

## Baseball Notebook

# Dickerson sparks Spirits with power

By DAVID BULLA  
Chronicle Sports Editor

J.D. Dickerson said it was the best week of his baseball career.

"I've never had a week like that before," Winston-Salem's soft-spoken Dickerson said last Friday night before the Spirits' doubleheader with Peninsula at Ernie Shore Field. "Not in high school, not in college, not in the minors. Only, I wish it hadn't stopped."

In one week, from May 11-18, the outfielder slammed five home runs. He hit a homer in five of six games that week.

That's not all. He batted .483 with 13 runs batted in and 12 runs scored.

"I was just seeing the ball real well," Dickerson said. "But I haven't seen too many fastballs this week."

The 5-foot-9, 175-pound Dickerson, nicknamed "Fire Hydrant," went without a homer for five days. But he jacked the first pitch -- a fastball -- to him out of the park Friday night to raise his season total to 13, which leads the Carolina League. That left him just one shy of his career high (14), which he set last year at Quad City of the Midwest League.

"I had been chasing a lot of bad pitches out of the strike zone," said the Charlottesville, Va., native. "I got behind and had to hit the pitcher's pitch."

"But I started to sit back and I was ahead on the count more frequently. I think that allowed me to see the ball a lot better."

The hot week caused Dickerson's batting average to jump to .267, the highest it has been since the first week of the season.

Eight nights into the season, Dickerson turned in a game that foreshadowed the torrid week that would come a month later. Against Hagerstown, he went four for five with two solo homers, including one 420-foot shot over the center-field wall at Ernie Shore Field.

By the end of April, Dickerson cooled and his averaged dipped to .206. He even was out of the starting lineup in four consecutive games.

Since, then he's hit a steady .294 with 19 RBI and 19 runs. The former UNCC standout has 12 of his 18 extra-base hits in that period.

Dickerson comes from a baseball-rich community. While he was growing up, one of his chief competitors was Chris Cabbage, brother of Lynchburg Mets' Manager Mike Cabbage.

"Chris and I took batting practice together in the summertime," the 23-year-old Dickerson said. "I remember Mike as a quarterback at UVa. Chris was pretty good in baseball, but he was quite a tennis player. Today he works as a pro in Washington, D.C."

Mike Cabbage, after his college football and baseball career at Virginia, was a journeyman in-



J.D. Dickerson leads the Carolina League with 13 home runs (photo by James Parker).

fielder in the major leagues. He played in the Washington Senators' organization, later was traded to Minnesota and ended his career with the New York Mets.

Dickerson himself was a three-sport standout in high school. Although he quarterbacked Western Albemarle to the Virginia 2-A championship game, Dickerson showed even more promise in baseball. He batted better than .400 each of his three seasons in high school and was named to the all-state team.

Dickerson first attended Brewer-Parker Junior College in Mount Vernon, Ga., and then UNCC. He batted .350 with 11 home runs for the 49ers before opting to sign with the Cubs after being their 19th selection in the June 1983 draft.

His recent power barrage is no isolated incident. He hit five homers and five doubles with 26 RBI in games as a rookie. After getting 35 extra-base hits last year in the Midwest League, he totaled 13 RBI and nine extra-base hits with a .298 average in 26 games at the Instructional League last fall.

And Dickerson shows no signs of falling off that pace.

"I think playing so close to home is making it even easier," said Dickerson, who missed Sunday's and Monday's games to visit his ailing mother. "My parents have been down to see me and I can go see friends in Charlotte when I have free time."

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## Hamilton hurls 1-hitter

Another 4-3 week for Winston-Salem allowed the Spirits' lead to grow to 3 1/2 games over second-place Durham in the Southern Division.

The Spirits closed the week by taking three of four from third-place Peninsula.

Four of the games were decided by one run, with Manager Cal Emery's team winning three of them. The Spirits are now 10-8 in one-run games.

The week's highlight was Carl Hamilton's second one-hitter of the season. Hamilton blanked Peninsula 3-0 for his fifth straight victory after losing his first two decisions of the season. Four of those five wins have come in complete games.

The left-hander's earned run

average, which was 9.00 after those first two losses, dropped to 2.96.

Meanwhile, reliever Dave Lenderman earned three saves to raise his team-leading total to six.

Recently-acquired shortstop Rich Rembielak went four for four in Sunday's 7-6 win over Peninsula.

In transactions, reserve catcher Steve Roadcap was promoted to triple-A Iowa. The 24-year-old Roadcap was batting .122 with the Spirits, but will be used for his defensive skills in Iowa. Damon Berryhill, the Spirits' starting catcher, remains in single-A since this is only his second year in the minors.

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### BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN THE MAJORS

#### BATTING STATISTICS

Player	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB
Bumbry (SD-VS)	.367	31	2	12	0	5	2
Coleman (S-FA)	.283	120	22	34	1	9	28
Cooper (MI-PVw)	.317	126	11	40	1	17	4
Davis (SD-HU)	.368	19	3	7	0	0	0
Dawson (MI-FA)	.264	139	19	40	6	21	6
Hairston (CHW-LS)	.259	27	2	7	1	6	0
H'rdson (S-PVw)	.317	120	18	38	5	15	1
Herridon (D-TS)	.229	118	17	27	3	8	0
McRae (KC-FA)	.205	39	4	8	1	4	0
Milner (CI-CS)	.237	93	18	22	0	4	7
Raines (MI-FA)	.264	129	20	34	1	9	11

#### PITCHING STATISTICS

Player	W-L	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	SO
Blue (SF-SU)	2-1	7.36	7.1	9	6	8	7
Boyd (Bsn-JSU)	4-3	2.98	66.1	64	22	22	53
Holland (PH-A&T)	1-1	1.06	25	12	3	8	11
Howell (LA-Tusk.)	2-2	2.10	25.2	16	6	15	32
Hudson (PH-PVw)	1-3	2.16	33.1	21	8	13	20

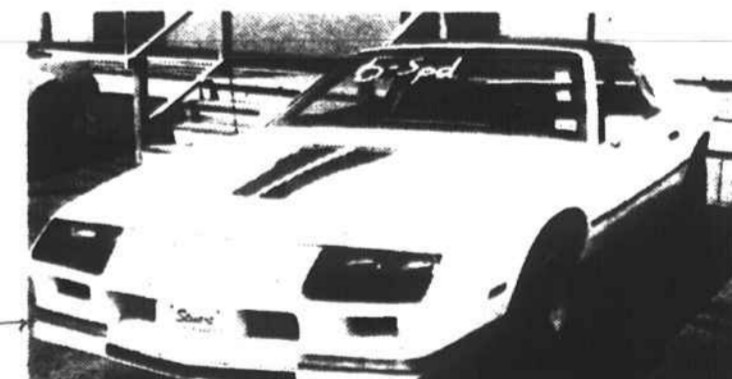
The above averages are for black college players currently in the major leagues. Pro abbreviations: Bsn-Boston; D-Detroit; CHW-Chicago White Sox; C-Cincinnati; KC-Kansas City; LA-Los Angeles; MI-Milwaukee; HU-Montreal; PH-Philadelphia; PH-Pittsburgh; S-Seattle; SD-San Diego; SF-San Francisco. College abbreviations: A&T-North Carolina A&T; CS-Central State, Ohio; FA-Florida A&M; HU-Howard; JSU-Jackson State; LS-Lawson State, Alabama; PVw-Prairie View A&M; SA-St. Augustine's; SU-Southern University; TS-Tennessee State; Tusk-Tuskegee; VS-Virginia State.

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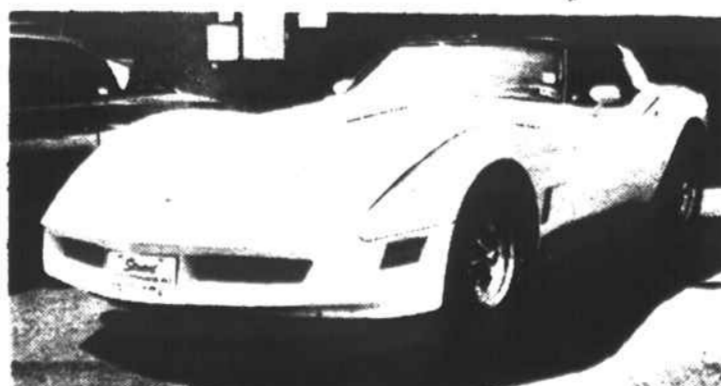
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