

Sports

Dougherty gets first victory as Tar Heels pound SUNY, 11-0

By JAMES SUROWIECKI
Sports Editor

When you are the UNC baseball team and the opponent is SUNY-Buffalo, the question becomes not whether you will win, but rather by how much. The answer Wednesday was eleven runs, as the Tar Heels scored seven times in the first four innings and coasted to an easy 11-0 victory at Boshamer Stadium.

UNC banged out 12 hits, but the story of the afternoon was the performance of freshman Jim Dougherty on the mound. Dougherty went six shutout innings and moved his record to 1-2 with his first collegiate win. He struggled with his control in the first inning, allowing a tiny candle of hope to flicker in the SUNY dugout.

But Dougherty quickly quenched that flame by picking up a called third strike with the bases loaded. And after the early turbulence, his flight for the next five innings was smooth enough to let the passengers amble up and down the aisles. He allowed three hits and three walks during his stint while striking out seven.

"I felt real comfortable out there," said the 6-0 frosh. "I feel comfortable knowing what I have to do, knowing I'm in the starting rotation. I was

a little shaky in the beginning, but I think I settled down pretty well. I had pretty good pop." Dougherty was in the low 80s on his fastball and the low 70s on his split-fingered change all day long.

Following Dougherty to the mound to mow down the hapless SUNY batters were Tim Straub, Doug Torborg and Scott Lodgek. Each pitched an inning. Straub walked two and struck out two, and Lodgek allowed a hit and a walk before getting the game's final out. Torborg looked especially strong, throwing fastballs almost exclusively and fanning two.

Of course, pitching with an 11-run lead couldn't qualify as one of Hercules' 12 tasks. The Tar Heels set about accumulating that lead in the first inning, when shortstop Darin Campbell walked and stole second and third. Howard Freiling then doubled, thanks to the left fielder falling down on the job, to score Campbell, and then trotted home himself on a single by Chris DeFranco.

In the second inning, third baseman Steve Mrowka stroked a double into the gap in right center to knock in two more runs, and in the fourth picked up another RBI with a sacrifice fly. After another Campbell

walk and stolen base, Freiling bounced a single by the lunging SUNY shortstop to score two.

The Tar Heel bench was emptied not long after that, and it showed as UNC picked up just four runs in the next four innings, a disturbingly low ratio. The Tar Heels should once again have no trouble scoring runs, and coach Mike Roberts knows the comfort of that feeling. But pitching will once again be a concern, particularly a week from now as the ACC season begins.

"I am pleased with our pitching. We have had good pitching performances, and our young pitchers are getting better," Roberts said. "We've now set our rotation, and we'll be going with three freshmen and a junior as our four starters."

Ordinarily, in an 11-0 game, one might expect real offensive fireworks. Those came courtesy of Todd Nichols, who in the fifth inning crushed a two-run homer over the fence in deep right center. Two innings later, a pair of Connecticut boys combined to put a pair of runs on the scoreboard. Jim Stone doubled down the right field line, and catcher Paul Devlin followed with a triple into the corner. He came home on a groundout to finish the day's scoring.

It's Heels-Irish once again

By SCOTT FOWLER
Staff Writer

After five days of hype, hoopla and histrionics, North Carolina and Notre Dame will square off tonight at Brendan Byrne Arena in the NCAA tournament round of 16. Tipoff in East Rutherford, N.J., is at 9:11.

By now, you have heard and/or recited many of the facts about this game. Yes, Kenny Smith is back, and the two times he has played against Notre Dame, UNC has won. Yes, the Fighting Irish upset UNC 60-58 earlier this season. Yes, the winner will play the Florida-Syracuse victor for the right to go to the Final Four.

All that aside, tonight's game will be a battle between slow, patient (David) Rivers and Speedy Gonzalez. The teams' primary difference — if the UNC team bus saw a yellow light, it would fly through it. Digger Phelps would not only stop, he might wait through the next green light to irritate the traffic behind him.

"We have to be so patient on defense," said UNC sophomore guard Jeff Lebo. "We could try to make the pace faster, with traps and stuff, but they could blow us out if we do."

Phelps, whose 24-7 team has won 11 games in a row, surprised no one at a Monday press conference when he said his team had to slow the Tar Heels down to win. "We have to control the game tempo," he said. "We've got to stop their transition. They want you to take the quick shot, then they run. We can't let them get in their rhythm."

UNC, 31-3 on the season, is averaging 92.2 points per game, easily the best mark in school history. In their two tournament games, the Tar Heels have scored more points than any other team in the NCAA. But UNC was held to its lowest point total of the season in its 60-58 loss in South Bend.

"I think we gave them confidence (in that game)," said UNC coach Dean Smith. "They were good anyway, but since then they've had a better feel for the way they want to play."

The Irish will start Scott Hicks and Rivers at guard, Donald Royal and Mark Stevenson at forward and Gary Voce at center. Voce, who has been affectionately christened Voce of the People by ND students, scored 15 points in the teams' earlier game.

"I'm concerned about this game," Smith said. "Royal is a great player, and they are a much better team than when we played them."

The Tar Heels will begin with the normal starting five of Lebo, Smith, J.R. Reid, Joe Wolf and Dave Popson. Wolf is expected to be healthier tonight than he was for Saturday's Michigan game, but still may not be up to full strength.

Florida and Syracuse will meet in the first game of the regional with a 6:37 p.m. tipoff. The Gators are one of the tournament's surprise teams, and have been established as slight favorites over the Orangemen.

BASKETBALL NOTES: The Tar Heels sport an 11-3 overall record against Notre Dame. . . The two times Kenny Smith has played, in a second-round NCAA game in 1985 and a regular-season contest in Jan. 1986, he has keyed Tar Heel wins. . . UNC's two wins at Brendan Byrne have come against Kentucky in 1981 and LSU in 1982. . . UNC has lost in regional round of play for the last four seasons in a row. . . However, the Tar Heels' streaks of seven straight Final 16 appearances and 13 straight NCAA bids are the longest current records. . . Rivers has not generally been known as a pure outside shooter, but he knocked in five of 11 three-pointers and scored 24 points in ND's win over TCU.

Young tennis squad confronts tough schedule

By DAVID HALL
Staff Writer

"I think that we have the potential to have a very successful year," UNC women's tennis coach Kitty Harrison says.

Oh, the optimism that reigns at the beginning of a long campaign with warriors ready to do battle against enemies from near (Duke) and far (Texas A&M). Yet, putting aside Harrison's standard platitudes, the 1987 season will likely be a successful one for the Tar Heels, who are hoping for a berth in the NCAA Championships in May.

This year's edition of women's tennis comes off of a good season last year, when UNC was 17-11 overall, and 5-2 in the ACC. Yet the laurels this year will have to be garnered by a young group that lost three lettermen, including No. 1 singles player Eileen Fulton.

With the loss of so many key starters, the success of this team will be heavily contingent upon the play of newcomers Gina Goblirsch and Valerie Farmer. Farmer, a freshman from Richmond, Va., has been very consistent at the No. 6 singles spot and her play was one of the highlights of the fall season, a season in

which the team was 6-0.

Much of the attention, though, will be focused upon highly-touted freshman Goblirsch. The 5-10 Goblirsch hails from Sacramento, Calif., where she was the top player at her high school, Garces Memorial, for four years. Having come in as the 70th-ranked player in the nation, Goblirsch has already assumed the No. 1 spot on the team. According to Harrison, her future success will be predicated upon her ability to elevate her game from the steady baseline genre into an aggressive all-court style.

The rest of the starting six is rounded out by Spencer Barnes at No. 2, Ann Stephenson at No. 3, Landis Cox at No. 4, and captain Laura Ballentine at No. 5. Sophomore transfer Michelle Lambert and Vanessa Ames are also expected to make important contributions.

As indicated by their excellent fall record, the Tar Heels are one of the nation's top teams. At the beginning of the season they were ranked 26th by the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association. Yet in order to reach its goal of making the 16-team NCAA tournament field, the squad will have to compete success-

fully against eight teams ranked between 10 and 25. These teams are No. 10 Clemson, No. 13 Kentucky, No. 16 Duke, No. 17 BYU, No. 18 Indiana, No. 19 Texas A&M, No. 24 South Carolina, and No. 25 Houston.

Many schools would wilt in the face of such stiff competition, but coach Harrison does not expect that to occur. "I was extremely encouraged by their ability to play effectively under pressure," she said. "We've got the opportunity to do extremely well." If this trend continues, Coach Harrison's optimism will likely become a "team-fulfilling prophecy."

Finn is perfect as softballers roll past Rams

By JILL SHAW
Staff Writer

If laughter is the best medicine, and smiles follow close behind, then the elated expressions of the North Carolina softball players after they trounced Fordham University 9-0 Wednesday afternoon confirmed that nothing ailed them. The Tar Heels, rebounding from Furman's sweep last Saturday, recovered their strength and upped their won-lost record to a healthy 9-2.

The most robust performance came from sophomore pitcher Regina Finn, who pitched a perfect game en route to her third victory of the season. Facing the minimum number of batters in the seven inning game, the New Jersey native only relaxed for an occasional mound conference with equally at-ease junior catcher Amy Spelman. While the conferees sparked smiles beneath the dreary clouds above Finley Field, they also produced results.

Coach Donna Papa, in her second year at North Carolina, applauded Finn as well as the rest of the Tar Heels. "I was very happy with us defensively and offensively, more so than I expected. We were tested and we responded," she said.

A barrage of hits enabled the Tar Heels to introduce their entire batting roster to Fordham's players in the first inning. Among the connectors were Spelman and junior second basemen Patti Gerckens, who both went 2-for-3 on the day and helped the Tar Heels leap to an early five-run lead.

Sophomore outfielder Sharon Ross, making a smooth switch from North Carolina's field hockey squad, spanked a single in the second inning to spur further scoring while in the fourth Maria Powers dashed home during a Fordham mental lapse. In the midst of accumulating 12 hits against the Rams' sophomore pitcher Jill Twardy, the Tar Heels completed their scoring in the fifth.

Papa conceded that without the benefit of scholarships and experienced athletes, Fordham, coached by Ann Newhouse, a former Papa player, didn't pose a threat.

The real test will come in the approaching tournament in Tallahassee, FL. "We're looking to be one of the top two teams to come out of the pool," she said. "I think we have a chance." And that's something to smile about.

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