

Sports

Hoog tosses three-hitter to help baseball crush Liberty

By KEITH PARSONS

Staff Writer

The UNC baseball team more or less had Monday off, as they easily pounded the Liberty Flames 16-0 in Boshamer Stadium.

Liberty, located in Jerry Falwell's home base of Lynchburg, Va., would have needed more than help from above to defeat the Tar Heels Monday.

North Carolina rapped 21 hits, including three home runs, and scored in every inning except two — the fifth and the eighth. A seven-run second put away the Flames, who could only manage three hits all day.

The North Carolina pitcher who extinguished the Flame bats was sophomore Michael Hoog. Hoog went the distance for the third time this year, striking out 12 Liberty batters while moving his record to 4-2.

"I felt really good today," the 6-foot-3, 208-pounder said. "I stayed ahead of the hitters the whole game, and got some great defense."

Head coach Mike Roberts agreed with his young pitcher.

"Our defense is much better now as compared to the beginning of the year," Roberts said of the Tar Heels, who are now 12-8 after winning their seventh game in a row. "We felt the pitching was good all year, the defense just was not there. Now it is."

However, the offense was the most impressive thing on this day. Junior third baseman Darin Campbell went 3-for-4, including his fifth homer of

the year, with four RBIs. Sophomore shortstop Ron Maurer went 3-for-6 with a dinger, a double and a single.

Maurer would have hit for the cycle if not for a marvelous play by Liberty third baseman John McClintock.

McClintock nabbed Maurer's shot just before it headed into the left field corner. Chris Lauria led off the seventh inning with his fifth homer of the year, swatting an 0-2 fastball beyond the left-field fence.

"The past couple of days, we have been playing with a lot of confidence," Roberts said. "The two wins over South Carolina really turned us around, and to sweep three games from a good Rider club also helped."

The Tar Heels did not give the Flames much of a chance, scoring quickly on Maurer's solo homer with two outs in the bottom of the first. Then, in the second, North Carolina broke loose.

The Tar Heels batted around, led by freshman Steve Estroff, who had a double and a single in the inning, collecting two RBIs.

Dave Arendas started things off with a single and then promptly stole second. Estroff followed with his single, scoring Arendas. Brad Woodall then singled, moving Estroff to third. Matt Wooten, the next batter, was hit by a pitch, loading the bases.

Campbell then plated Estroff with a sacrifice fly, and Chris DeFranco knocked in Woodall with a single to right. Liberty changed pitchers, going to Robert Townsend. Townsend was greeted by a line-drive single to right

by Maurer, scoring Wooten. After a walk to Lauria and a Jesse Lewis run-scoring sacrifice fly, Arendas hit his second single of the inning, allowing Maurer to cross the plate.

Estroff then nailed as double to left, and Lauria hustled all the way around from first to score the final Tar Heel run of the inning.

After North Carolina scored only one run in the third, the Tar Heels erupted for more fireworks in the fourth.

Levis started the inning with a single to right, but was forced at second by an Arendas grounder to short. Greg (Great) Scott then reached on an error, and the Tar Heels had men on first and second. Luck then allowed UNC to score its 10th run, as Woodall's bouncer to third that appeared to be easy pickings bounded off the base, allowing Arendas to score.

Pinch-hitter Cy Richardson then brought Scott in with an RBI groundout to second. Campbell finished off the scoring, ripping an RBI single to right, bringing Woodall home with the 12th Tar Heel run.

UNC added three runs in the sixth and a single run in the seventh to finish off its total of 16 runs.

The only drama left was to see how many strikeouts Hoog would have and how many hits the Flames would wind up with. Hoog got a little careless after the big seven-run Tar Heel second, then settled back down to finish strongly.

"Yeah, I lost a little concentration when we went up 8-0," Hoog said. "Then I went out and tried to pitch like the score was 0-0."

North Carolina has today off, but there will be little rest for the weary. The Tar Heels will face Towson State in Boshamer on Wednesday afternoon.

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