

Sports



Clemson catcher Mike Couture pushes UNC's Dave Arendas while picking up a dropped third strike

Surprise starter lifts UNC past ACC-leading Tigers

By JAMIE ROSENBERG
Assistant Sports Editor

It's the kind of thing you like to hear about this time of year, when the weather's a-warmin', the flowers are a-bloomin' and girls in bikinis are startin' to lay out in Boshamer Stadium.

Yes, folks, it's time for spring and the great baseball stories that come with it, like the one about the rookie pitcher starting his first game who blows away the powerhouse opponent and earns national recognition for himself.

Well, this isn't exactly the big leagues, and North Carolina freshman Frank Maney probably won't make headlines in the *Washington Post*. But the lefty from Asheville did open a few eyes and drop a few batting averages Sunday, when he threw seven shut-out innings, allowing just four hits and striking out 10 as the Tar Heels toppled 13th-ranked Clemson, 3-0.

"It's something we felt he could do," UNC coach Mike Roberts said. "But you just don't expect a youngster to go out and four-hit a team like Clemson."

Maney had made three appearances before Sunday, all in relief roles. He hurled a total of two and two-thirds innings in all three and picked up two victories.

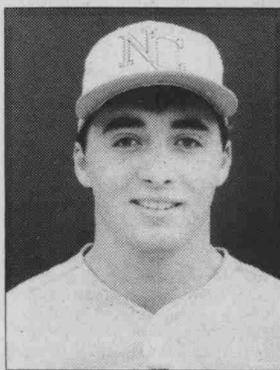
But with regular starter Kreg Gresham sidelined with a sore elbow, Roberts decided to give Maney a shot in the starting role. And the rookie responded as if he had been doing it all year long.

"He showed a lot of control early," catcher Jesse Levis said. "He established his strike zone early, and he owned it. He owned it the whole game."

Indeed, Maney didn't walk a single batter and three of his ten strike outs were of the looking variety.

"I moved the ball in and out very well," Maney said. "I got the pitches over at the right times."

"When you throw strikes and don't walk anybody, people really have to



Frank Maney

swing the bat to beat you," Roberts said.

When the Tigers did connect with Maney's pitches, they usually popped the ball up or sent short fly balls to Tar Heel outfielders. Clemson never had more than one runner on base at any time against Maney or reliever Jim Dougherty, who pitched the final two innings to pick up his first save of the season.

North Carolina didn't exactly manhandle Tiger pitchers either, but good timing made the Tar Heels' eight hits more than enough. In the first inning, after Clemson starter Alan Botkin had given up two singles and a walk to load the bases with two out, North Carolina first baseman Dedic Powell drew a free pass to push across Brad Woodall and open the scoring.

Botkin, who took the loss and dropped to 2-2, was yanked with none out in the second after giving up a walk to shortstop Ron Maurer and a double to third baseman Darren Villani. Botkin's replacement, David Tripp, got three straight outs but not before a sacrifice fly by Levis brought Maurer in for the Tar Heels' second run, which was charged to Botkin. Tripp went the rest of the way for

Clemson and was nearly as dominant as Maney. He struck out eight batters in seven innings, gave up four hits and walked none. UNC scored its final run off of Tripp in the bottom of the eighth when a two-out infield single by right fielder Scott Hughes brought Dave Arendas home from third.

"We were doing a lot of key hitting," Levis said. "We got the hits when we needed them."

Roberts, however, is hoping for more out of the offense in the future. "I'm an aggressive-type coach," he said. "And right now our club is not an aggressive-type offensive team."

Sunday's win capped off a long weekend of baseball in Boshamer in which the Tar Heels beat Georgia Tech and split a pair with first-place Clemson. North Carolina now stands at 11-7 overall and 2-2 in the conference after dealing the Tigers (18-3, 6-1) their first conference loss.

"It's a confidence builder that we know we can beat the teams at the top," Roberts said.

Clemson nipped the Tar Heels on Saturday, 4-3, on a sacrifice fly by second baseman Henry Threadgill in the ninth inning. UNC had taken a 3-2 lead in the fourth on a two-run homer by Maurer, his third of the season, but Threadgill tied it up with a solo shot in the fifth and then won it in the ninth.

Dougherty (1-1), who entered the game in the eighth inning, took the loss for the Tar Heels. He relieved starter Michael Hoog, who allowed three runs on five hits through the first seven frames.

On Friday, UNC dumped Georgia Tech, 6-1, behind a complete-game effort from pitcher John Thoden and home runs from Todd Nichols and freshman Mark Kingston. Kingston's three-run shot in the bottom of the first was all Thoden needed, as he allowed just four hits and struck out seven to up his record to 4-0.

North Carolina will host Pace University Tuesday and Wednesday at 3:00 in Boshamer Stadium.

Tar Heel netters jump to early lead, get past Cavs

By SCOTT GOLD
Staff Writer

Virginia tried to come back, it really did.

Though they were down 5-1 after the singles matches in yesterday's men's tennis match, with no possible way to win, the Cavaliers put up a valiant fight for respectability. North Carolina ended up beating them 6-3, but hey — they tried.

"I'm very happy with the way today went," said coach Allen Morris. "The boys played extremely well today, especially in the singles matches. We knew it was going to be a tough match going into it. We knew we had to play well to win."

Sunday's win puts UNC at 10-5 for the year and a perfect 2-0 in the conference. They are currently working on a five-game winning streak.

Number-one seed David Pollack started the match strongly with a 6-3, 6-2 drubbing of Clark.

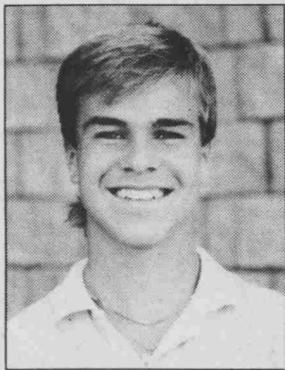
Pollack was in control the entire way and proved that precise placement can easily overcome power. He extended his record to 24-9 overall, and garnered his first win in the ACC.

Freshman Brian Jones continued to provide tremendous impact on the team by squeaking by Virginia's number-three seed Ken Anderson 7-5, 7-5. Jones' overall record is now 24-6 and 2-0 in the conference, but even more impressive is his 14-1 record in the spring.

Actually, all six top seeds on North Carolina's team have had strong season's so far. Number-two seed Don Johnson defeated UVA's David Kanstoroom 6-3, 6-4 to receive his 20th win of the season against nine losses, and 2-0 in the conference.

Number-five seed Andre Janasik defeated Virginia's Chris Hall 7-6, 6-2. His record now stands at 16-4 and 2-0. Jimmy Weilbacher, the number-six seed and North Carolina's other captain, defeated Laurent Provost 6-2, 7-5, upping his record to 21-9 and 2-0.

UNC's only loss in the singles matchups came from sophomore Thomas Tanner, the Tar Heels' number four seed. Tanner started



Brian Jones

impressively, clobbering Bill Grona 6-1 in the first set. He may have been playing over his head, though, and lost the second set in a heartbreaker, 7-6. Obviously frustrated, Tanner suffered through the third set, losing 6-3.

The loss dropped his record to 19-10 overall, and gave him his first loss in the ACC.

"I have to give Grona all the credit," Morris said. "Thomas started out well — maybe too well, and then he got mentally blocked. Grona picked up his serve and overpowered him until the end. It was a good match, though. Thomas played well."

Tanner recovered from his loss in the singles round to team up with Jones in the doubles matchups. Playing in the number-two spot behind Pollack and Johnson, the two provided the only pleasantries for UNC in the second half of the match, defeating Raleigh Draper and Hall.

At first it appeared that Tanner was going to allow his singles play to effect his doubles, as both he and Jones played sloppy tennis in the first set, losing 6-4.

They recovered, however, and blistered through the rest of the match 6-2, 6-4.

The number-one and number-three doubles seeds were a disappointment, though. Pollack and Johnson were obviously off their game, and were overpowered by Clark and Anderson 6-4, 6-4.

The third-seeded duo, consisting of Janasik and the ever-enthusiastic Joe Frairson, was stumped by Virginia's team of Kanstoroom and Scott Docker, 6-0, 6-2.

Morris was obviously let down by his team's play in the doubles round.

"I was disappointed by the doubles," he said. "We did dig out number two, but I don't think we played very consistently."

"Some of the matchups were just against better teams. I think we relaxed for the doubles, because their was no way we could lose. I tried to warn them — I knew that Virginia wouldn't stop fighting just because they were behind. I did my best to pump them up for doubles just like I did the singles, and remind them of how important it was."

Virginia has a history of fighting UNC, actually. Though they usually finish in the bottom half of the conference, whereas the Tar Heels finish at least in contention for the top (before 1986, their last losing season was in 1957), North Carolina has only defeated Virginia in four out of 10 matches dating to when Morris arrived in 1981.

In other men's action this weekend, UNC opened its conference schedule by easily defeating Maryland 8-1 on Friday.

In women's action, the Tar Heels continued their losing ways by dropping two tight matches, to Virginia on Friday (5-3) and to Texas Christian University on Saturday (5-4).

NC-Central wins Division II title

From Associated Press reports

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Coach Mike Bernard's best offense was his defense as North Carolina Central captured its first NCAA Division II basketball championship.

The Eagles, led by Antoine Sifford with 21 points and nine rebounds, held Southeast Missouri scoreless from the field for the last 7:58 of the first half Saturday night en route to a 73-46 victory.

The winning margin was the largest ever in the championship game. The previous mark was set in 1957 when Wheaton, Ill., beat Kentucky Wesleyan 89-65.

"When we go out on the floor there is one thing we do and that's play man-to-man defense from buzzer to buzzer," said Bernard, whose 13th-ranked Eagles held their opponents to just 38 percent shooting over the season to lead Division II in defense. "That's our forte. We live and die with

it. "I basically believe in a ball-control offense, but if we have a chance to break, we'll break. That's the type of offense I grew up with from all the coaches I played for," said Bernard, who was a high school star in Brockton and played on the Ken-

tucky-State team that won the NAIA championship in 1970.

It was over early as North Carolina Central ran up 12 straight points to take a 42-20 halftime lead while frustrating No. 8 Southeast Missouri, which had been averaging 85 points a game.

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