

Baseball

senior, Richardson saw limited action last season, hitting .333 with six stolen bases in seven attempts.

Shortstop — Keith Grunewald: As a freshman last year, Grunewald started 57 of UNC's 59 games, hitting .254.

Third Base — Chris Cox: A junior, Cox hit .237 last year, led the team with 12 home runs and knocked in 43 runs.

Left Field — Chad Holbrook: Also a junior, Holbrook hit .322 last year with a team-leading 23 stolen bases.

Roberts said starters in center and right field had not yet surfaced. UNC's remaining outfielders are freshmen David Boone, Doug Merritt and David Young, junior Scott Chandler and senior Scott Hughes.

Sophomore Matt Shuey, a .232 hitter last year, will see time at designated hitter and at first base.

Freshman Manny DaSilva will be the Tar Heels' utilityman extraordinaire, picking up where Brad Woodall left off. Woodall, now pitching in the Atlanta Braves' minor-league system, split time between the pitching, outfield and first base positions at UNC from 1988-91.

Other backups for UNC are catchers Geoff Lewis and Davis Whitfield, catcher/first baseman Crandel Coltrane, first baseman Dante McDowell, second baseman Hector Ferrer and third baseman Bo Durkac.

Men's Track

leaders on the team that it is difficult to go astray from our goal — to win the ACCs. That's an advantage we have over other teams."

Williams, whose best events are the 3,000 and the 5,000, may participate in an event he has never competed in at UNC — the steeplechase.

"Andre has never run the steeple before, but he is such a good distance runner and he has got a blend of speed, strength and agility that will make him a good steepler," Craddock said.

"We're very pleased with our depth in our position situations," Roberts said. "Our catching depth, and all the way around the infield and the outfield, is the best it's been in several years."

On Roberts' desk in Boshamer Stadium, a glass desk ornament sits with the following quote inscribed on it: "It's amazing what people can accomplish if they have no concern about who receives the credit."

It captures the essence of team sports: chemistry. The "experts" have been stunned countless times by teams that were not supposed to win, yet did so by meshing talents and desires.

Roberts knows. "I think the Minnesota Twins and the Atlanta Braves were just another great example that there's no coach, there's no sports writer, there's no administrator, there's no fan that can predict what a baseball team will do," he said.

This season, chemistry will go a long way in determining just how far the UNC baseball team goes in '92.

And that chemistry is looking good to UNC's skipper.

"I think our players' chemistry is as good as it's been in a long time," Roberts said.

Roberts has tried to strengthen his teams' bonds by never naming captains. "We feel there are ways that fresh-

men can lead just as well as seniors."

This year, Roberts and Co. will abide by a slogan: "Mission Possible." Created by the team's seniors, it is a reminder of the value of team chemistry.

"We can do the things we want to do if we all come together as one and play as one," Cox said. "We need to play together. Last year, we kind of got off that."

"This year, it's a better chemistry. People are enjoying playing. It's a lot closer."

The new slogan has become a favorite of Roberts'.

"Coach is really high on it, and he's got it on the scoreboard and in the dug-out," Cox said.

It is ironic that "Mission Possible" flashes on Boshamer's scoreboard. For the \$95,000 scoreboard, installed in 1989, is just one of the additions Roberts has added to the stadium in recent years, despite the budget crunch.

Last season, the team's locker room was renovated. This year, Roberts and Co. have added new lighting and — prepare yourselves, Ehringhaus and Avery residents — an organ.

"Our goal is every year to try to upgrade Boshamer in some way," Roberts said. "Boshamer is a beautiful stadium, and we're very blessed with it."

Behind Roberts' desk, a layout of

Boshamer is tacked to the wall. The model is not the same Boshamer that the coach sits in. Rather, it is an improved stadium, one with individual seats.

Roberts said that depending on finances, he would like to add individual seating within the next few years.

But finances are not easy to come by these days, particularly for non-revenue sports. Budget cuts have affected nearly every facet of the baseball program.

Perhaps the most pivotal budget cut concerns scholarships. New NCAA rules will force all baseball teams to decrease their number of scholarships by 10 percent in the fall of 1993. UNC will drop from 13 baseball scholarships to 11.7, to be distributed among players.

One way Roberts has begun to cope with this is by recruiting multi-position players like Leshnock and DaSilva.

"This is going to be a new pattern in college baseball," Roberts said. "With the cost of schools going up and the NCAA taking money away, we've got to find a lot more people that can do two things — pitch and play at this level."

Another way Roberts has coped with

slimmer budgets has been by recruiting more players from within North Carolina, a reverse of past UNC patterns.

Of this year's 13 freshmen, nine are from in-state. Of the nine high school seniors signed by UNC in the fall, six were from in-state.

Roberts' attempts to get the most from the money available has not gone unnoticed. "He's done a lot with the budget that we have," Cox said. "He's making the program a lot better."

As the baseball season begins, Mike Roberts is ready. Despite the grueling schedule of some 57-plus games, this is when the real fun begins.

"My work schedule is fall practice and preseason practice," Roberts said. "When the season starts, it's much more of a fun schedule for everybody involved. It's a rigorous schedule, but it's a fun schedule."

"College baseball is a lot of fun." Especially when you're winning.

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