

Sports

Douglas, Straub sparkle in baseball's win

By JAMES SUROWIECKI
Assistant Sports Editor

Tim Straub got his first collegiate win the hard way Wednesday. The UNC hurler gave up four runs to Duke in the first three innings, battled back to retire 12 hitters in a row at one point and then had to sit on the bench and watch bullpen ace Gordon Douglas clinch the 7-5 win with 2 1/3 perfect innings of relief. Most wins come easier, but few could be sweeter.

Straub, who came into the game with an 0-1 record and a deceiving 11.57 ERA, pitched six innings to get the victory and threw well. Early on, he ran into trouble when the Duke hitters sat on his fastball, but after giving up two runs in the second he changed tactics a bit.

"In the second, I just threw a fastball down the middle and the guy lined it back up the middle for two runs," Straub said. "After that happened, I went to Matty (Merullo, UNC catcher) and said we had to mix it up a little better. I threw more off-speed pitches, and happened to get a little lucky."

Luck had little to do with it. Straub pitched a fine game and starting in the third inning controlled the game, keeping the Blue Devil hitters off balance with a nice mix of fastballs, curves and a newly discovered change-up.

Straub got the runs he needed to win when Scott Johnson delivered a wakeup call to the dormant UNC offense with his third inning home run. With UNC down 4-1 and a runner on second, Johnson took matters into his own hands and took Duke starter Scott Bromby downtown in serious fashion, crushing his seventh homer of the year over the fence in right. When Matt Merullo laced a two-out, runcoring single to right two innings later, the Tar Heels had their first lead of the game. They were never headed.

Of course, UNC was able to hold its lead because Douglas was warming up in the bullpen. When the seventh inning began, Doug Torborg replaced Straub and after striking out the first hitter promptly let two Blue Devils reach base. Roberts went right to his ace, and Douglas once more came through marvelously.



DTH/Charlotte Cannon

In the only time in UNC's 21-3 rout of Roanoke that the Tar Heels trailed, two UNC players chase a solitary Maroon

UNC lacrosse thrashes Roanoke, 21-3

By PARIS GOODNIGHT
Staff Writer

Two hours before the game even started Wednesday, a Roanoke College lacrosse player was heard to say, "We're going to get killed." Of course you could not really call him a prophet, even though his words came true with the 21-3 thrashing they received.

The Tummillo Twosome lead the Tar Heels' scoring barrage with five goals each and freshman Corey Gavitt, who had scored only one goal before the game, added another four.

"They had some talent, but they are probably the weakest team we've faced so far," senior Mike Tummillo said. "We wanted to show that we can score some goals." And that they did.

The drizzle had barely stopped falling on the AstroTurf field when Mike Tummillo started the scoring show for the Tar Heels with an assist from Chris Galgano 19 seconds into the game.

He scored again two minutes later assisted by James Koester. Gavitt scored an extra-man goal at the 10:23 mark on an assist by Pat Welsh. Freshman Mark Tummillo scored his first two within two minutes of each other assisted by Teddy Brown and

Robby Russell. "A lot of our goals were assisted, and the midfielders count for a lot of assists," Mark Tummillo said. "This will get a lot of people's confidence up."

The Tar Heels had a 5-0 lead when they were called for a slashing penalty. The Maroons capitalized on the man advantage with just under five minutes left in the first quarter. Roanoke scored all three goals with an extra-man advantage.

Mike Tummillo scored two more goals and Galgano added another before Roanoke scored with 39 seconds left in the first quarter to narrow the deficit to 8-2. UNC started the second quarter the same way with three goals before the 12-minute mark. UNC scored once more to lead at the half, 12-3.

The third quarter was all Tar Heels as five unanswered goals were scored

by four different players. The fourth quarter was much of the same as Mark Tummillo got his fourth and fifth goals. Two other scores and Roanoke was marooned with the 21-3 final.

"We really needed the past two wins," Mike Tummillo said. "Scoring 15 and 21 goals in two games helped us a lot also."

"Scoring goals can cure whatever has been ailing you," coach Willie Scroggs said. "To be honest, the level of competition wasn't as good as Maryland or Hopkins but this gave a lot of our guys a good run."

Kaplan awaits NCAA competition

By KATHY MULVEY
Staff Writer

In two years in Chapel Hill, sophomore Stacey Kaplan of Rochester, N.Y., has literally vaulted North Carolina and ACC gymnastics into national prominence.

Fittingly, it was her most recent vault, which posted a school-record score of 9.65 at the NCAA Southeast Regionals in Morgantown, W.V., that guaranteed her a position at the NCAA National Meet in Gainesville, Fla., this weekend. She later learned that her all-around score was eighth in the country among individuals who were not members of the top 10 teams, good enough to qualify her for the national all-around competition.

So although the UNC team was knocked out at the regional level following a record-setting 14-2 campaign, the season is not yet over for Tar Heel gymnastics.

"Stacey takes a little of everyone with her this weekend," says UNC coach Derek Galvin. Indeed, she is the first representative not only of UNC, but also of the whole ACC at nationals. That's a burden many people would be reluctant to bear, but not the diminutive Kaplan.

There was a time when she stopped gymnastics because the pressure was too great. At the age of 14, after two years on the national squad, Kaplan quit the



Stacey Kaplan

sport at the individually-oriented club level. She thought she'd never do it again.

But in high school, Kaplan's attitude did a flip. Although the level of competition in high school was much lower, Kaplan found that the sport could be fun. And having fun makes up for the pressure of blazing a path to national recognition for her school and conference.

Yet she's the first to admit that she's not in it alone, not in her team-oriented

view. The relationship between the outstanding individual and the team is symbiotic — Kaplan's skills rub off on the other gymnasts, and their improved performances help her in return.

"You see someone else doing well and it inspires you," Kaplan remarks. In addition, the impression of the team as a whole has a subtle effect on the judges.

Expectations that the Tar Heels would not be as strong as the traditional powers may have hurt the team in its first two events at the regionals, particularly on the balance beam. But after Kaplan's strong performance in the vault, the judges began to expect outstanding efforts from the team. Her teammates scores improved accordingly. Kaplan thus earned her reward — a trip to nationals — and in turn helped out her team.

"In this way," Galvin says, "each person on the team shares in Stacy's success."

In Florida this weekend, Kaplan will be what Galvin terms a "double winner." A winner is someone who comes out on top. A double winner helps others become better and grow, and in doing so becomes better herself.

In fact, since Kaplan is at the front of a movement not only for UNC but the whole conference, perhaps her coach should coin the expression "triple winner." It would not be an overstatement.

McGorty dominates in first day of ACC decathlon

By BOB YOUNG
Assistant Sports Editor

What's the best reason to believe that UNC's Kevin McGorty will run away with the ACC decathlon title today?

The answer was obvious to those spectators who huddled around the high jump pit, trying to keep warm and dry Wednesday during the decathlon competition on the first day of the ACC Track and Field Championships at Fetzer Field.

Last year, McGorty and N.C. State's Fidelis Obikwu out-classed the rest of the field in the fourth of the decathlon's 10 events — the high jump. Obikwu eventually received the highest score in that event by jumping 6-10 3/4 to McGorty's 6-8 3/4.

But this year, with the graduation of two-year titlist Obikwu, things were easier for the UNC sophomore sensation. McGorty didn't even start jumping until the bar was raised to over 6-3,

after all but a couple other competitors remained. Then, he easily won the event with a leap of 6-10 1/4. Everyone else just looked on and marveled.

Why will McGorty run away with his first ACC decathlon title? Because he's simply in a class by himself.

That dominance wasn't evident in the first event — the 100-meter dash — as the Wolfpack's Troy Wright blazed to a time of 11.23 seconds. McGorty was the next fastest, with a time of 11.58.

But McGorty dominated the long jump with a measurement of 23-11 1/2, nearly two feet ahead of his nearest competitor. Then after his worst event, the shot put, McGorty went to the high jump. In the overall score, Wright led with 2248 points and McGorty had 2217.

But after his vertical wizardry, McGorty bolted ahead of Wright, 3104 to 2841. And at the conclusion of the day's last event, the 400-meter dash,

McGorty still had a commanding lead of 251 points.

In the other event started Wednesday, the heptathlon, N.C. State's Natalie Lew looked impressive. She was the highest scorer in three out of the four events — the high jump, the shot put and the 200-meter dash.

Overall, Lew's score of 3044 holds a slight lead over Virginia's Beth Sheehan, who has 2976. Two UNC heptathletes, Diane Thomas and Michelle Cashwell, hold places four and six after the first-day's events.

Competition in the decathlon and heptathlon continues today at Fetzer Field beginning at 11:30.

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