Tuesday, July 23, 1974

Second place in summer league

The Tar Heel

Tar Heels win six in a row

by Jim Thomas **Sports Editor**

Carolina has come alive to grab second place in the Summer League. The Tar Heels clipped Wilmington 6-4 Friday night for their fifth straight win and the sixth in the. last seven games. UNC got complete games from Mike Merritt, Tim Collins, Joe Collins, Joe Howard and Greg Leighton last week to improve their record to 14-12.

Last Wednesday Carolina swept a doubleheader at Appalachian 6-5 and 5-2 to bring their record to .500 for the first time in 14 games. Mike Merritt picked up his third

victory in five decisions in the opener. In the nightcap sophomore Tim Collins raised his record to 6-0 helped by the hitting of Steve Rackley.

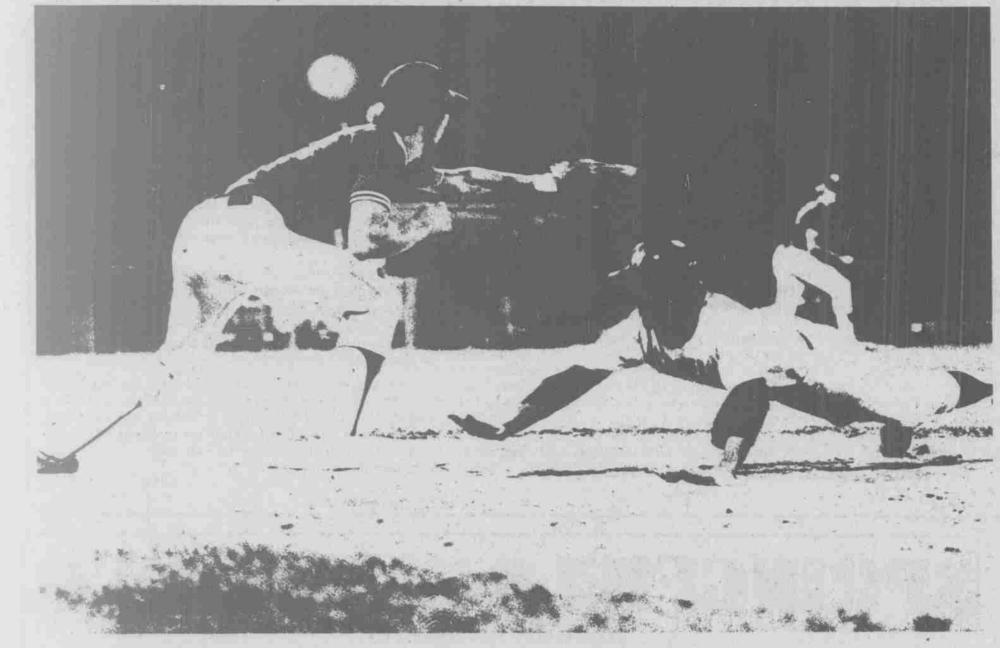
The Tar Heels humiliated Campbell 24-0 at Buies Creek Thursday to take over second place from the Camels. Joe Howard evened his record at 2-2 by holding Campbell to six hits. Carolina held "only" a 10-0 lead after six innings but scored eight in the seventh and six in the ninth for the rout.

Bill Lee pounded two homers, Steve Rackley was four for five with three doubles, Early Jones had three singles in four trips to

with a home run and Stuart Watlington was four for five with a double.

A five-run second inning stood up for a 6-4 victory over Wilmington Friday night. The Seahawks' Phil Lambert limited Carolina to only five hits, but the Tar Heels took advantage of three errors to score four unearned runs in the second inning and take a 5-0 lead.

Lindsey Ethridge singled to open the inning for UNC. Consecutive errors scored Ethridge and a walk to Watlington loaded the bases with no outs. Lee singled to drive in



the plate, Jimmy Baldwin was three for five two runs, a throwing error scored Watlington, Lee moved over to third and came home on Mike Wilkerson's sacrifice fly. Greg Leighton maintained the lead the rest of the way to pick up his first victory of the summer.

> Leighton was an outfielder and a pitcher for the junior varsity but has appeared mostly as a designated hitter against righthanded pitchers this summer. He started out as a relief pitcher but was hit pretty hard for his first two times out and did not throw again until an exhibition against Broyhill two weeks ago when he pitched a creditable 7 2-3 innings to earn a start.

> Against Wilmington the stocky Leighton allowed only one hit through the first four innings but the Seahawks rallied for four runs in the fifth inning to close the gap to 5-4.

> Robbie Ivey started things with a double down the right field line then Randy Ourt belted a two-run homer that just carried over the left field fence. An error by Lee put Joe Sholar on first, Swain Smith singled then Van Lewis doubled down the left field line for two more runs. Bobby Schupp walked to put men on first and second with only one out but Thurston Watkins grounded to shortstop and Carl Lancaster lined out to Early Jones to end the rally.

> "I started to drop my arm down in the fifth inning," Leighton later explained. "I was throwing three-quarters instead of overhand, the ball was not moving as good. I was hurrying my throw. I have a tendency to get my arm in front of my body and the ball sails too high but I wasn't really worried. I felt good out there, I never lost my confidence."

> With a slowed down delivery Leighton shut out the Seahawks the rest of the way on two hits, for the game he allowed eight hits, walked three and struck out three.

The Tar Heels scored an additional run in the sixth inning to provide Leighton with a two run edge. Lee walked, stole second and came home on a single by Rackley. Rackley also swiped second and Wilkerson walked to put men on first and second with two outs but Jimmy Baldwin grounded out to end the scoring.

The victory solidified Carolina's hold on second place and raised the Tar Heels' record to 14-12 going into Sunday's game at

Major league races at mid-season mark

by John Duniap **Sports Writer**

Last April, on a wet, cool night, and put his bat on the ground, resting it against his body while he slowly fitted his batting helmet. Atlanta's large oval stadium buzzed with anticipation.

Aaron had walked his first time up against Dodger pitcher Al Downing, amidst a chorus of boos. This time he strode into a pitch, flicked the wrists that are considered the best in baseball. and watched homerun number 715 sail over the left field fence.

who know and love baseball realize that the ritual was only beginning.

tonight in Pittsburg. The game, beside being proof that the National League has a greater amount of talent than the American League, is a fun-filled look at the players who cause their respective cities anguish and hope for six months of the year.

But it also marks the mid-season break, the halfway point. So for those who hail from cities with major league ballclubs, and those who are just interested, here is a look at what has been an engrossing, at times wild halfseason.

American League East

Simply put, the eventual winner of this division will be on top because the others lost. This is not to say that the AL East is a losers division, rather one in which every team is fairly even in strength. The team that does win will be the one that puts together a win streak in to the wire. Watch for the Pirates, who August or September, while the others continue to beat each other.

The chief surprises have been Cleveland and Milwaukee, both young teams. Cleveland, gaining confidence through the help of Gaylord Perry, have

winner in either Fenway Park or Baltimore's Memorial Stadium.

American League West

World Champion Oakland started Henry Aaron walked calmiy to the plate the year on a tear, evened out, and thanks largely to a handful of teams who refuse to challenge, is still on top. The reasons are good for the A's being on top-Reggie Jackson has played marvelously, and North Carolina Catfish Hunter is winning, as usual. No matter how much dissension the team has, they always seem to come through.

If there is to be a challenge, it will come from the Chicago White Sox, a better team than their record indicates. The Aaron homer is still clear in the Dick Allen may be the games best power minds of most people, but those of us hitter, and the pitching, led by Wilbur Wood, should be better. If manager Chuck Tanner keeps them playing as The All Star game is being played they have lately, Oakland better open their eyes.

National League East

This division is the ultimate in "you win, I win-you lose, I lose". To win the NL East, all you have to do is hover around .500 for the greater part of the year, then win a few in September. At this point, that qualifies Philadelphia. Montreal, and St. Louis.

The Phillies are the darlings of baseball, as the Flyers were in hockey (though us Bruin fans know better). They are a losing team that is winning. Philadelphia has been led by Dave Cash and Larry Bowa in the field, pitchers Steve Carlton and Jim Lonborg, and power hitter Mike Schmidt.

This race could be like the AL East. dependent upon a team winning a bunch, the watching the other teams flounder. The bet is that it will go down are winning again with pitcher Ken Brett leading the way, and the Montreal Expos who are young, but talented, and have a fine manager in Gene Mauch. Philadelphia will be there too.

National League West

UNC's Bill Lee dives back toward first base in Friday night's game against Wilmington. The Tar Heels clipped the

salad and texas loast

STEAK HOUSE

Seahawks 6-4 to solidify their hold on second place. (Staff photo by George Brown)

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Louisburg. Shabby fielding and ineffective relief pitching was responsible for the previous sub .500 status but the defense has tightened up and the pitchers have thrown complete games during the winning streak. Louisburg has the regular season title all wrapped up but if the present level of proficiency continues the Tar Heels could challenge the Hurricanes in the playoffs.

Mike Wilkerson's two-out single in the top of the 11th inning scored Bill Lee from second base with the games only run as Carolina edged Louisburg 1-0 Sunday for the Tar Heels sixth straight win.

Louisburg lost despite the four-hit, 14 strikeout pitching of Ron Mussleman. Tim Collins was the winning pitcher, raising his record to 7-0. Carolina's record is now 15-12. The Hurricanes dropped to 20-6.

The Tar Heels play Louisburg again this Wednesday night at 7:30 in Cary Boshamer Stadium in their next to last home game.

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played aggressively. Milwaukee (the Brewers, not the Braves, remember?) is the team of the future-they have a starting shortstop who is 18 years old.

Still, as the saying goes, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going", and there are Boston and Baltimore to reckon with. The Orioles have been erratic, steadied mainly by pitcher Mike Cuellar and third baseman Brooks Robinson. Boston was going full tilt until All Star catcher Carlton Fisk was injured in a collision at home plate. Carl Yaztremski is hitting like his old self, as is Rico Petrocelli. Best on the mound is pitcher Louis Tiant.

The division is the sort where even an older, slower team like Detroit, with a little luck, could win. The AL East may go down to the wire. If so, look for a

At one time this season everyone was claiming that the other teams in this division could go home and watch the Dodgers play ball. Their pitching staff, until the recent loss of Tommy John, was near perfection, but then the Dodgers pitching has always been good. The difference this year is that the team is also hitting, led by Jim Wynn, who is happy to be in LA after playing with Houston. Mike Marshall is the best relief pitcher in baseball, and Andy Messersmith one of the seasons best starters.

Lately, though, Cincinnati has been doing exactly what they did last yearwait awhile, then win a bunch. Last year, the Reds were second to the Dodgers until August, then blistered home in September. Tony Perez is having a good year and Johnny Bench is as steady as ever. But the pitching is suspect.

The Dodgers and Cincy will have at it again, this time look for LA, unless, of course, you are a Reds fan.

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