

The Daily Tar Heel SPORTS

Tigers' caps 'plague' UNC

By KIMBALL CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

There is trouble at UNC and it starts with a 'T' — or a 'D' (which rhymes with 'T').

Upon returning to Chapel Hill last week, I was greeted by a sight so horrible, so dangerous, I immediately felt a need to act.

It's all those darn Detroit Tiger caps. Oh, you know what I'm talking about. You've noticed all these poor man's Tom Sellecks with their blue caps embroidered with Old English white D's walking around campus.

And if you think about it, you'll realize that they weren't around last year. In other words, it's not Tom Selleck who's responsible for this outrageous phenomenon, but rather a very serious and growing social disease.

In fact the disease has grown so much in recent years — but especially this past baseball season — that it now threatens to destroy the national pastime and possibly even all spectator sports.

Some call it "jumping on the bandwagon".

Others call it "fairweatherfandom".

I call it disgusting. Whatever the name, it is our job as true Tiger fans, or just true sports fans, to put an end to this disease once and for all.

But first, let me familiarize you with the specifics of the particular illness plaguing Chapel Hill right now.

It started with the Detroit Tigers incredible 35-5 start to the season, and as the Tigers continued to dominate the AL East, and all of baseball, it grew and grew: Those caps with the 'D' just kept popping up. Now they're all over

Commentary

This is not proper. Baseball fandom and team allegiances should never be based purely on one season — or part of one season. They should never change so abruptly.

This year especially, with the surprising Twins, Padres, Cubs and Mets, we cannot allow such fickle behavior.

So, I say, do your part. Think of all those Braves and Yankees caps you used to see all over. Ask yourself where all their proud owners went, or what they are wearing now. And then act.

Start with the Detroit caps, the most prevalent form of the disease. When you see someone wearing one, go up to him and ask him a Tiger tidbit. Here's a list of suggested questions:

- Recite a typical Tiger starting lineup.
- Name three pitchers who were washouts with the Tigers in the past five years.
- What player, who shares his name with a hotel franchise, has filled the Tiger's most important vacancy?
- Name a Tiger player from before 1960.

If the supposed Tiger fan cannot answer three of these questions correctly, it is your job as a sports enthusiast to take away his Detroit cap, with violence if necessary.

Kimball Crossley, a senior dramatic art and RTVMP major from New York, N.Y., has a tendency to throw temper tantrums from time to time.

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Is East Carolina for real? Tune in Saturday

GREENVILLE — East Carolina football fans don't go to Florida for fun in the sun and margaritas on the boardwalk. They go to weep.

The 1983 season in short: Florida State 47, ECU 46 ... Florida 24, ECU 17 ... Miami 12, ECU 7.

Take away one of those losses and East Carolina goes to a bowl. Take away two and the Pirates are a top 15 team, top 10 should they come up with an ace in December or January. Take away all three and there's a zero in the loss column, the kind of stuff Orange Bowl bids and national champions are made of.

Michael DeSisti

Except at East Carolina. You thought Rodney Dangerfield had it bad. We're not talking lack of respect. We're talking ignorance of existence.

Who are these guys, anyway? "People are starting to find out about us," says Tim Mitchell, a senior center. "It's just that other people are going to have to continue what we started."

What may have been started at ECU in 1983 was the development of some semblance of tradition.

It hadn't mattered that the Pirates won 82 games in the previous 11 years. Pat Dye can take credit for 48 of those, and it landed him a job at Auburn in 1980.

It landed East Carolina back in the Division-I doghouse with a new head coach.

But after a rough two-year initiation, Ed Emory is winning games, too.

The Associated Press ranked the Pirates (8-3) at No. 20 last year — a first for ECU. Sports Illustrated stuck East Carolina at No. 17.

After losing 11 players to the pros, however, Emory is talking about the year ahead with guarded optimism. Guarded about the next 11 games, optimistic about the 22 that follow.

"If we can get through 1984 we can be competitive with anybody in the country in 1985 and 1986," says Emory, a veritable bear of a man with a reputation for occasionally frightening candor. "And we should be, because we play everybody in the country."

Like Auburn, Penn State and defending national champion Miami in each of the last two years. LSU in '85. West Virginia in '86.

"We're no weak sister to nobody," Emory says. "We'll play anybody, anytime, anywhere."

How about North Carolina. At Chapel Hill.

"I never talked to Dick Crum about it. I never talked to John Swofford about it," Emory says. "But I never met a North Carolina fan who didn't want to play."

The last time these two teams met was 1981, when an ECU assistant coach was collared a few days before the game on the third floor of the Law Library studying a UNC practice session on the field below. Not exactly

good incentive for a contract renewal.

From a spectator's standpoint, East Carolina-North Carolina would be big. But it's not as if ECU needs the game to beef up its schedule. The Pirates have enough cattle on the ranch the next few years to keep the arches golden at McDonald's for a long time.

"We're trying to build our program on a national level, not a regional level," Emory says, "so we're playing a national schedule."

All over the nation.

For the second consecutive year, East Carolina will be playing seven of its 11 games on the road. Partly because of Ficklen Stadium, which only seats 35,000. Perhaps mostly because of the built-in bargaining chip well-respected teams have come scheduling time.

You wanna play, fly the friendly skies. There's talk about enlarging Ficklen to 50,000 seats. And East Carolina's membership in the 63-member College Football Association, acquired this summer, can only add to the program's credibility.

"We're in the Kentucky Derby now," Emory says, "but getting in the Kentucky Derby and winning it are two different things."

The season opens Saturday against Florida State. In Tallahassee.

Let's see if this horse has any legs.

Editors note: This is the first in a series of columns by Michael DeSisti which will appear every Thursday in The Daily Tar Heel.

Shelton was thrilled with Summer Games

By DAVID WELLS
Staff Writer

Although the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles were marred by political controversies, the Games still managed to serve their purpose, according to UNC field hockey coach Karen Shelton.

"The Olympics develop national pride," Shelton said. "But not just for the United States. Other countries have pride in their athletes, too."

Shelton started at right halfback for the U.S. Olympic field hockey squad, which won the bronze medal.

"The opening ceremony was a such a thrill," Shelton said. "I usually don't get caught up emotionally in that type of thing, but tears came to my eyes."

"I never felt as proud to represent the United States."

Shelton is a veteran of international competition. She played for American teams in the 1979 and 1983 World Cups and was a member of the U.S. Olympic squad in 1980, when the U.S. boycotted the Moscow Games due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But rather than feeling cheated like other athletes who missed the 1980

Olympics, Shelton held a positive attitude about the American decision.

"When the boycott was first announced, I supported President Carter's position," she said. "But I thought that the boycott's threat would work and that the boycott wouldn't happen."

"It wasn't a heartbreak for me like it was for some of the gymnasts and swimmers who were finishing their careers. I would have done everything I did for the Olympics and trained as hard anyway. I just love the game."

That love for the game helped Shelton to lead West Chester State College to three straight AIAW championships from 1976-1978 and receive the Broderick Sports Award as the nation's top player each year. She was named to the U.S. national team in 1977 and waited seven years to play in the Olympics.

"I'm not one to get hyped up about the Olympics," Shelton said. "But it was a fantastic experience that I will never forget."

Shelton said the Soviet boycott didn't affect the competition in women's field hockey, but the U.S.S.R. boasts a strong men's field hockey team.

"We were all affected by the boycott to some extent," she said. "The U.S. received more medals than we would if Russia had been there."

"But I think the games were successful. There were more countries at the Olympics than ever before."

Shelton said the pre-Olympic predictions of smog over Los Angeles, enormous crowds and lack of Olympic tickets were not a factor during the Games.

"The smog wasn't a factor, and tickets were available," she said. "I think the LAOOC did an outstanding job. Also, it only rained about ten minutes in the two weeks I was there, and that wasn't in L.A."

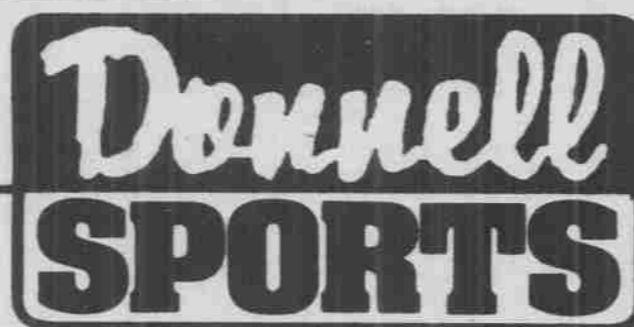
Shelton's only displeasure with the Games was with the television coverage her team was given. The women's field hockey team received less coverage than

the men's team, which finished 12th among the 12 entrants.

"They showed about 20 minutes of two games, and they were the two we lost to Holland and Australia," Shelton said. "ABC showed the men at prime time and we were on around 11:30. Different countries have their directors select what is shown, and Canada showed all of the women's field hockey games."

"Field hockey is the second most popular team sport in the world behind soccer. It would have been good for the sport to have shown more."

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