

Parker's maturity is keying golf success

By JIM SUROWIECKI
Staff Writer

Sports lore is full of stories of incredibly talented athletes who fail because they are unable to find the maturity and confidence needed to take advantage of their ability. If there is one sport in which these stories are particularly popular, it is golf.

There is no other sport that humbles those who play it the way golf does, and no sport demands as much concentration and poise as golf does. Essentially, golf is a game won and lost in the mind. Those who learn to handle the pressure and deal with the inevitable bad performances succeed. Those who do not fail. After winning his second tournament this year at Columbia, UNC sophomore Greg Parker appears ready to become one of those who will succeed.

The fact that Parker is playing at North Carolina at all is itself something



Greg Parker

of a minor miracle. Despite being a top high school player in Old Fort, he wasn't heavily recruited and had just about decided to go to Spartanburg (S.C.) Methodist J.C. for a year and then transfer to Clemson when UNC golf coach Devon Brouse saw him play in the state high school tournament in May. Brouse said Parker "didn't score particularly well, but I liked his golf swing and the way he acted on the course."

Last year, Parker played in five of the team's eight tournaments, an excellent record for a freshman, and had a number of top ten finishes. His own evaluation of the season is not quite so positive. "I played more bad golf than good golf," he said. "But I learned a lot and that was really important."

The theme of gaining experience and maturity appears throughout Parker's and Brouse's comments. Both view maturity as the key to the continued improvement of the young golfer. "When he's playing with confidence, he's an excellent player," Brouse said. "A lot of it is a maturity thing. Physically and mentally, he's getting better. I just hope he grows up fast."

Parker is only 18 and seems sure to get stronger as he gets older.

Parker, who has played four tournaments this year, said he played 11 solid rounds out of 12, the one exception being an 85 shot on the final day at the Hilton Head Intercollegiate. It's a mark of the man's fierce competitiveness when, despite his two individual titles, the 85 still bothers him. For Parker, that round symbolizes the problems of immaturity and inexperience he must overcome to become a truly great golfer. "I just lost my composure and blew up," he said. "But I think I've learned from it and put it behind me."

There is always the danger that quick success will result in overconfidence, a fatal flaw for a golfer. But that danger does not seem to be a real one for Parker. If anything, his victories at Kitty Hawk and Columbia have made him more aware of the improvements he can make in his game. "I shot 32 on the front side at Columbia," he said, "and I kind of let up on the back. I played not to lose rather than to win."

Experience, maturity and confidence. Those are the ingredients that Greg Parker must mix to get the most out of what apparently is an awful lot of talent.

"What I want to do is improve from year to year, to work harder and get better," Parker said. "It's a process of maturity, being able to look back and say I failed, but I can see what I did wrong. Your bad rounds come from your head. What you have to do is stay positive even when you're playing badly."

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SPORTS

Baseball pounds ASU for ninth in a row

By KURT ROSENBERG
Staff Writer

The North Carolina baseball team will gladly leave statistics to the statisticians and records to the record keepers. The Tar Heels are well aware that if they do what they're supposed to, the numbers will take care of themselves.

UNC took care of another opponent Tuesday, defeating Appalachian State, 10-3, in Boshamer Stadium. It was the team's ninth consecutive victory, but the winning streak hardly seems to be foremost on the minds of the Tar Heels, who now find themselves in a groove that is natural and unnecessary to analyze.

"As of two nights ago, I had no idea how many in a row we won," said Mike Jedziniak, who had to be told by someone of the streak. "It's probably in the back of everybody's mind, but it's no big deal. We're just out there to win one at a time."

And because that philosophy has worked, UNC now has a record of 18-10, and its disastrous start now seems a thing of the distant past.

The Tar Heels, led by B.J. Surhoff's bat and Greg Karpuk's arm, put everything together Tuesday, going on to an easy win after the Mountaineers had taken an early 3-1 lead.

"I was very concerned with our motivation as the ball game began," coach Mike Roberts said. "One of the toughest things in baseball is to play a night game and then get up and get yourself ready to play a day game."

Roberts was referring to Monday night's 3-1 win over UNC-Wilmington. Brad Powell (2-2) threw a no-hitter for six innings in that game and, Devy Bell hit a two-run homer in the first inning for the Tar Heels.

Against Appalachian State, North Carolina struggled at first before putting away the Mountaineers. In the top of the first, Karpuk gave up a long two-run homer to Marc Hodges that went off the screen in center field and gave Appalachian a quick 2-0 lead.

The Tar Heels got one back in their half of the first when Surhoff doubled with two outs. Scott Johnson walked and

Surhoff scored on a delayed double steal. In the top of the second, the Mountaineers answered back as Tommy Green doubled and Brad Long singled him home to increase the lead to 3-1.

After that, Karpuk, who raised his record to 3-2 with a four-hitter, quickly cooled down Appalachian, and the UNC bats quickly heated up. Howard Freiling opened the Tar Heels' third with a single, Alvin Taylor bunted him to second, Jim Stone singled and Walt Weiss walked to load the bases.

There was a huge conference on the mound just before B.J. Surhoff stepped in, and it apparently did no good, because Surhoff cracked a grand slam over the right-field fence to put the Tar Heels ahead, 5-3.

"I like coming up in those situations, because he's (Appalachian State pitcher Kent Alexander) gotta throw me a strike," Surhoff said. "He didn't want to walk me. He was gonna try and make me hit his pitch."

Surhoff has been amassing more than his share of hits. He was 3-for-4 on Tuesday, and is 15-for-20 in his last five games. His average now stands at .387.

After Surhoff's homer gave the Tar Heels the lead, Karpuk had little trouble getting the Appalachian hitters out. He began mixing his pitches more, keeping the hitters off balance and allowing just one hit after the second inning. Karpuk retired 20 of the last 22 batters.

A chat with Roberts in the second inning seemed to do the trick for Karpuk.

"He said, 'You start mixing up your pitches or you're not gonna be pitching much longer,'" Karpuk said. "I started mixing my pitches quite a bit, and I started to pitch instead of just throw."

The Tar Heels gave Karpuk more of a cushion in the fourth, when Jedziniak led off with a homer, and five of the next seven batters walked. Freiling scored when Johnson walked with the bases loaded, and Weiss came home on a wild pitch. UNC scored a run in the sixth and another in the eighth.

Baseball		scoreboard	
UNC 10, Appalachian St. 3		Men's Tennis	
ASU	2 10 000 000 - 341	UNC 9, Virginia Tech 0	
UNC	1 04 301 01x - 1090	Hearn (UNC) d. Wolfe 6-0, 6-0; Chambers (UNC) d. Petrusky 6-0, 6-2; Pollack (UNC) d. Woodridge 6-0, 6-0; Pulliam (UNC) d. Calhoun 6-3, 7-5; DeMatteis (UNC) d. Easter 6-1, 6-3.	
(Monday)		Doubles: Hearn-Chambers (UNC) d. Wolfe-Sherman 6-4, 6-2; Pulliam-DeMatteis (UNC) d. Woodridge-	
UNC 3, UNC-Wilmington 1		Calhoun 6-4, 6-1; Stuart-Pollack (UNC) d. Petrusky-Easter 6-1, 6-1.	
UNC-W	0 00 000 010 - 131	Records: UNC 13-8, VPI 4-11.	
UNC	2 00 010 00x - 372	Calendar	
Leading Hitters - UNC-W: Hall 1-3 (RBI), Redd 1-1 (3B); UNC: Weiss 2-4 (SB), Bell 1-4 (HR, 2 RBI).		Today	
		BASEBALL at N.C. State, 3 p.m.	
		WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Ohio University at Country Club Courts, 2 p.m.	
		Thursday	
		BASEBALL at Davidson, 3 p.m.	
		MEN'S TENNIS at Blue-Gray Team Championship, Montgomery, Ala.	
		MEN'S SWIMMING at NCAA Championship, Austin, Tx.	

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