

Baseballers try for summer encore

by R.L. Bynum
Sports Editor

After placing third in the College World Series, you wonder what Carolina can possibly do for an encore. After taking a week off, the Heels tried to take on the challenge of the North Carolina Collegiate Summer League,—with what they had left.

In addition to losing the coaching services of aggressive young skipper Mike Roberts, five players, including an All-American pitcher departed for the summer.

Roberts has been recruiting, and counseling at two FCA camps, while his assistants Randy Warrick and Bobby Guthrie have been coaching the squad. "Bobby and I enjoy coaching," says Warrick, "and we are glad we had this opportunity."

Warrick and Guthrie are both former All-ACC performers for Carolina. Guthrie was an all-conference pick at second-base in 1974, while Warrick was chosen at third-base in 1977.

A pair of main cogs in the Tar Heel

Sport Shorts

North Carolina's baseball team will play six games in Honolulu, Hawaii next spring as a part of a 55 game schedule. All of the games will be against the University of Hawaii. The team will stay there March 6-13.

"We're looking forward to a great trip and a tough series with Hawaii," said Roberts. "We are hoping this trip will be the first of several for us to Honolulu."

Hawaii led the nation in team earned run average this spring, while posting a 38-14 record. Leading the Rainbows is the All-American pitcher Derek Tatsuno, who led the nation in strikeouts.

Roberts is also trying to schedule an exhibition trip next summer to play in a semi-pro summer league in Alaska. However, that is still in the planning stage.

The remainder of next spring's schedule will be announced at a later date.

Karen Croake of Lafayette, Indiana has been named assistant sports information director at Carolina. The appointment was announced last week by director Rick Brewer.

For the last three years, she has worked in the SID office at Purdue University, where she received a masters degree in Mass Communication. There, Miss Croake was completely responsible for publicizing Purdue's non-revenue sports.

Tommy Dixon has been named assistant tennis coach at Carolina. The announcement was made last week by tennis Coach Don Skakle.

Dixon won six flight championships in his playing days at Carolina. He compiled an overall record of 72-16 in singles and 81-13 in doubles play in his career.

Since graduation, Dixon has served as professional at the Hollow Rock Racquet Club in Durham. He will still retain this job while coaching the Tar Heels.

—R.L. Bynum

machine this spring are playing in the Valley League in Virginia. Second-basemen Roy Clark is leading the league with a blistering .551 average and has swatted 3 grand slam home runs for the Madison team. Hard hitting rightfielder Greg Robinson is playing with the Waynesboro squad.

Third-basemen Jim Atkinson, pitcher Blaine Smith and catcher Dwight Lowry are competing in a semi-pro league in Colorado. Lowry, a great defensive catcher, sat out the spring season.

But perhaps the most interesting excursion was made by ace hurler Greg Norris, who played for the US All-star team in Japan. Southern California's coach had seen him pitch in the College World Series, and invited him to play.

With all of those players gone elsewhere, Carolina has had to rely on some players that have little varsity experience. A few players on the squad didn't even play in the spring.

Most notable of the newcomers is basketball center Rich Yonakor, who pitches and plays first base. However a hurt back has limited his pitching duties.

Most of the others are players who were on the JV team this spring. Among them are Vernon Cheek, Craig Piland, Larry Gates, Roger Griffith, and Ricky Spoon.

One of the regulars who decided to play here during the summer met with some misfortune. At the Tarboro field, they

have a telephone pole in the middle of centerfield. On June 19 Brad Lloyd was running after a fly ball against Atlantic Christian when he ran into the pole and broke his arm. That ended his season.

That left four regulars from the spring to lead the team. One of those who has taken charge in the hitting department, Senior Kevin Caddell is hitting over .400, second in the league. Others returning from the spring are Phil Griffith, a vacuum cleaner at shortstop, durable catcher Lloyd Brewer, and JD Henderson.

Warrick says that pitching has been a problem. "We thought at the beginning, that pitching would be our strong point, it's still strong for us, but we've been having a lot of untimely injuries with our pitchers. Mike Brewer is hurt with a strained back, and Charlie Beverly is leaving for home." Beverly says that he will probably transfer to Louisburg next year.

The Tar Heel pitching staff will get some good help tomorrow, when Greg Norris returns from Japan. "He should really bolster our pitching," says Warrick, "we are really looking forward to that (him coming back)."

"We feel like we should be the first place team, but it's our own fault that we're not," said Warrick. "We've had a lot of mistakes that have cost us. In fact in the last 2 or 3 ball games, we would be ahead and then we would kind of have a lapse,

and the defense plays poorly, and it cost us.

"Last Friday against Louisburg, we had a 6-3 lead with two out in the ninth inning, and our defense just collapsed. We ended up gettin' beat 7-6 in the tenth."

"Our boys know that it's (the second half of the season) like a new season to them," says Warrick. "Plus all this time all the JV guys are getting a whole lot more experience."

Almost everyone believes that the summer league is more relaxed than the spring. "It's a lot nicer," says Kevin Caddell, "a whole lot more casual. We play to win, but it's a lot easier than worrying about exams and everything, and trying to play too."

"It's definitely looser," agrees Warrick, "during the spring you've got a conference your trying to win, and trying to get into post-season play. During the summer the atmosphere is more relaxed, people are in summer school or working, or doing nothing."

"It's just a more relaxed atmosphere, and you just come out and have fun, and you can work on things that will make you better for the following spring. Last year our summer league team went 29-3 and we had everybody coming back into the place, and it just carried over real well, and I think that's a major reason why we did so well in the spring."

Carolina will battle Campbell College tonight at 7:30 at Boshamer Stadium.



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Amber Alley, 157 A. E. Franklin St.