

Fun makes up for futility for many IM softballers

"Strike three!" the umpire exclaimed when the softball player took a violent swing and found only air meeting the aluminum bat.

"Darn it," said Henry in a half-serious tone. "I didn't do that in Little League and that was fast-pitch. Maybe it's the aluminum bat, I'm used to good, old-fashioned wood. Or maybe I didn't get out of bed on the right side. Phooey, that pitcher was just lucky; I'll get him next time."

Henry's sentiments after a futile effort at the plate during an intramural softball game are typical of the action on Carmichael and Ehringhaus Fields. Maybe there aren't too many strikeouts, but futility reigns more often than not as weekend athletes give it the old college try in intramural softball.

The unfortunate souls struck by futility on the playing fields nonetheless possess the same undeniable gusto which comes with a winner. Things don't go the right way for many IM athletes, however, as skills once refined in Little League don't reappear when the gun sounds to start an IM event.

But intramurals are designed for these types of athletes. Without them a certain flavor would be gone, along with a majority of IM entrants. But, as Henry, an imaginary softball player says, you can always try, try, try. There's always next week.

IMs & CLUBS

By BILL FIELDS

After struggling to round up his team members, Henry thought seriously about his afternoon softball game. With three losses behind them, the Wildcats desperately wanted to win today's IM game. To save face for themselves, for the dorm and for their girlfriends, the Wildcats needed an intramural victory. But could they do it?

"Field No. 4," the schedule read. Opponent: the Brown Baggers.

Henry thought a moment about the team he was about to face. "The Brown Baggers," he said. "They must be a bunch of saps, no sweat." He would think differently 45 minutes and six innings later.

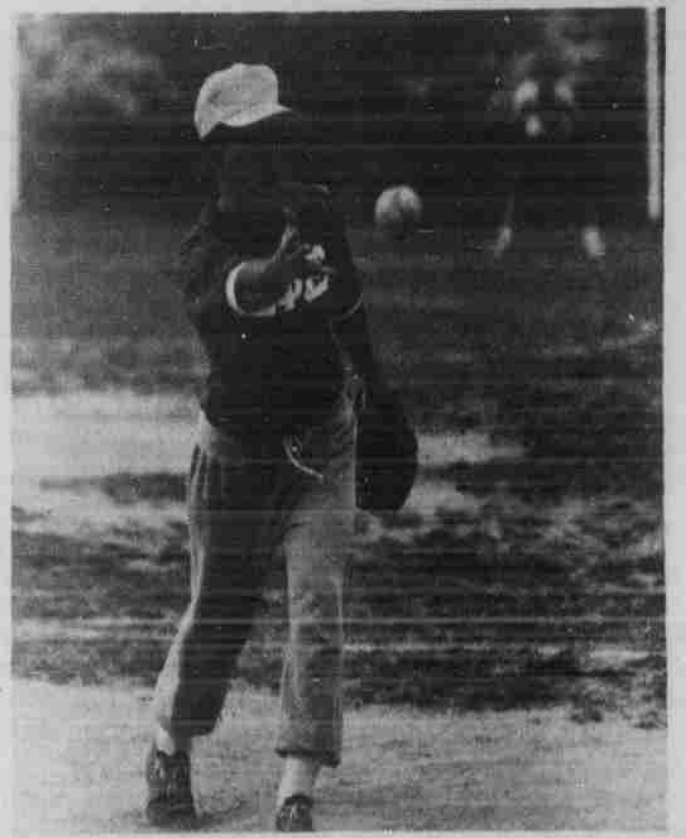
After J.B., a former Little League all-star, dropped a pop up that the youngest Pee-Wee Leaguer could handle, Henry began to worry. With the bases loaded already in the top of the first, J.B.'s two-out goof let two score and drained the confidence from the Wildcats. Clearly, J.B. wasn't all-suite in his dorm, much less All-Little League.

At bat in the bottom of the first, the Wildcats looked pitiful. Striking out, Henry, the captain, would have to lead the team spiritually because he couldn't do it on the diamond. Following Henry in the batting order was Eric, a fellow who played ball into his teen years and acquired All-Pony league status. But Eric didn't look like a pony, as he was thrown out waddling to first base after meekly stroking a grounder to the shortstop.

With the game now in the bottom of the sixth and the Wildcats trailing the Brown Baggers 13-0, Henry was distraught. Things had not gone his way today, but he was still hopeful. "We can rally, team," he said. His hope was ended soon when his Wildcats were extinguished for good after they combined a long fly-out with two foul-outs to seal their fate. Henry would have to wait another week for that win he wanted so badly.

Perplexed and tired Henry now trudged the long walk back to the dorm. Tests and his girlfriend now replaced softball as the main topic of discussion but he kept the softball game in his mind.

"I've got it," he said. "We'll change the batting order, move Eric to shortstop, I'll get a new glove, we'll warm up before the game and..."



Gary Joyner of Sig Ep shows his stuff

Blue Devils stun Heel tennis teams

By CHRIS POWELL
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Duke's men's tennis team spotted UNC a 4-2 lead after the singles matches but recovered to win all three doubles as it upset the Tar Heels 5-4 Tuesday afternoon.

It was the first time since 1942 the Blue Devils have beaten Carolina. Duke is now 10-10 on the year and UNC, 22-4.

"I don't think we were over-confident," UNC coach Don Skakle said after his team had suffered its second ACC defeat of the year. "We just had a bad day and Duke played out of their minds." UNC's women's team also took it on the chin from the Blue Devils as it could muster only one doubles win in an 8-1 defeat. Windy conditions and a shower of rain in the early going hampered the Tar Heels. "Duke just handled the weather better than we did, and that was the key," coach Kitty Harrison said.

The outcome of the men's match boiled down to the No. 3 doubles. The crowd gathered in the bleachers behind second court as UNC's John Kraut and Tal Henry faced Mike McMahon and Brad Van Winkle. The teams split sets and with Van Winkle serving at 2-2, the UNC duo gained three break points at 0-40. But the powerful Van Winkle, who plays only doubles, got the game back to deuce and eventually the Blue Devils won the game.

"That game hurt," Skakle said. "If we could have won that one it might have been different." With the set tied at 4-4, Van Winkle held serve but when UNC's Henry couldn't do the same, Duke claimed the victory.

Skakle admitted he was now worried about UNC's chances of being invited to the NCAA tournament. "Of course I'm concerned now. We'll just have to do well in the (ACC) tournament next week."



- Baseball at home vs. Wake Forest. 3 p.m.
- Men's golf in ACC tournament in Raleigh.
- Men's tennis at Maryland. 2 p.m.

"We had the momentum after the win over Miami," Skakle said. "But we simply couldn't get going today. Duke's record is certainly misleading. They're better than 10-10."

MEN
Singles: Hassler (UNC) d. Daniel 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Porges (Duke) d. Chatman 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; Robinson (Duke) d. Skakle 6-2, 6-7, 6-2; Taxman (UNC) d. O'Reilly 7-5, 6-7, 6-4; Kraut (UNC) d. McMahon 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; Henry (UNC) d. Stauffer 6-7, 6-1, 6-3.
Doubles: Porges-Robinson (Duke) d. Hassler-Chatman 7-5, 7-6; Daniel-O'Reilly (Duke) d. Skakle-Taxman 6-3, 6-3; McMahon-Van Winkle (Duke) d. Kraut-Henry 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

WOMEN
Singles: Barrie (Duke) d. Black 6-3, 6-1; Wolf (Duke) d. Hatcher 7-6, 6-4; Waugh (Duke) d. Timberlake 7-6, 6-2; Stearns (Duke) d. Shands 6-2, 7-5; Donahue (Duke) d. Harrison 1-6, 6-2, 6-1; and Heagerty (Duke) d. Dodson 1-6, 7-6, 7-6.
Doubles: Donahue-Stearns (Duke) d. Hatcher-Timberlake 6-3, 6-1; Waugh-Wolf (Duke) d. Harrison-Shands 6-0, 6-0; and Black-Dodson (UNC) d. Bacon-Barrie 1-6, 7-6, 7-5.

Fuhrer's 71 lifts Heels to golf lead

RALEIGH — Tar Heel freshman Frank Fuhrer shot his finest golf round of the spring Tuesday to help boost Carolina into a two-stroke lead over Maryland after the first round of the ACC Golf Tournament being held at North Ridge Country Club.

Fuhrer's 71 put him one shot behind individual leader Steve Fellingner of Maryland. Tar Heels Kevin King and John McGough each carded 72s.

Carolina's top five scores out of its seven players gave it a 368. Maryland was next at 370, followed by Wake Forest at 375, Clemson at 379 and N.C. State at 381. Duke and Virginia completed the field.

Other scores for the defending champion Tar Heels were: Bill Buttner 76, Bill Sibbick 77, John Elam 78 and Steve Smith 82.

Defending individual champion Scott Hoch of Wake Forest shot a 73 while teammate Gary Hallberg scored a 75.

The second round is set for today with the final round scheduled for Thursday. Final scoring for the tournament will be based on the five best three-day totals from the seven players from each school.



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THE DEAN OF BEER'S QUICKIE QUIZ.

- Q: "29.5 Degrees" is:**
- The new book by Dennis "Credit Hours" Yeider, college student since 1904.
 - The latitudinal coordinate of an area of unexplained phenomena known as the "Bermuda Shorts."
 - The temperature of Aunt Gertrude's holiday smooches.
 - The temperature at which Schlitz is Chill-Lagered.
- A: Always (d) and sometimes (c).**
Though 29.5 degrees is bad news for nephews, nieces and Uncle George, it's great news for us beer lovers. 'Cause Chill-Lagering gives Schlitz a distinctively crisp, clean taste. Which we academic types refer to as "great" to the nth degree. To obtain reference material for the next quiz, consult the Yellow Pages for the name of your local Schlitz distributor.

