

## **UNC Falls to Clemson in Third Straight Loss, Extends Losing Streak to Seven Games Against Tigers**

**CHAPEL HILL, N.C.** — The North Carolina Tar Heels suffered their third loss of the season Saturday, falling to Clemson in a game where defensive struggles and quarterback uncertainty proved costly.

The theme of the loss was clear: UNC's inability to stop the pass. The Heels' defense allowed Clemson quarterback Cade Klubnik to throw for 254 yards and four touchdowns, as the Tigers' aerial attack consistently found success against Carolina's secondary.

UNC also faced significant offensive challenges without its starting quarterback, Geo Lopez. Lopez was ruled out following what appeared to be a leg injury suffered during the team's Week 4 contest against UCF. In his absence, backup quarterback Max Johnson stepped up, completing 61% of his passes for 213 yards, though it wasn't enough to overcome Clemson's offensive output.

The defeat marked UNC's seventh straight loss to the Tigers, continuing a troubling trend in the rivalry.

### **Coaches and Players React**

Head coach Bill Belichick acknowledged the team's shortcomings while maintaining optimism about their ability to improve.

"We just got to do a better job of coaching. We did a better job of playing. And I'll just eliminate the mistakes. They're fixable," Belichick said. "I mean that there's honestly not that many things that we can't get right, but we got to do a better job of it and we can't give up plays like that defensively at the beginning of the game. Obviously, it just tilts the score. It's too much."

Belichick emphasized the team's focus moving forward: "So get back to work here tomorrow. And I think I expect the players to rebound like they did last week and have another good week here. We'll get ready to go and keep improving and keep fixing the things that we need to fix."

Wide receiver Jordan Shipp took accountability for the loss, emphasizing the need for team unity.

"They didn't beat us, we beat ourselves. They were a better team today. It is what it is. We got to move on and we got to move on together," Shipp said. "We can't, I can't go out there and just only play for myself. Nobody can go out there and play for themselves. We got to play for each other."

## **Looking Ahead**

The Heels will now enter another bye week before facing California in their next matchup. The time off could prove crucial for the team to regroup, address their defensive issues, and potentially get Lopez healthy for their return to action.