

First place in summer league

Heels' win streak reaches six

by Jim Thomas
Sports Editor

After limping off to a 1-3 start, North Carolina has stretched its winning streak to six straight games over the past couple of weeks to move into first place in the summer league baseball standings. The Running Tar Heels won four consecutive games during the break between summer school sessions to

boost their record to 7-3, two games ahead of second place Wilmington.

On June 19 Carolina downed Louisburg 5-4 in extra innings to put the Tar Heels over .500 for the first time this season. The game seasawed back and forth until second baseman Mike Fox, the eighth man in the batting order, doubled in the bottom of the 10th inning to score Laird Williams from first base.

Duke Hale went the distance for the Tar Heels in his first starting assignment of the season, giving up eight hits and striking out four.

On June 23 UNC jumped on Wilmington starter Phil Lambert for three quick runs in the first inning to roll to a convincing 6-2 win over the Seahawks. The aggressive Tar Heels took advantage of two extra base hits, a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly to put the game away early.

Steve Rackley doubled down the leftfield line to open the inning, took second on an infield out and raced home on a wild pitch for the first run of the game. Kevin Haerberle followed with a walk and came home on a triple by cleanup hitter Bernie Menapace, who scored on Early Jones' sacrifice fly to right.

Bob Thomson limited the Seahawks to two hits through six innings to pick up his second victory of the season. Wilmington broke through for solo runs in the seventh and eighth but the Tar Heels had already insured the win with a three-run fifth inning.

Carolina committed seven errors against Methodist June 24 but rallied for three runs in the seventh inning to escape with a 10-7 victory as the visiting Monarchs were unable to take advantage of the numerous fielding miscues.

The high-flying Tar Heels whipped Wilmington 5-0 Monday in the first game of a crucial three-game series for their seventh win of the season. Hale shut out the

Seahawks on four hits, allowing no runner to advance beyond second base.

Meanwhile, the Tar Heels battered Wilmington for 10 hits as eight of the nine starters managed at least one hit. Rackley and Jones led the attack with two hits apiece while Jimmy Baldwin drove in two runs with a bases loaded single. In addition, the Tar Heels stole seven bases to run their average to four a game.

Righthander Bob Thomson was expected to start Wednesday at Wilmington in the second game of the series. The two teams return to Chapel Hill for the finale tonight at 7:30 in Cary Boshamer Stadium.

Results

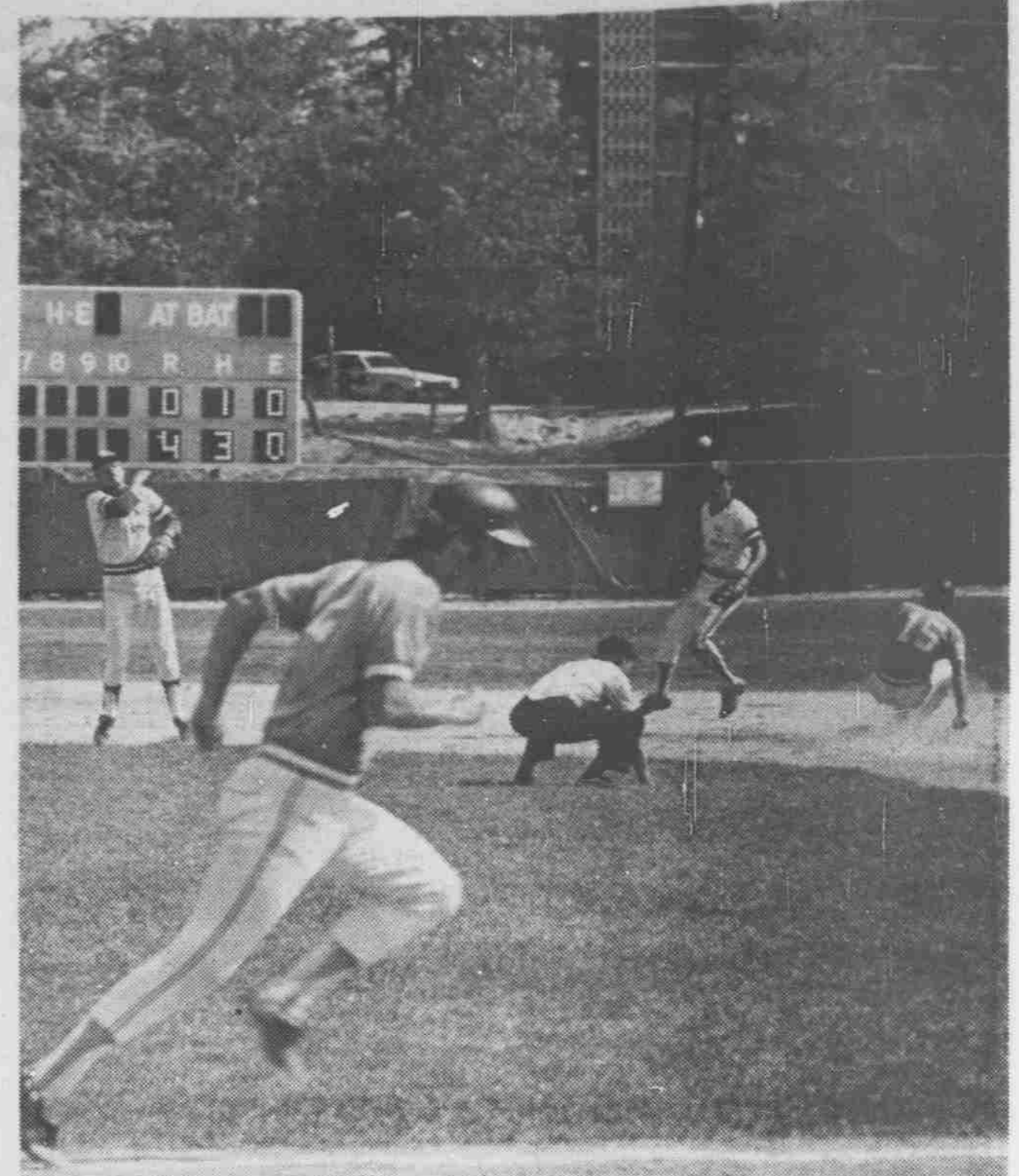
UNC 5, Louisburg 4
UNC 6, Wilmington 2
UNC 10, Methodist 7
UNC 5, Wilmington 0

Summer League Standings

UNC	W	L	G.B.
UNC	7	3	—
Methodist	6	2	—
Wilmington	5	5	2 1/2
Louisburg	5	6	2 1/2
East Carolina	3	6	3 1/2

This week's schedule

Thurs. — Wilmington
Fri. — at Louisburg
Sat. — East Carolina
Tues. — at East Carolina
Wed. — at Wilmington



Summer league baseball action resumes tonight as the Tar Heels host Wilmington at 7:30 in Boshamer Stadium.

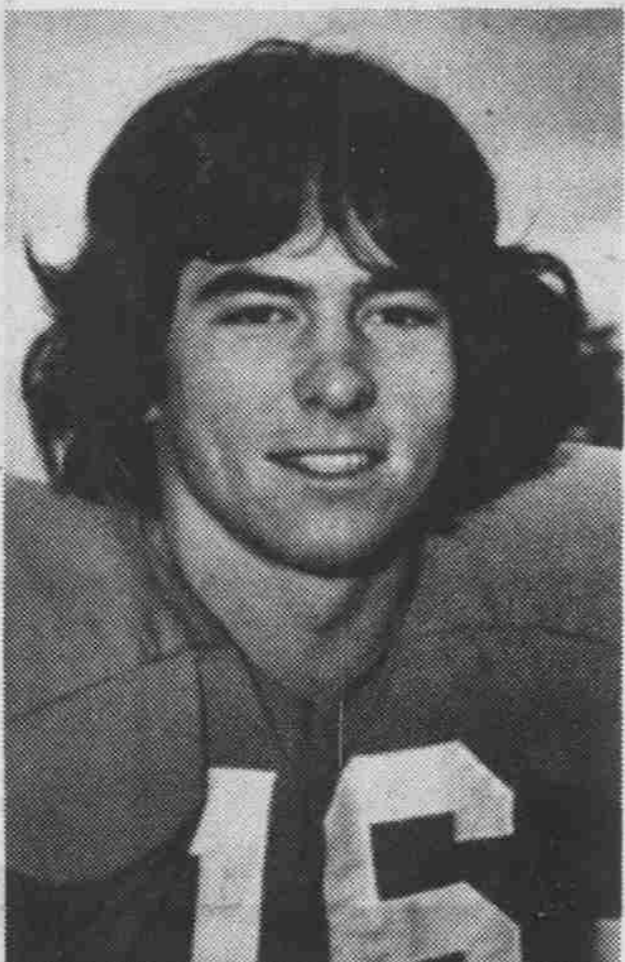
sports

Jim Thomas, Editor

UNC summer league statistics

HITTING	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	AVG.
Steve Rackley	45	12	11	6	5	0	0	.244
Jimmy Baldwin	42	7	10	7	1	1	0	.243
Early Jones	40	4	13	10	4	2	0	.306
Bernie Menapace	41	6	14	9	3	2	0	.352
Kevin Haerberle	45	3	15	7	1	1	1	.334
Laird Williams	31	2	4	1	0	0	0	.129
Bill Lee	35	8	4	2	1	0	0	.097
Mike Fox	39	13	9	1	1	0	0	.228
Randy Porch	13	1	1	1	0	0	0	.077
Chris Hager	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	.083
Don Davis	19	3	1	0	0	0	0	.053

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	BB	SO	W-L
Clay Johnson	26 1/3	36	21	17	5.89	4	17	2-0
Bob Thomson	26 1/3	25	10	10	3.46	11	17	2-1
Duke Hale	24	14	4	3	1.12	13	15	3-0
Wayne Long	9 1/3	8	4	4	4.00	8	8	0-1
Matt Wilson	8	11	6	6	6.75	3	4	0-0
Chris Horne	5 1/3	5	3	3	5.40	2	1	0-1
Greg Leighton	2/3	4	3	3	18.0	0	0	0-0



Bernie Menapace

Menapace: a demure freshman sounds off in the batter's box

by John Hopkins
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a windy spring day at N.C. State's Doak Field as UNC jayvee baseballer Bernie Menapace rounded third base and kept coming. As he approached the pay station, the State catcher was waiting with the ball.

When the dust cleared, the ball was rolling toward the Wolflet dugout, the catcher was flat on his back, and the umpire was signaling safe.

The same Bernie Menapace this week sat in the Boshamer Stadium press box looking out at the other members of the UNC summer baseball team, who were readying themselves for an optional practice under a hazy summer sky.

Menapace was soft-spoken, almost shy; something that is commonly missing in many successful athletes. When he speaks about his endeavors on Boshamer turf, one could easily get the impression that he is almost embarrassed about his success in the sport.

He becomes a little more enthusiastic when the conversation turns from his individual accomplishments to his contributions to the team.

After playing the jayvee season and the

first part of the summer loop as a catcher and occasional designated hitter, Menapace has been shifted to first base, a completely new position to him. But he doesn't seem to resent having to learn to play a new position.

"Yeah, I like it at first. Just as long as I'm contributing to the team," he said. "If I were out there doing a bad job, I wouldn't like it. But I've only made two errors at first, and in that same game I got two hits and drove in three runs. So I still feel I'm contributing."

Even though his current task is contributing to the Tar Heel diamond corps, the Sterling Park, Va. freshman is on this campus via a football scholarship.

In his just-completed freshman year, Menapace shared the jayvee quarterbacking duties with John Elam in the fall, before proceeding to lead the jayvee baseballers in batting this past spring.

"Yeah, it's tough playing two sports," said the husky left-handed hitter without a hint that he was complaining. "But I'm managing to keep my average over 2.0."

Whether it's tough or not, one can accuse Menapace of compromising his baseball obligations. He is now in a battle with Kevin Haerberle for the team lead with a .352 batting average.

But Coach Mike Roberts is most pleased "not so much that he's hitting for average, but that he's getting the clutch hits."

"He's really come along a lot farther a lot quicker than I expected," continued the coach. "He's laying off the bad pitches like a real disciplined hitter."

Not only can Menapace use the stick, but Roberts calls him "one of our best base runners; he's aggressive." And that is important in the Tar Heels run and gun style of play that has them averaging nearly 4 1/2 stolen bases per game.

The running game is nothing new to the dark-haired first baseman, since last spring's jayvee charges were also coached by Roberts.

However, the challenging coach had to wait a while to get his first look at Menapace, since spring football practice prevented him from joining the team until after the first game of the season.

"In the second game I sat out until the eighth inning. Then I pinch hit and got a single," Menapace recalled. "I was catching and DHing the rest of the season."

Now, even though he's first basing, the mild-mannered number 25 is still stroking the ball as steadily as ever.

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