

# SPORTS

## Take me out to Wrigley: Tradition runs rampant in Friendly Confines

"All right, lemme hear yah. A one, a two, a three. Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd..."

For those who don't know, these are some of the immortal words from baseball's timeless masterpiece, "Take Me out to the Ball Game." They proceed from the somewhat tilted mouth of Chicago Cubs announcer Harry Caray during every seventh-inning stretch at Wrigley Field, a timeless ballpark that houses the Cubs. His song at baseball's stand-up-and-stretch time is as traditional as 20-win seasons for UNC basketball coach Dean Smith.

For Wrigley, a park built around the turn of the century, tradition is the key word.

I, along with one companion, was taken out to a ball game this weekend, courtesy of a drawing at the UNC-Clemson contest two weeks ago at Boshamer. We (my girlfriend and I) got to see three games in historic Wrigley and be a part of a crowd that carries on many traditions.

First, Wrigley has the Major League's sole manually operated scoreboard. The scorekeeper puts up the number of hits and runs of each team as well as the line scores of the rest of the day's games. Wrigley, unlike other parks in the bigs, doesn't have any fancy visual graphics with fireworks or dot races between innings.

Instead of playing pop music during breaks in the action, Cubs' Park either plays the organ or has tunes from an old-time quintet. But there are some exceptions. When Cub reliever Mitch Williams — nicknamed the Wild Thing for his unusual and often dangerous pitching style — completes an inning of work, "Wild Thing" by (no, not the Tone Loc version) the Troggs blares as fans sang along. Williams, a crowd favorite, is traditional in that he doesn't throw junk. His heater is one of the best in the business.

"...Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack, I don't care if I ever get back..."

Vendors carried around lots of the good stuff — hot dogs, soda, peanuts and beer. Emphasize the latter, because baseball and beer seem to go hand in hand at Wrigley. Vendors barked out a variety of calls to sell their products in a variety of accents. Some examples: "Hey! Hot dauwwwg" or "Beer here!" Luckily for me, much of the food sold for very old-time prices, which made it

**Neil Amato**  
Staff Writer

taste even better.

"...So, its root, root, root for the Cubbies, if they don't win it's a shame. For it's one, two, three strikes yer out at the old ball game."

I grew up watching the Cubs on cable. Or, should I say, watching the Cubs lose on cable. At one point, fans in the Windy City and elsewhere waited 39 years for a National League pennant from 1945 to 1984. Last season, they took home the N.L. East crown and then got spanked by San Francisco in the playoffs.

Of course, we rooted for the Cubs this weekend, but it didn't help much. In fact, it hurt the home team a lot. The Cubs had not one or two but three strikes in the loss column as Pittsburgh won by scores of 9-4, 4-3 and 3-2.

Several of my friends here who are from Chicago said we struck the Cubs with some sort of evil losing streak and should be banned from Wrigley for life. They truly believe we caused the Cubbies' weekend demise. Yeah right. One Chicagoan, who shall remain nameless, went so far as to say, "Man, you ruined the whole season." I certainly hope not.

The folks at the Friendly Confines have baseball roots that run as deep as the Pirates' Bobby Bonilla's home run in Friday's game. His dinger, the sec-

ond for Bonilla on the day, carried out to Sheffield Avenue past the right field bleachers. One of the strongest traditions was exhibited after Bonilla's first homer into the left field stands. The Bleacher Bums, so called for their often inebriated state, have a thing for throwing visitors' home runs back onto the field.

After a Pittsburgh homer on Saturday night by Jeff King, one bleacherite decided to keep the souvenir. In the bleachers, this was not the customary nor safe thing to do. Fans booted vehemently until the overwhelmed fan flung the ball back into the outfield to the delight of the Cubs' faithful.

The tradition that set Wrigley apart from other parks until 1988 was that baseball was always played in the daytime. You see, Cubs' Park had no lights, so afternoon games were the norm. We got to witness a Wrigley rarity Saturday called night baseball. It was great to be a part of history on that beautiful but nippy Chicago night.

Even though the home team lost, Sunday's game is what makes Wrigley the greatest park in baseball. The sun was shining and a slight breeze was blowing from the shores of Lake Michigan. The grass, surrounded by old-time wooden seats and the anachronistic but new light fixtures, was thick but well-kept. The essence of baseball at Wrigley came Sunday afternoon after six and a half innings of play. With 37,091 fans singing along, Caray's traditional seventh-inning serenade culminated a weekend of baseball for the ages.

## Fratello steps down as Hawks coach

From Associated Press reports

ATLANTA — Mike Fratello resigned Monday as coach of the Atlanta Hawks after a disappointing season that ended with the Hawks eliminated from the NBA playoffs for the first time in five years.

that it's right. Call it instinct, a hunch, a gut feeling. But after talking it out, the feeling was mutual," Fratello said at a news conference with Hawks president Stan Kasten and general manager Pete Babcock.

Fratello, in the last year of a four-year contract, was under pressure as the

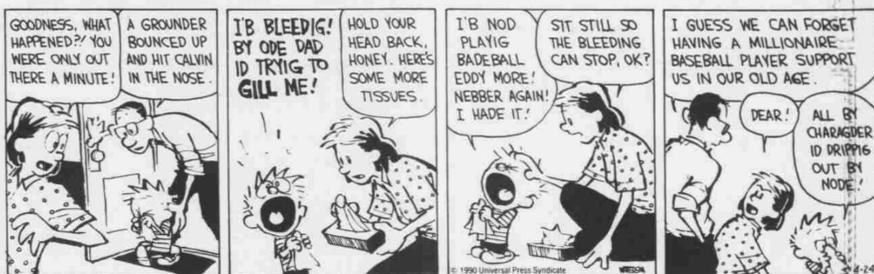
Hawks, plagued by injuries and internal bickering, played under .500 most of the season.

Atlanta managed to win six of the last seven games to finish 41-41, but failed to make the playoffs for only the second time in Fratello's seven seasons.

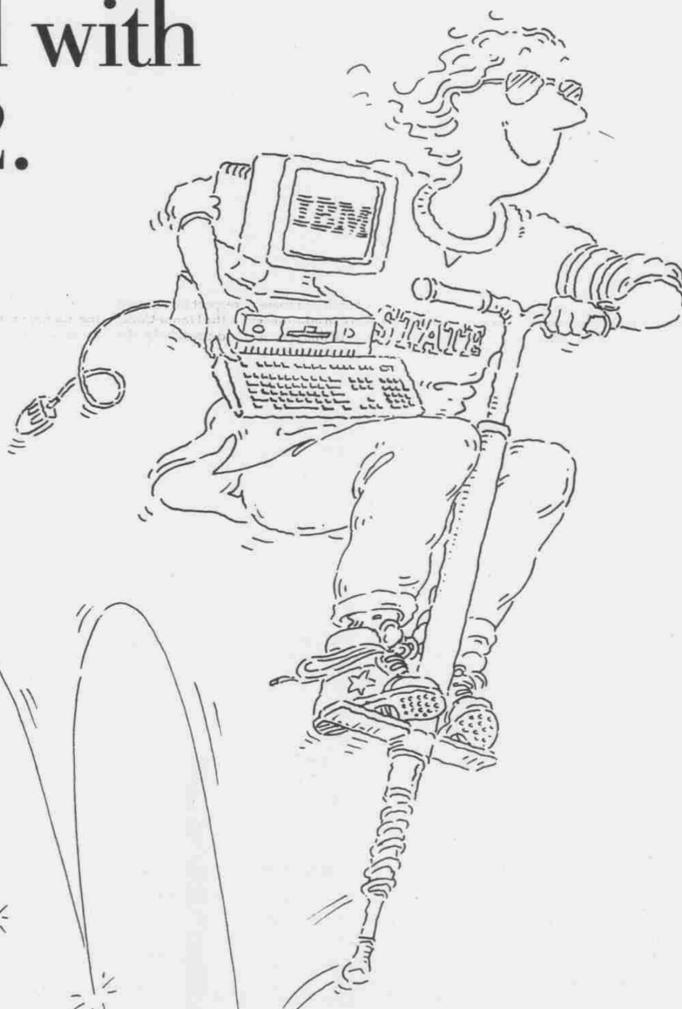
### Doonesbury



### Calvin and Hobbes



## Spring ahead with an IBM PS/2.



Get a jump on your work with an IBM Personal System/2.® Just turn it on. It comes with easy-to-use, preloaded software, an IBM Mouse and color display. From writing and revising papers to adding impressive graphics, nothing beats the IBM PS/2.®

# PS/2 it!

You'll receive an added lift from the special student prices and affordable loan payments.\*

Let us show you how the PS/2 can get you moving ahead by leaps and bounds.

**RAM Shop Computers**  
Student Stores



Only currently enrolled UNC students, faculty and staff may purchase from the RAMSHOP of the STUDENT STORES.

**Buy a system before Graduation and get a free cap & gown!**



\*This offer is available only to qualified students, faculty and staff who purchase IBM PS/2's through participating campus outlets. Orders are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change and IBM may withdraw the offer at any time without written notice.  
© IBM, Personal System/2, and PS/2 are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation.  
© IBM Corporation 1990.

### On Tap

**Today**  
BASEBALL, vs. Campbell, Boshamer Stadium, 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 25**  
SOFTBALL, vs. North Carolina A&T, Finley Field, 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 26**  
BASEBALL, vs. N.C. State, Boshamer Stadium, 3:00 p.m.  
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK, at Penn Relays, Philadelphia, Pa., 9:00 a.m.

**Friday, April 27**  
BASEBALL, at N.C. State, 3:00 p.m.  
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK, at Penn Relays, Philadelphia, Pa., 9:00 a.m.  
LACROSSE, at ACC Tournament, Charlottesville, Va., 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 28**  
BASEBALL, vs. N.C. State, Boshamer Stadium, 1:00 p.m.  
LACROSSE, at ACC Tournament, Charlottesville, Va., 8:00 p.m.

### Get Your Thesis Done In A Day.

- High quality copies
- Choice of bindings
- Guaranteed deadlines
- Open 24 hours
- 7 days a week

**COMPTON**  
It's on time. Or it's on us.  
100 West Franklin St.  
933-2679

### To All Degree Candidates:

Commencement weekend is Friday, May 11 through Sunday, May 13. All graduating seniors and graduate and professional degree candidates are urged to participate in the Graduation Exercises which will be held on Sunday, May 13 beginning at 10:00 A.M. in Kenan Stadium.

For additional information, please contact:

**Professional**  
Office of Student Affairs 966-4041

**Caps and gowns**  
Student Stores 962-2424

**Handicapped needs**  
Handicapped Student Services 966-4041

**Grades, academic eligibility, diplomas**  
Registrar's Office 962-3956

**On-campus accommodations**  
Conference housing 966-5966  
Granville housing 929-7143

**Alumni membership, activities, reunions**  
Alumni Association 962-1208

**Parking**  
Parking Control 962-3951

**Chancellor's reception, rain sites**  
Public Information 962-0045