Need consistent hitting

Softballers hoping to rebound

By FRANK KENNEDY Assistant Sports Editor

It won't be easy. Nobody ever said it would.

And, after dropping the first three games of the season, no one on North Carolina's softball squad is thinking it will be.

Coach Susan Clark's team came into the 1983 campaign with high hopes, and some of those dreams may yet be fulfilled with a long slate of games remaining.

To do that, however, it is going to take a strong dose of bat fever. In other words, no bats means no hits which means no runs. And that is precisely what has plagued the Tar Heel women in two of their first three games.

After opening the season on March 3 with a tough 6-5 loss to South Florida, UNC travelled to Gainesville, Fla. for a doubleheader, only to come away with 6-1 and 5-0 losses. The problem? Clark comes right to the point.

"We just can't seem to hit the ball," she said.

So much for diagnosis. The cure? It may

lie in the depth of the Tar Heels lineup itself. Clark returns seven starters from 1982's squad, a unit which turned in a 34-28-1 performance over the long haul.

The tops among those seven is All-America outfielder Rose Borkowski, a Miami, Fla. native who led the team in batting and fielding last year.

The rest of the outfield includes veteran starters Dori Kovanen (an All-America soccer player in the fall) and Janet Braxton. So far, the defensive output by the fielders has been solid as expected.

Around the diamond are veterans Marsha Brown at third base, shortstop Suzie Everette, first baseman Kay Holt and catcher Ginny Shriner.

The other two field positions belong to freshmen. Melissa Jarrell is handling second base while Sheila King completes the outfield group.

Cathy Pritchard, last year's starter on the mound, returns for UNC and is hoping for a productive season.

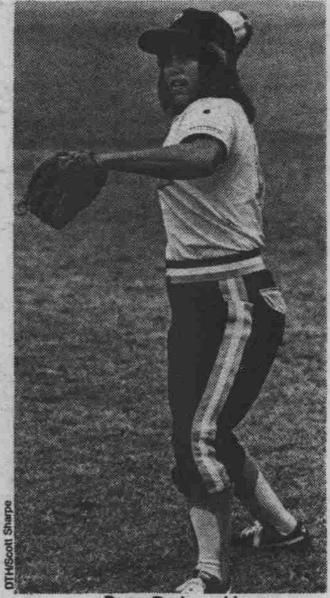
One of the problems that persistently nagged the 1982 edition of Clark's squad was inconsistency. The Tar Heels scored a season-high 29 runs against North Carolina A&T, and showed the potential to explode for runs on numerous other occasions. Clark hopes the team will come around in the hitting department.

"We brought in a lot more people than we lost (last year) and they are all excellent players," she said. "We still will not overpower anyone, but we have good line drive hitters that can collect a lot of hits."

If there is any consolation to the early losses it has to be the knowledge that the squad not only dropped its first three outings in 1982, but actually lost five of seven games before failing to lose again in a nine-game hot streak.

If the same kind of chemistry can develop on this year's squad, if the hurlers can shut down some of the more powerful opponents, if the Tar Heel batters can swing with a high degree of efficiency...

Those are a lot of "ifs," and Clark's squad hopes to turn into "whens." But, it won't be easy. It just won't be easy.



Rose Borkowski

1983	Softball S	chedule			
Mar. 15	NC A&T State	Greensboro, NC	Apr. 7	UNC-Charlotte	CHAPEL HIL
Mar. 17	Appalachian State	CHAPEL HILL	Apr. 12	NC State	Raleigh, NC
Mar. 17	Campbell	CHAPEL HILL	Contraction of the		(Red Diamond)
Mar. 19	UNC-G	Greensboro, NC	Apr. 15-	UNC-Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
	Invitational	(Lindley Park)	16	Invitational	(Hornet's Nest
Mar. 22	East Carolina	CHAPEL HILL	F Sterres		Park)
Mar. 25-	Catamount Classic	Cullowhee, NC	Apr. 18	NC A&T State	CHAPEL HIL
26		Service States	Apr. 21	Campbell	Buies Creek, No
Mar. 29	UNC-Charlotte	Charlotte, NC	Apr. 29-	Invitational State	Graham, NC
Mar. 31	NC State	CHAPEL HILL		Tournament	(Graham
Apr. 5	East Carolina	Greenville, NC	Sec. Sec.		Municipal Parl

ar. 16 Fairfield (DH) C ar. 17 Old Dominion N ar. 18 William & Mary C ar. 19 Duke C ar. 20 NC State R ar. 21 Ohio C ar. 22 Ohio C ar. 22 Ohio C ar. 23 Wake Forest C ar. 24 UNC-Charlotte C ar. 26 Maryland C ar. 27 Virginia C ar. 28 Davidson C ar. 29 New York-Buffalo C	Jurham, NC	Apr. 1 Apr. 2 Apr. 4 Apr. 4 Apr. 4 Apr. 5 Apr. 6 Apr. 6 Apr. 8 Apr. 9 Apr. 10 Apr. 11 Apr. 12 Apr. 13 Apr. 14 Apr. 15 Apr. 16 Apr. 20-24	Georgia Tech Clemson Howard East Carolina Campbell Wake Forest Davidson Clemson Clemson NC-Wilmington NC State East Carolina Campbell Maryland Virginia ACC TournamentCHAPEL HILL CHAPEL HILL Davidson, NC Clemson, SC Atlanta, GAChapel Clemson Clemson Clemson Clemson Clemson Clemson Chapel Chapel, Hill, Chapel, Hill, 	
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