

Seahawks pitching takes win, loss in ECU doubleheader

BEN JONES

SPORTS EDITOR

Battling the thoughts of a loss two days earlier to East Carolina, UNC Wilmington faced its rival for the second and third time of the week in a doubleheader at Roseman Field last Thursday.

Right-handed pitcher Mandi Westbury threw a 2-0 shutout for the Seahawks in the opener to beat the Pirates. Game two, however, would be a different story. ECU took advantage of flawed UNCW pitching to overcome the Seahawks, 12-7, capping the twinbill.

The two games showed a vital contrast in pitching styles for UNCW. In the first game, consistency allowed the Seahawks to control the game flow. Although Westbury, a senior from Castle Hayne, gave up six hits and walked three Pirates, UNCW fielding quietly maintained control of the contest.

"When I let the ball go and it gets hit," Westbury said, "I have total confidence in the defense to stop the ball."

UNCW center fielder Mary Susan Hilliard echoed Westbury's belief. "When we are able to make plays in the field it boosts our confidence," said Hilliard, a sophomore from Wilmington.

"Overall, I think we played well today."
All the offense the Seahawks needed in game one was in the first inning. Junior Audrey White

crossed home plate after sophomore Tiffany Lindemann hit a sacrifice fly to center field.

Freshman Lauren Mattox added an insurance run in the sixth inning on a throwing error by ECU right fielder Beth Bridger.

In the second game, UNCW used sophomore Chrissy Freaney to battle the Pirates from the mound. As a freshman, Freaney led the team with a season-best 2.13 ERA. This year, though, the Long Beach, N.Y., native is struggling with a 6.94 ERA.

Although she began the contest as an effective hurler, Freaney's season-long troubles continued against ECU. The Seahawks carried a 4-0 lead into the top of the fifth inning. Before the final out, Freaney walked six batters in a row and gave up three hits to the Pirates, which allowed ECU to put up eight runs in the inning.

With the important three-game series against Southern Conference rival East Tennessee State only two days away, UNCW could not afford to cycle the already depleted pitching staff during the nightcap.

"This weekend is super important," UNCW coach Maggie St. Ledger said. St. Ledger indicated the doubleheader, which was added as a rainout makeup, burdened the limited pitching rotation. "With the late addition of this game, it put a strain on our pitching staff.

"It was my decision not to throw Kelly (Giv-



The Seahawks are in the final stretch before the Southern Conference tournament May 3-5 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Currently, UNCW holds a 5-11 SoCon record.

ens) today because I need her to throw this weekend."

After ECU's explosive fifth inning, UNCW lost its early momentum. The Seahawks, nevertheless, did manage to make a final offensive run. UNCW grabbed three runs from the Pirates in the bottom of the fifth.

ECU quickly played the game out of reach by adding four runs over the next two innings to broaden the victory.

Overall, St. Ledger was pleased with the Seahawks' performance, including sophomore Raenu Jones, who led the team going 4-for-6 with three doubles for the day. "I think we did all good both games," St. Ledger said. "We showed good patience at the plate.

"We played good defense as well. Personally, I think our defense is as good as anybody at the conference."

BOY • CANDLES • MANIC PANIC • CLUBWEAR • STREETWEAR • SHOES • WIGS • BODY JE

STERLING SILVER • INCENSE • OIL BURNERS • PLAYB

Wilmington's

HOTTEST

New Store

A STEP ABOVE
Streetwear • Clubwear

Look for the GREEN neon!

330 S. College Rd Wilmington, NC 28403
Phone (910) 792-9669 Fax (910) 792-6020

15% OFF
With this coupon

PLAYBOY • CANDLES • CLUBWEAR • STREETWEAR • SHOES • WIGS • BODY JEWELRY

WELRY • STERLING SILVER • INCENSE • OIL BURNERS •