

Seahawks take third game from George Washington

BEN JONES

SPORTS EDITOR

Early runs combined with a strong defense enabled UNC Wilmington to defeat the Colonials of George Washington, 8-4.

Starting pitcher Jake Mullis and the other Seahawks retired the first 12 GWU batters Sunday at Brooks Field. The Seahawks forced four straight three-and-outs to start the final game of the three-game series.

Quite the opposite, UNCW put up four runs in the first inning while going through the entire lineup with all nine batters getting a turn at the plate. After junior David McKenna hit a double to center field, redshirt junior Kevin Hairr singled to right field to bring McKenna home. Senior David Ange and junior Magnus Pilegard each added RBIs off a double and single, respectively.

"We came out with an attitude," said Hairr, who stole three bases in the game. "We knew what we were supposed to do."

The Seahawks' attitude led to similar success in the second inning. Both McKenna and Hairr crossed home plate for the second

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other a chance at victory. UNCW fell into a drought in which they scored only 10 points during the first 14 1/2 minutes of the second half. That is when point-guard Jennifer Kapper came to the rescue. Kapper nailed a 3-pointer from the right wing to cut the Eagle lead to 42-40 at the 5:26 mark. Kapper then found Williams, whose driving lay-up tied the game at 42.

Sensing a chance at their first victory, the Seahawks began to play with a confidence not seen in most of their previous losses. Sophomore forward Rachael Friesen-Norwood's two free throws would put the Seahawks up for good at 46-45 with 2:21 to go. Less than a minute later, Kapper, who seemed to be in the middle of the Eagle zone all day, hit a turnaround jumper in the lane to give the Seahawks a 48-45 lead.

The Eagles would not mount a comeback as, out of a timeout with 36 seconds to go, American guard Danielle Johnson took an ill-advised three-point shot that sailed out of bounds. UNCW would convert four out of seven free throws to seal the deal.

"That was our game plan; we weren't penetrating, and we worked on that in practice," Kapper said of her ability carve her way into the Eagle defense.

The Seahawks improved to 9-15 overall and 1-12 in the CAA, while the Eagles fell to 4-20 and a 2-11 CAA record.

As the CAA tournament approaches, the Seahawks now enter as conference winners.

"This got us prepared," Kapper said. "It's good to go into the tournament with a win."

time on the afternoon following sophomore Matt Wright's single to right field.

The game pace settled down for GWU after the Colonials brought in senior Ron Christie to relieve right-handed starter Greg Conden (0-1). In four innings, Christie only gave up two runs and two hits to the Seahawks.

Hairr and designated hitter Joe Dekker walked on base under Christie's watch in the bottom of the sixth. GWU brought in right-hander Ryan Beggs to face Ange. Ange

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started against Fischer. In two key situations, including the bottom of the ninth, the Seahawks reached base leading-off. Unfortunately, poor base running would extinguish the Seahawks' late-inning drives. Twice the Seahawks were caught leaning too far off the bag at first, forced into a run-down, and tagged out.

"We weren't paying enough attention," Scalf said.

The game was then forced into extra innings and it didn't take long for the Chanticleers to strike, loading the bases with their first three batters. The Seahawks used three pitchers and faced all nine batters in the Coastal lineup before the damage was done - five runs, four hits, one walk, and one error.

However, the Seahawks felt their problems started long before that fateful tenth inning. They were concerned primarily with their offensive execution.

"We came into the game with a plan, we prepared for it, and we came out and basically disobeyed that



UNCW redshirt junior Kevin Hairr prepares to rock the ball into the outfield for a single.

For the first base hit in the game, Colonials junior Mike Bassett sent the ball over the right field wall, placing GMU on the scoreboard.

Mullis gave up one more run in his eighth innings of play. In the sixth inning, sophomore Jake Wald scored after fellow sopho-

plan," Wishon said.

Scalf feels that the problem behind his team's inconsistent hitting is "plate discipline, which is not very good right now." He doesn't think his players understand the importance of playing hard during every at bat. "We've got to dial in everyday and some of our guys are having trouble doing that."

For now, the Seahawks have to get prepared for the tournament they are hosting this weekend. They begin play on Friday at 7 p.m. against Appalachian State and remain confident despite the tough loss against Coastal.

"It's our tournament and we're looking to win three straight," Wishon said.

"We're gonna come out with a lot of enthusiasm," Whitaker added.



Sophomore Matt Wright makes the catch on an extremely close play in Tuesday's game.

unwelcomed Beggs to the game with a single to deep center field, which allowed Hairr and Dekker to score.

The sixth inning turned out to be insurance runs for the Seahawks, who allowed two runs combined in the fifth and sixth innings.

more Tony Dokoupil singled to center field.

The ninth inning started with sophomore Matt Carter taking over the mound for UNCW. Carter allowed two hits, one of which opened home plate for GMU junior Matt Krimmel to cross.

Seahawks coach Mark Scalf credited Mullis as a major reason for the victory.

"Jacob threw exceptionally well. I thought Jacob pitched outstanding today. He was in the strike zone throughout the (first) four innings. It's easy to play defense behind that."

The Seahawks picked up their fifth win, raising their record to 5-2. GWU dropped to 1-2 on the season.

The victory marked Mullis' first win for the season.

"It feels real good for me personally," the sophomore from Arden said. "The last outing at Coastal (Carolina) I didn't feel like I pitched that well. I wanted to come out here and prove a point today, and my defense helped me."

UNCW returns to action this weekend, while hosting the Hugh Bros. Baseball Challenge Friday through Sunday.

SCHEDULES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Thu. Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

at East Carolina

Sun. Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH

(Last home game of season)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mon. Feb. 26 7:35 p.m.

at Old Dominion

WOMEN'S GOLF

Mon & Tue. Feb. 26-27 All Day

at Carolinas Collegiate Classic

TRACK & FIELD

Sat. Feb. 24 TBA

Last Chance Meet (Virginia Tech)

MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS

Fri. Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.

at North Carolina A&T

Sat. Feb. 24 at 1 p.m.

at Elon

SOFTBALL

Fri & Sat. Feb. 23-24 TBA

SEAHAWK CLASSIC

(Campbell, George Mason, Hampton)

BASEBALL

Fri-Sun. Feb. 23-25 TBA

HUGH BROS. TIRES

BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Tue. Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.

at Duke

SWIMMING & DIVING

Wed-Sun. Feb. 21-24 TBA

at CAA Championship Meet (Fairfax, Va.)

BOLD indicates home game

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