



Early Jones

Summer bright for UNC nine

by Marty Rasnake
Sports Writer

"It's not how far you hit it, it's where you hit it and it's not how hard you throw it but where you throw it." So goes one of the many baseball axioms that UNC head baseball coach Walter Rabb uses to stress to his hitters and pitchers the importance of timeliness and accuracy in the game of baseball.

Perhaps the words of wisdom from the "Old Leaguer" will never prove to be more true than in this year's version of UNC's Summer League baseball team.

This year's team is young and enthusiastic and they want to play baseball. There's no doubt about it. Take a stroll out to Cary Boshamer Stadium late some afternoon and see for yourself.

The seven players who are enrolled in summer school arrived at their apartments in Carrboro (Royal Park Apartments) three Sundays ago in time to get settled before classes began the following Tuesday.

The other 12, who are working with the UNC Physical Plant or Carolina Athletic Association (CAA), drifted in during the following two weeks.

Any lack of experience the youthful team may have should be gained quickly with Coach Harry Lee Lloyd at the helm. According to Coach Rabb, Lloyd really knows the game and should help a lot of the players greatly, especially in the hitting department.

Lloyd is a former second baseman for UNC, has coached the Philadelphia Phillies Rookie League team three years, and is presently the athletic director of Westminster School in Atlanta. So the credentials are there.

The question is, what does Lloyd have to work with this summer? Lloyd has one summer school graduate, five rising seniors, six rising juniors, and seven rising sophomores.

To say Lloyd has a young and inexperienced team might be considered an understatement if you look at it from the standpoint of previous varsity competition. Only 10 of the 19 players have played on the varsity and of those 10, only six or seven saw considerable amount of playing time.

Heading the mound corps is the Tarheel's senior ace righthander Mike Merritt, who possibly might be lost to this Friday's professional baseball draft. Merritt had a fine spring with a 5-2 slate and an earned run average of 2.60 in 55 innings of work.

However, Mike isn't counting on the prospects of being drafted Friday.

"I want to go ahead and finish my education unless they were to offer me good money. Then I'd sign but I'm not really sure whether or not I'll get offered money this time," Merritt said.

Following Mike in the pitching rotation will be Bruce Arrowhead, the Tarheels' top reliever in the spring who was almost lost for the summer to the Valley League in Virginia. Arrowhead came on to do some clutch relief pitching in several key games and situations.

Especially noteworthy was his 10-inning stint in Chapel Hill against Maryland when he didn't allow a run and gave up only five hits.

Rounding out the starting rotation is anybody's guess. It could be varsity relievers Joe Howard or Bob Cook. And you can't count out JV pitching stars Bob Thomson, Greg Leighton and Kenny Hudgins, along with reliever Tim Collins, all four of whom are just sophomores itching for the chance to prove themselves on a higher level of competition.

In the hitting department, the Summer Heels shouldn't be too lacking. They'll have hitters like Bobby Guthrie who finished third in the ACC this spring with a .333 average, including 11 doubles, six homers and 24 RBIs and Steve Rackley, the freshman

whiz kid who hit .295 as the DH, good for 13th place among ACC hitters.

Guthrie, however, will probably just be used as a spot starter and back-up catcher due to his status as a summer school graduating senior. He needs just one more course to graduate, but he could also be lost to the pro draft.

Rackley will be used at second base and his double play partner at shortstop will be Bill Lee who saw limited action on the varsity this spring. Rackley and Lee have the speed and quickness to easily handle the middle part of the infield chores.

At the corners will be David Gursoy fielding third base and Stuart Watlington and Charlie Spivey fighting it out for the first sacker job. Gursoy led the JVs this spring in fielding percentage, runs scored and stolen bases. Spivey led the JVs in hitting with a .395 average and Watlington hits the long ball with power.

Donning the tools of ignorance at catcher will be clutch hitting Jimmy Baldwin. Fuzzy, as his teammates call him, came through with several key hits this spring and saw quite a bit of playing time at catcher. He hits with power too.

The outfield could be the team's strongest asset with fleet-footed Early Jones and strong-armed Mike Wilkerson ranging the outfield grass. Both are great hitters when they are swinging at top form.

The other two outfielders are Ronny Merritt, the local boy who saw limited action on the Varsity and Marty Rasnake, who has two seasons of JV ball under his belt.

So overall, the outlook is bright for the Summer Heels. With the smooth blending of good coaching and dynamic enthusiasm on the part of the players, it could be another banner year for the summer team. That is, if they hit those holes and corners the "Old Leaguer" was talking about.

Waldrop competes in NCAA Track

After a sluggish performance in the California Relays celebrated miler Tony Waldrop tries to make a comeback in the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships which get underway at Austin, Tex. this Thursday.

Accompanying Waldrop from Carolina will be long jumper Sam Beasley and distance runner Dave Hamilton; but they just aren't going along for the ride.

Beasley has been a consistent 25-footer since the Carolina Relays at mid-season and

warmed up for the NCAA Championship by coming in second in the All-Comers meet at Tuscaloosa, Ala., last week with a jump of 24-9.

UNC coach Joe Hilton said, "Sam is ready to break it out" and is hoping for a 26-foot jump. Beasley's main competition for a top five finish will come from Pittsburgh's Bill Ray and UCLA's James McAlister and Randy Williams.

ACC middle distance runners rank among the best in the nation and Hamilton is the

premier three miler in the conference. Dave has a best time of 13:39 and was on the way to equalling that mark at the All-Comers meet when a pulled groin muscle forced him to drop out of the race.

Dave Bentley threw the discus 142 feet at Tuscaloosa to place fifth for his best finish this year.

The easygoing Waldrop's string of nine sub-four minute miles ended with a time of 4:05 and a fourth place finish in the California Relays.

The field was loaded with talent, the track was fast and the weather conditions ideal. Many people thought Waldrop would make a run at Jim Ryun's world record of 3:51. It was obvious at the half-mile mark that it was not Waldrop's day. He trailed Paul Cummings of Brigham Young by a wide

margin. The last lap kick never came as Cummings won in 3:57.7 with Hailu Ebba of Oregon State second in 3:58.6.

"I had a bad day," lamented Waldrop. "I have no excuses. I just did not have it. I was not getting enough lift on my legs. I have felt like this before so it doesn't bother me. Maybe I will finally begin to feel the pressure because I know I will have to come back."

It is the first time Waldrop has tasted defeat this year. The last time he came in second was in the NCAA Championships last June when the streak was in its initial stages.

Waldrop's main competition in Austin will be the same runners he faced in Modesto; but if he remembers to run for fun he should be the one who enjoys winning this time around.

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