



The Steal

Tar Heel second baseman Mike Fox is not averse to a little larceny once he gets on base. Against Liberty Baptist earlier this spring, Fox cautiously wanders off first, eyeing the pitcher and waiting for his chance. A throw over is not in time to pick off the diving Fox. On the next pitch, he drifts off the base, leans toward second, and then, spotting his chance, he takes off with his head down and legs churning. Staff photos by Andy James.



Netters whip Clemson

Carolina's current winning streak in ACC men's tennis now stands at one following a 6-3 win Monday over Clemson on the Country Club Courts.

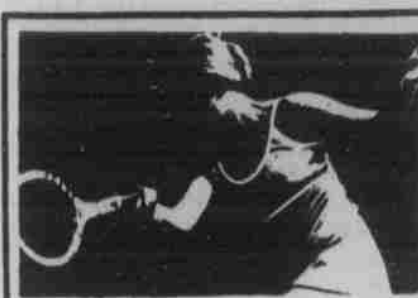
The Tar Heels, who dropped their first ACC match after 41 consecutive wins last week against N.C. State, moved their ACC dual match record to 2-1 and their overall mark to 18-3 with the victory over the Tigers. The win followed a 5-4 upset of Princeton Saturday.

"We've bounced back real well from the loss," UNC coach Don Skakle said. "The win over Princeton made the end of our season. We fought hard up there. The guys just made up their minds. I think we're fully recovered."

Carolina took a 4-2 lead after the singles against Clemson, which is now 17-11 overall and 3-3 in the ACC.

Cliff Skakle battled Pender Murphy for three hours before dropping a 4-5 third-set tie-breaker after splitting the first two sets 6-4, 6-7. Skakle owned a 4-2 advantage in the tie-breaker before losing three straight points. He fell on his cheek diving for the ball on the final point. Coach Skakle said his son would have the cheek X-rayed later Monday night.

Four of six singles matches went three sets while two of the doubles matches went three. "We were mentally and physically ready," Skakle said. The length of our season and the



SPORTS

- Baseball at N.C. State, 3 p.m.
- Women's tennis at home vs. Wake Forest, 2 p.m.
- Women's softball at Campbell, 3 p.m.

number of matches and all the travel I think has made our squad mentally tough."

Carolina hosts Wake Forest Wednesday.

Singles: Hassler (UNC) d. Buechler 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; Chatman (UNC) d. Gandolfo 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; Murphy (Clemson) d. Skakle 6-4, 6-7, 7-6; Tazman (UNC) d. Loder 6-2, 6-2; Thies (Clemson) d. Kraut 7-5, 2-6, 6-4; Henry (UNC) d. Milford 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles: Gandolfo-Loder (Clemson) d. Hassler-Chatman 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; Skakle-Tazman (UNC) d. Buechler-Murphy 6-3, 6-2; Kraut-Henry (UNC) d. Milford-Thies 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Heels' Roy Clark plays shortstop, not guitar

Hard-hitting transfer in several roles for league leaders

By WILL WILSON
Staff Writer

Roy Clark knew his name would stick in the minds of UNC baseball fans just by being heard once. But in this, his first Tar Heel season, Clark has gone out and made his name memorable in his own right.

Clark, the baseball player and not the famous country music personality, doesn't usually make the headlines like slugger Jim Atkinson, RBI man Greg Robinson or pitching ace Greg Norris.

But a check of Clark's line in the box score usually turns up some number other than zero in the hit column. About half the time, his name will appear again, down where the players with doubles and triples are listed.

Clark, a transfer from Ferrum Junior College, has done all this hitting, which led the team in the latest statistical release, while

being switched from designated hitter to second baseman to shortstop.

He'll try to continue his consistency when ACC leader Carolina plays third-place N.C. State at 3 p.m. today in Raleigh.

But the 5-foot-10, 165 pounder's performance should not be that much of a surprise, since he led Ferrum in hitting both years he was there and made the junior college first-team All-America list last season.

More of a surprise, if one goes back a little further to Clark's senior year in high school at Martinsville, Va., is that he is playing baseball at all.

He'd hit over .500 his junior year, and had every right to expect college offers to pour in. However, a problem developed.

"I hurt my knee in the fall," he says, "and that led to a blood clot that put me in the hospital in February. But I wanted to play baseball."

He did, but couldn't match his junior year performances at all.

"I could barely pick up the bat by the last three or four games," he recalls. "I just got weaker and weaker, and hit just .380 that year."

Clark had part of a lung removed at the end of the season, and he says his weight dropped to 120 pounds while he was laid up.

He slowly worked his way back into shape, even playing a little near the end of the

summer before enrolling, unrecruited, at Ferrum.

His freshman performance was good enough to catch the attention of Mike Roberts, then a UNC assistant coach.

"He got in touch with me at the end of my freshman year," Clark says. "As my sophomore year got better, the other bigger schools started contacting me, like Virginia Tech, Madison, East Carolina and South Carolina."

But Clark liked Roberts, who had been named head coach by that time, and he says, "you can't find a place with better facilities."

He started out this season as the designated hitter, with an occasional game at second base, the position he's played most of his career. However, three-year veteran Mike Fox has a lock on the starting role there.

But when shortstop Phil Griffith was

spiked three weeks ago, Roberts called on Clark to fill the position there. Errors began to show up, dropping his fielding percentage below .900.

"I feel I'm a second baseman, and I'm comfortable at second," he says. "I haven't played shortstop since the summer before I went to Ferrum."

"Shortstop's about the same (as second base) when I have to throw hard — I just come up and throw. The hardest part is the finesse throw, when I have to flip the ball."

Clark probably won't have to worry much more about it, since Griffith is expected back in the lineup today, putting Clark back in his previous role.

And to answer the obvious question, Clark says he is not a Roy Clark fan.

"I've learned to live with the kidding," he says. "I prefer disco and rock, and maybe a little Waylon Jennings."

Monogram picnic set

All varsity letter winners are invited to attend a picnic sponsored by the UNC Monogram Club at 5:30 p.m. Sunday on Ehringhaus Field.

Interested letter winners should call Jane Foley at 3-8956, contact their coach or call the Ehringhaus dining hall to sign up. There is no charge for the picnic.

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