

SPORTS

Tar Heel grads pursue baseball dream

By LEE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

The dream has died for most. As kids, they used to stay out at the diamond until the blue twilight hit, playing ball and preparing themselves for careers in the major leagues.

Slowly, the reality began to hit. Pitchers started throwing curveballs. The .152 averages in high school didn't impress the scouts.

Finally, the gloves were put away in the basement. The goals are still set, only this time a bit more modestly. The major league dream is just a piece of the past, and the future sees degrees, diplomas and jobs.

But, wait. The dream is alive and well and working out in Chapel Hill.

Scott Bradley and Pete Kumiega are two former North Carolina baseball stars who are not letting the dream die easily.

Both men have been working out daily at Boshamer Stadium in preparation for another season of minor-league baseball. Both hope to eventually work their way up to the majors.

But while the major-league life may

seem like a bed of roses, the path to it is not. Both players have experienced hard times since they left Chapel Hill.

Last summer, Kumiega's first pro season was spent in Pikeville, Ky., a Chicago Cubs farm team. "People think pro ball is all glamour, glory and money," he said between workouts this week. "But they don't realize what you have to go through in the minor leagues. The living conditions are bad, and there are 22-hour bus rides. It's not a lifestyle I want to lead the rest of my life."

Bradley, heading into his fourth minor league season as a catcher in the New York Yankees organization, agreed. "The minor leagues are definitely not all glory. You spend a lot of time sitting on buses and a lot of time on your own."

Both players recalled times in Chapel Hill with fondness. It was the team concept coach Mike Roberts espoused that they miss in the professional ranks.

"College ball is great," Bradley said. "The players spend a lot of time together and get to know each other. Pro ball is a lot more individual. Your friends can be there one minute and then dropped, demoted or traded the next. Especially on the Yankees."

Kumiega found his first season to be quite a departure from the days he had spent at UNC. "There is very much loneliness in minor league ball," he said. "It's a struggle. There are a lot of kids right out of high school who are away from home for the first time. They have

lots of empty time to do lots of thinking."

Kumiega is a born-again Christian, and found a lot of comfort in the perspective he gained from his new-found faith while he was out on the road. But he told stories of many impressionable young kids who did not know what to do with their time and turned to alcohol or other short-lived substitutes for security, at home.

Despite the hard parts of the minor-league life, both Kumiega and Bradley have done well in their careers to date. Bradley has moved up one notch in the Yankee's system every season he has played and is presently on the roster of the AAA affiliate in Columbus, Ohio. Kumiega joined the Cubs system last July, missing the early part of the season, but he still hit very well and is more confident of making the major leagues now.

"I played with guys who were drafted high and I had better stats than them as a free agent."

Kumiega realizes that not being a draftee with a large signing bonus could keep him from his goal.

"There are a lot of politics involved with high draftees," he said, "so I am just going to enjoy playing, have fun and make the best of it."

Bradley, meanwhile, seems close to the major leagues. In fact, he was almost picked up by the Oakland A's earlier this year. UNC coach Mike Roberts called Bradley "one of the best hitters in the minor leagues." Bradley has been to the major league training camp of the Yankees and has worked out with current Yankee manager Yogi Berra and Jeff Torborg, a Yankee coach.

"I feel like my chances are pretty good," Bradley said. "I've gotten a taste of the big leagues in spring training, along with the big league meal money."

Even if neither player makes the major leagues, they leave behind a program that will never forget them. Almost every UNC hitting record is held by either Bradley or Kumiega.

Roberts said of the two: "They are the kind of players that exemplify the Carolina baseball program. They are outstanding human beings, hard workers and much more than average college players."

Both players will be working out at Boshamer until their training camps begin next month. They realize that thousands of people make the minor leagues and few of those make the majors.

Of the few who make the major leagues, only a handful are there for more than a cup of coffee. The chances are slim, but Pete Kumiega and Scott Bradley have a dream.

"There's nothing else I'd rather do," Bradley said. "I wouldn't trade places with anyone."



Pete Kumiega, a 1983 graduate and UNC's all-time home-run king, is not giving up on the majors.

PLITT THEATRES
CAROLINA
441 PARKWAY STREET
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CAROLINA CLASSICS
LOLITA 5:05
2:15

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elections From page 1

John Conway, a candidate for *Daily Tar Heel* editor, said a postponement of the elections could cause students to lose interest in the races and campaign staffs to lose enthusiasm. The problem would be compounded by the likelihood of runoff elections in major races, Conway said.

"If there's a runoff — my gosh — you're talking about keeping this thing going until March," he said.

BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed

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THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS

1 Relative of a stoa
5 Musical sign
10 Obi
14 Guffaw
15 Ship
16 Instrument
17 Ancient strong box
18 Part of SCUBA
20 Rubber stamps
22 Extinct
23 Have debts
24 Chaplain
27 Cordial
29 Less chilly

32 Shovel
34 Morns
35 Sp. month
37 Suit to —
39 Membranous enclosures
41 Linens
44 Nautical mile
45 Adhesive
47 Homeless one, for short
48 Ancient Britons
51 In a way that resembles mountains
53 Riles
54 Net
55 Marsh elder

57 Mentor of Samuel
59 Roster
63 Part of IRA
67 Smear
68 Dill herb
69 Early American dwelling
70 Dueling sword
71 Young nannies
72 Route for Caesar
73 Farmer's milieu

21 Devoured
25 A Della
26 Goof
28 Highway
29 Fastener
30 Muscat man
31 Allied
33 Involving retribution
36 Medieval Fr. coin
38 Like an omelet
40 Route for Caesar
42 Makes amends
43 Expiring
46 Fathers
49 —do-well
50 Aits
52 "I — that!"
55 Persian Gulf country: var.
56 "— vidi, vic!"
58 "— a man with..."
60 Neck part
61 Challenging fight
62 First victim
64 "— in the bag"
65 Final ornament
66 Once known as

DOWN

1 Roentgenogram
2 Long ago
3 Pouches
4 Kin of 47A
5 Striking repeatedly
6 Part of a dog's name
7 Antiquity
8 Appear
9 Missiles of old
10 Tiny, in Dundee
11 Self-propelled
12 Fret
13 Roll call word
19 WWII acronym

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ARAT	SEWER	HISIN
LOGE	AREAL	TAMIA
BONIN	UNITS	GRAIT
FIDDLERS	SHAMIE	TOT
TOT	TORN	
IDOL	TACONITE	
ILA	THOMAS	SORT
SIRS	ANISE	ENOW
MATH	SALTED	TIG
CHORTLES	ALDE	
VOTE	ENIE	
PRATE	NEWYEARS	
LODI	LATHE	DIOM
EVEN	ONAIR	ESAU
BERG	PALMS	NARD

1/19/84

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