

# Baldwin: a team oriented player

by Janie E. Moore  
Sports Writer

One of the most improved players on the University of North Carolina summer baseball team is Jimmy Baldwin.

Baldwin, a catcher, is a team oriented player. His responsibilities, as he sees them, are to keep everyone awake, give his teammates confidence, and help the pitcher; a sort of team leader, but not a dominating one. "I feel that it is really important to let the pitcher know that you are behind him," Baldwin said. "It doesn't help any to get down on a player who isn't doing well. It only makes things worse."

During the spring season, Baldwin played in 22 of 35 games, doing relief work and pinch hitting when he didn't start. Now, in the summer league, he is a

regular starter.

A change in batting tactics has helped Baldwin. Instead of going for the big hit, he has cut back on his swing, getting more base hits. Confidence in his ability, and increased concentration at the plate have made him more consistent.

Baldwin maintains that it doesn't matter how many hits a guy gets if his team loses. "It isn't just scoring. If a player scores three runs, but allows three runs for the other team on errors, he hasn't contributed anything. He has to play well defensively as well as offensively."

One of Baldwin's best games of the summer season was against Campbell College, June 18. He played a good game defensively, and contributed all around, with three hits, including his first home run of the season.

The summer league team has now

won two straight, bouncing back from six straight losses. Baldwin's batting average, before the team slump was .414. He is now batting .351 as compared with .258 last summer.

A Physical Education major, Baldwin plays baseball because he loves the game. "I like to meet people, and to travel," Baldwin said. "I know a lot of guys on other teams that I've played against since high school."

Having played on Little League teams, in high school, and every other chance he could get, Baldwin came to Carolina on a baseball scholarship. He turned down offers from several small schools.

"I had some trouble adjusting to college baseball," Baldwin noted. "In high school, things are different. You may be the best player on your team, or in the area. In college everyone is good, and the game is much faster. Anyone who can't adjust is left behind."

Baldwin decided to play catcher when he was in Little League. He was told that there would always be a demand for a good catcher because it was a

demanding position and most people wouldn't be willing to work for it. Now he wouldn't trade for any other position.

Because he is constantly trying to improve, Baldwin maintains that a wooden bat is better than aluminum. He can feel the difference between a good and a bad hit with wood, but not with aluminum.

During the off season, Baldwin tries to keep in shape by running and playing other sports. He generally avoids weight lifting because he feels that it tightens the muscles. Here also, college baseball is different from high school, because it is up to the individual to stay in shape.

Baseball is first in Baldwin's life. He plays because he likes the game, and will play, or coach, as long as anyone will let him.

# Walker nominated for Olympic coach

Dr. Leroy Walker of North Carolina Central has been nominated for the position of head coach for the United States men's track team in the 1975 Pan American Games and the 1976 Olympics.

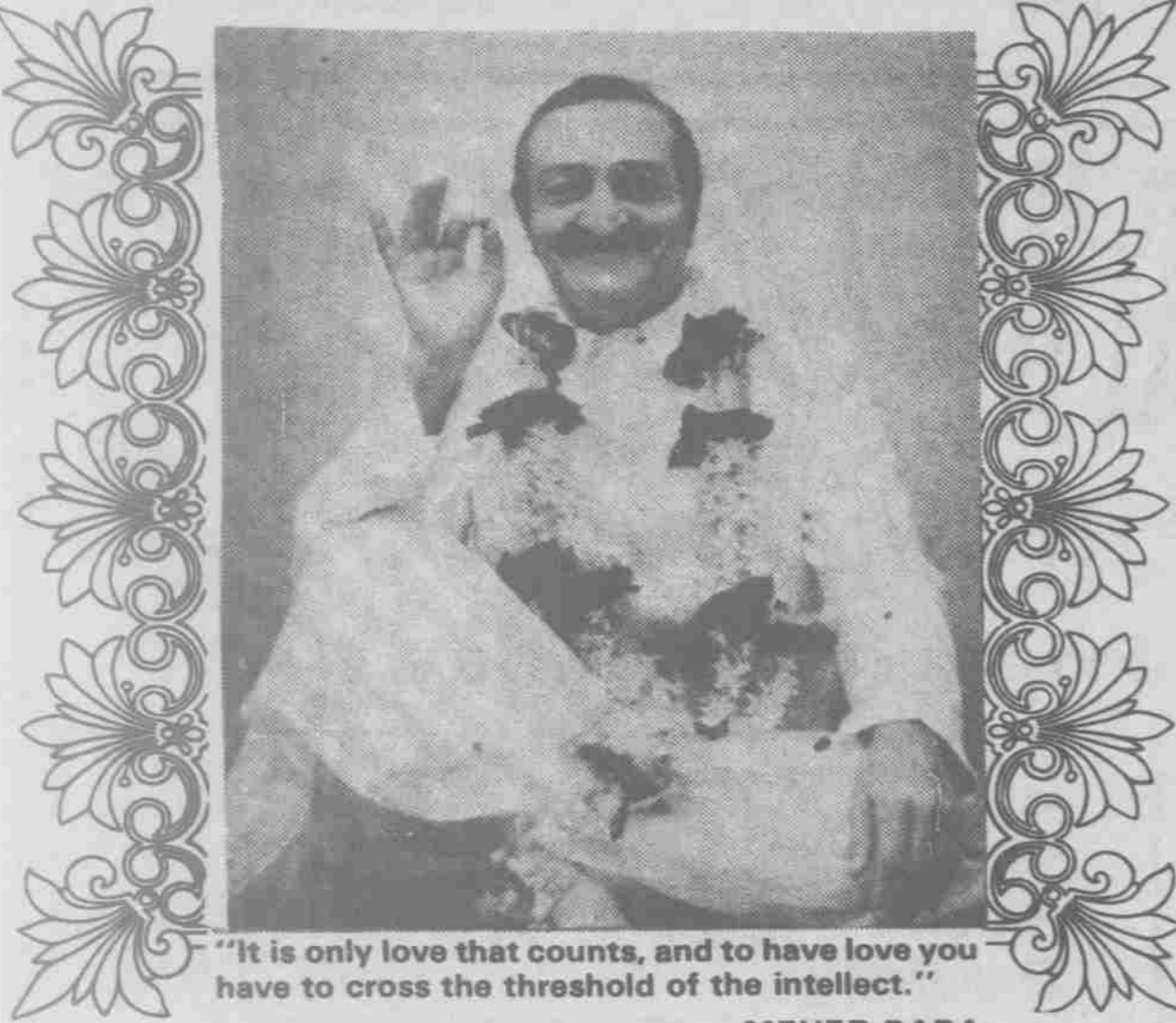
Walker and four others were chosen during a two-day meeting of the United States Olympics Men's Track and Field Committee in Durham last weekend.

The others were Jimmy Carnes, head coach of Florida and the victorious U.S. men's team in last weekend's USA-USSR Track Meet; Stan Huntsman, head coach at the University of California; and Bernie Wagner, head track coach at Oregon State University.

The five finalists were chosen from a list of nearly 50 names. The USOC Board of Directors must approve the nominees at its next meeting Sept. 20 in Milwaukee, Wis. The Track Committee will meet in Chicago during October to take the actual ballot for the positions of head coach and head manager at the 1975 Pan American Games, assistant coaches and managers for the Pan-American Games and head coach, head manager, assistant coaches and managers for the 1976 Olympic Games.

The Pan American Games are scheduled for April 26-May 11 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The '76 Olympics are in Montreal July 17-Aug. 1.

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# Heels lead statistics race

A red hot race is developing for the batting championship in the North Carolina Collegiate Summer Baseball League with at least five players in strong contention for the title.

Statistics compiled through games of July 7 show Louisburg outfielder Charlie Stevens as the top hitter with a .389 average. But he holds only a narrow edge over teammate Randy Warrick who is at .387. Both players

tailed off recently after hitting an amazing .500 through 12 games.

Outfielder Frank Floyd of Campbell is next at .383, followed by North Carolina's Early Jones at .377 and Jimmy Baldwin at .351.

Rounding out the top 10 hitters are Appalachian's Mark Dunn at .333, Louisburg's Steve Coats at .328, Louisburg's

Glen Card at .328, Van Lewis of UNC-Wilmington at .306 and Al McMillan of Campbell at .300.

Jones tops the leagues in runs scored with 20 and base hits with 29. Baldwin and Card are tied for the RBI leadership with 16 each.

Carolina righthander Mike Merritt continues to have the best earned run average with a sensational .99. Teammate Tim Collins is second at 1.37 and Larry Daughterdige of Louisburg is third at 1.41.

Ron Musselman of Louisburg has the most wins with five and Collins has the best record, 4-0.

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