Heel sideline and from fans in the stand as the Tar Heels earned a trip to Charlotte to play for the ACC Championship, a place they have not been since 2015 and a championship they have not won since 1980.

Coach Brown is incredibly proud of his team.

"These guys are resilient, and they are fighters," Brown said "They have really accomplished some amazing things and they still have some things left to do."

The Tar Heels will host the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets next week and Wake Forest will host the Syracuse Orange in their home finale next week.