

Doonesbury



Sports

Surhoff is named

By Jonathan Serenius
Photography Editor

B.J. Surhoff, outstanding UNC-Chapel Hill baseball player and recent number one Major-League free agent draft pick, has been named the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association Athlete of the Year.

The award is given annually by the ACSWA in honor of the late Anthony J. McKeelin, a long time sports editor of the Raleigh News and Observer.

Surhoff received 51 of the 119 votes cast to outdistance Mark Price (32), the catalyst of Georgia Tech's ACC basketball championship. Maryland's Len Bias, the ACC Basketball Player of the Year, was third in the balloting with 13 votes. Others receiving votes were Virginia's Jim Dombrowski (8), Duke's Johnny Dawkins (5), Clemson's William Perry (5), N.C. State's Lorenzo Charles (3) and Virginia's Jeff Gaffney (2).

In three years at UNC-Chapel Hill,

Surhoff compiled a career batting average of .392, the highest in school history. He finished his career with 265 hits, the most ever by a Tar Heel, including an all time single season high of 98 in 1984. He ended that year with a .400 average, another school record.

A 6-1, 185 pound native of Rye, New York, Surhoff played every position but pitcher for the Heels. Ray Poitevint, the Brewers' Director of Player Procurement stated, "Even though we drafted him as a catcher, we would have also made him the first pick as a shortstop. He has similar tools to Robin Yount (the Brewers' all-star shortstop)."

Veteran Clemson baseball coach Bill Wilhelm said of Surhoff, "I've been around the league (ACC) a lot of years and I've never seen a more complete player. When we talk about somebody that can hit, run and handle the glove, he's the best the ACC has ever seen."

Program for divers

By Phyllis A. Fair
Sports Editor

Barry Thomas, the UNC-Chapel Hill has started a summer diving program for all ages to help people perfect their diving skills.

Although this is Thomas' first at UNC-Chapel Hill, he has had one in Florida for five years. The program is for anyone who has expressed a desire in diving.

Thomas also coaches diving at Jordan High School in Durham.

The kids work out five days a week from 10 a.m. to noon, and sometimes longer, in the outdoor pool behind Bowman Gray indoor pool.

Thomas said that his purpose for starting the program was to create a public awareness in diving.

He said that the public has very little awareness of the sport if any at all.

Rebecca Leeb, 18, a recent high school graduate from Chapel Hill, expressed her views on the program, "I really like the program. I'm having a real good time. The program has been extremely helpful and the criticism is good."

Leeb said that Thomas makes the program fun and interesting. She said that he is a helpful person.

Lisa Danes, a 16-year-old senior at Shaker High School in Latham, N.Y., said that the program has helped her improve on her diving techniques.

"I basically want to clean up my diving," she said. Danes, who has been a member of her school's diving team since the eighth grade, said that she believes that approach is most important.

She said that in this aspect Thomas has been very helpful. "If your approach isn't right he'll help you correct it."

Danes said that the program was good and the instructor really cared what the students had to say. "I think he's very receptive. He'll listen to your complaints."

Bradley Mann, a 16-year-old junior at Jordan High School in Durham, and a member of the Jordan High School diving team said that the program has improved him greatly. "I've improved all of my dives.

The program uses what is known as a porta-pit to help divers train. The porta-pit, set up in a gym, is like a trampoline. Divers can freely practice rotation moves in harnessed

security.

When asked how the porta-pit has helped him he responded, "It helps a lot because you know you aren't going to get hurt. You aren't afraid."

Mann said that he expected Thomas to help him reach his full potential and capabilities.

"I expected Barry to teach me to what I'm capable of doing."

Mann's final comments on the program were, "I really enjoy it. Diving has been a sport that almost anybody can do and I enjoy it."

Suzanne Reed, a 16-year-old senior at Shenendehowa High School in Latham, N.Y., said that the program has been good because she really liked the instructor.

"He's a really good coach. He helps you a lot and he makes diving fun."

Reed said that working on the porta-pit has helped her in that "you begin to feel the motion that you are going through, and you're not as nervous to dive."

Tye Jones, a 17-year-old senior at Jordan High School in Durham, said that Thomas was the determining factor in deciding to get involved in the program.

Jones said that he has improved 100 percent because of this program.

"I added a half rotation on everything that I've done."

Does working in the rain matter to a diver? Jones said, "No, it was fun. I complained but it was fun."

Jones also said that the program was for anybody and that the instructor was excellent and patient.

"There are a lot of little kids in the program and because he's patient with them they stay in the program," said Jones.

Thomas said that he liked working with the little kids but that it was bad because he did not have enough time to spend with them as he would like.

Thomas said, "The kids are fun and they're challenging because they keep you on your toes."

He also said the little kids feel intimidated but that it was good for them to dive with the bigger kids.

"The kids (big and little) have shown a lot of improvement and they have learned a lot of self-confidence," said Thomas.

Thomas said that he hopes to make this program an annual summer event and that he hopes to start a registered diving club here that is year round.