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Sports Close-Up



By Ronnie Lawrence
Editor

Hurricane Baseball: Canes Need Strong Pitching

The only thing getting better than the weather this spring is the Hurricane baseball team. They currently hold a 16-6 overall record and a 3-1 record in conference action.

Pitching has been the main weakness on this year's squad, especially early in the season. As of April 10, left hander John Foster was the brightest spot with a 4-0 record and 40 strike outs to his credit. Coach Frazier said the pitching has been "spotty", and not as good as he would like. Pitchers Greg Bartly, Mike Warren, Mike Lloyd, Danny Napier, and Wilson Pearce have steadily improved and should peak around tournament time, Frazier added. Hard throwing right hander George Hall has the potential to be one of the best pitchers on the team, but has been unable to this season.

The strongest part of the team thus far has been hitting, which surprised Frazier. As of April 10 Bobby Hinson

led the batting attack with a whopping .445 average; Linwood "Tweedy" Thorbs was not far behind at .435; Mark Valesquez was batting just below .400 at .389; and John Millholland was at .344. Ottis Nixon, with his fine fielding, has proven time and time again this season why he was selected by the California Angels in the first round of the winter draft; "but he really hasn't broken out as far as hitting", Frazier said.

Louisburg has an abundance of speed and coach Frazier utilizes it for the better of the team. On numerous occasions this season Frazier has substituted base runners on first base, and it has paid off because the Hurricanes are averaging about 5 stolen bases per game.

Frazier hopes that by the time the conference tournament rolls around that he can couple his great hitting with some improved pitching to capture the Eastern Tarheel Conference crown.

Freshman Star Wins Award

Sam Jones, a freshman from Mt. Olive, N. C., received first team All-American recognition for her outstanding performance this past season and especially her playing in the nationals.

When Jones was asked if she would answer a few questions about her award, she claimed to be shy. The only reason Jones acted shy was because her basketball has done most of her talking for the last few years. During Jones' three years at Southern Wayne High School she averaged 23 points per game and 10 assists. During the regular season this year Jones led the team with a 19.6 scoring average, 9.4 rebounds and 5 assists, shot 50.5 percent from the floor and 74.3 percent from the foul line.

When Jones was asked about Coach Sanderford she replied, "he is the best coach I ever had, because he knows his stuff". Jones learned to build confidence within herself under Sanderford. Jones said Sanderford would tell her "you can do it", and that she has done things which surprised herself.

Jones came to Louisburg because

she wanted to be at a small school, with a winning basketball team. One year ago the Hurricanes record ended at 19-3, with a loss in the finals of the Regionals. Sanderford promised Jones that if she would come to Louisburg that his team would go to the nationals, and that was one promise never broken.

Jones received offers from Central Missouri State and South Carolina to play basketball next year, but she said she will return to Louisburg. For those fans who remember that patented left hand jump shot of Sam Jones, they know she is worthy of her All-American recognition, and look forward to seeing her next year.



Sam Jones



COLUMNS/Julie Moore

Ann Lawrence, sophomore sensation from LC, has signed a grant in aid with the University of North Carolina, to play basketball. This past season Lawrence averaged 17.6 points and 17.8 rebound per game. Lawrence was selected to the first team All Region X for the second consecutive year, and was on the All-Tournament Team in the nationals. Lawrence was selected to play in the East-West All Star Game where she helped lead the East to victory by scoring six points, pulling down 11 rebound, and blocking six shots.

