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Heavy Hitter

Bell 'Walks On' To Become Carolina Star



By SCOTT SMITH
Carolina Blue Staff Writer



On first impression, Devy Bell does not strike fear into opposing pitchers. The 6-0, 190-pound junior first baseman-outfielder for the Carolina baseball team is not an imposing figure off the diamond. He looks like anything but a power hitter.

But first impressions are sometimes wrong. The easy-going Pembroke, N.C. resident possesses a bat that has long been written all over it. His statistics for the year—a .341 batting average, a team-leading 17 home runs and 50 RBI—suggest that. But when you sit across a table from him, you ask yourself, 'How does this guy generate so much power? He doesn't look that strong.'

"I'm told that an awful lot," Bell says with his always prominent smile. "I'm not really that big. I guess it's just something God-given. I've got good wrists. And it really doesn't take a strong person to hit the ball a long way. I try to use good mechanics, to get my wrists and hips into it. Timing is especially key. If you unload at the right time, anybody can drive the ball. You don't really have to be all that big."

"I don't consider myself a power hitter, but I do have a home run swing. So I really can't help it. I'm not going to fight it. I'd like to be thought of as someone who likes to make good, hard contact, whether it's on the ground or in the air. I know I can hit the ball out of the park, but I like to consider myself an all-around player. That always means you're really helping your team."

Bell has had to help more than usual this year since the Tar Heels lost offensive sparkplugs B.J. Surhoff and Walt Weiss to professional baseball last summer. More than ever, Bell was counted on to provide run production this year, and he responded. There's been pressure, but Bell knew it was coming.

"When I played with Walt and B.J. I could almost put my burdens on them," Bell says. "It did pressure me a whole lot at the beginning of the year, knowing they were gone. It doesn't as much now, but I do get concerned about it because I know it's my job now to produce runs. I didn't want to accept it—I don't know that's my best role—but it is my job."

But it's not a job Bell accepted without previous experience. He hit 11 homers and drove in 45 runs last season as a sophomore. And as a freshman, he had five home runs and 27 RBI.

And all of this from a guy who says he wasn't heavily recruited as a senior in high school because of his "weak hitting." The on-

ball, but I had to take a long swing to do it. Now I've worked it down to the wrists. If I can get the bat on the ball with good speed, I can sometimes 'wrist' it out.

"When I came as a freshman we had just started a weight program. I lifted with Walt and (former Tar Heel second baseman) Jeff Hubbard. Walt was a fine example of what it (weightlifting) could do for you. He went from 165 pounds to 185 and it helped his game a lot. That, to me, was a lot of inspiration. And from then on, that's all I did during every summer. I wouldn't play that much baseball; I'd just lift."

"It really helps you generate a lot of power. All you have to do is look at Carlton Fisk (Chicago White Sox) last year. He hit 37 home runs and attributed it mostly to his lifting."

"It really gave me the edge I needed. The bat just feels so feathery to me now. A hitter feels confident when he has bat speed. You realize you don't have to do as much on a fastball by taking a big stride. You don't think home run as much. If you make good contact and you're strong, the ball will rise, jump off your bat. I didn't realize that when I was young, but if you just get your bat there it will take off."

But not all baseball people think weightlifting is a good thing. Many think it's detrimental, that it takes away flexibility. Is that a concern to Bell?

"Some don't agree with it and some have made the majors without it. I guess they can say that," Bell says. "Some people have that natural ability and natural strength. B.J. didn't lift that much because he thought it would hinder him. But he just had natural bat speed. Some people don't need weightlifting, but some have to compensate like I do. I was really average coming out of high school. But I started working on the weights, especially with my hips, and it really paid off."

A lot of other things have paid off for Bell in his baseball career—like faith, patience and hard work. He wasn't recruited by UNC coach Mike Roberts coming out of high school, but decided to come to Chapel Hill anyway and try out since he liked the school so much.

"I took a chance," Bell remembers. "I was just going to come here because it was a great school. I was going to try out, and if I didn't make it I'd still have a quality education. I wasn't really that eye-catching out of high school. I really thought my career was over after my senior year."

Bell made the Carolina JV team, and Roberts liked so much of what he saw that he

promoted him to varsity after only two days of practice with the JVs. "I guess I had a lot of hustle, attitude and desire and he liked that in me," says Bell. "I never gave Coach Roberts any problem and I never will. I think that's mostly what he liked."

Suddenly, Bell was playing major college baseball with the likes of Surhoff and Weiss a year after he thought he had no future in competitive baseball. He wondered if it was a dream.

"...I know it's my job now to produce runs. I didn't want to accept it—I don't know that's my best role—but it is my job."

--Devy Bell

"To tell you the truth, everything just fell into place and the Lord was watching out for me," he says. "It was like nothing I'd ever felt before. Here I was playing on a top-ranked team with B.J., Jeff Hubbard and (pitcher) Scott Bankhead. I was on Cloud Nine. The real shocker came when my dad came to pick me up for Christmas vacation that year, and when we got home he told me that Coach said I had made the team."

"My jersey had already been ordered. I was really psyched. That first game was the most enjoyable of my career. I suited up and looked at myself in the mirror and saw that I had 'Carolina' written across my uniform. I just hadn't really thought about it. It was just a pleasure to play on that team during my freshman year."

Bell says it took him a while to realize that he belonged. He still remembered all the colleges that didn't think he was good enough coming out of high school.

"I felt like I was a good player, but I also knew I was in the lower echelon. And I didn't know how in the world I was going to get up there. I honestly got to feeling like I wasn't that good, since nobody was recruiting me. It was a tough thing to overcome mentally. I felt like there really wasn't that much to me. It bothered me for a while, but then I told myself, 'What do I have to lose?' After that I began to work and things really fell into place."

Bell is no longer the unwanted baseball player. Nowadays, he's the most wanted man in Chapel Hill with men on base.

AWARDS BANQUET A Part of Lumbee Homecoming

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. will sponsor Lumbee Homecoming 1986. Numerous festivities and activities will be held during June 28, 1986-July 6, 1986 in the Town of Pembroke.

A very important activity of Lumbee Homecoming will be the Awards Banquet to be held on the night of July 3, 1986. This year four awards will be presented: (1) Henry Berry Lowry Memorial Award; (2) Business Person of the Year Award; (3) Distinguished Service Award; (4) Advancement of Education Award. These four awards are sponsored by LRDA.

For the sixteenth time in history, the Lumbee community is paying homage to this "Robinhood of the Lumbee Indians." As a part of Lumbee Homecoming Festival Activities of 1986 The Henry Berry Lowry Memorial Award will be presented to an outstanding Lumbee Indian.

To recognize an outstanding Lumbee Indian who has demonstrated pride in his Indian heritage and culture; Lumbee Indian who has worked diligently against racial injustices; Lumbee Indian who has been an advocate voice for Lumbee people under a dominant society; Lumbee Indian who has contributed in a worthwhile manner to the Lumbee Indians and Lumbee community.

Henry Berry Lowry symbolized the hopes and aspirations of all Lumbee Indians everywhere. He is a true and larger than life hero of all Lumbee Indians. The 1985 recipient was Rev. Simeon Cummings of Pembroke.

Written nominations with justification are to be mailed to Kenneth R. Maynor, Executive Director, LRDA, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372-0068.

This is the fifteenth year that Lumbee Homecoming will sponsor the Business Person of the Year Award, the most coveted award in the Indian business community.

Should be a Lumbee Indian; have demonstrated moral and civic responsibilities; exercised moral and ethical practices in their business affairs; a person who has helped distinguish Lumbees as competent business owners; must be profit motivated as exhibited in the economic growth of the business they are involved in; must have promoted the economic development of Lumbee Indians by encouraging or motivating other Indian persons to become more involved in the economic and business mainstream.

The 1985 recipient was Mr. Earlie B. Maynor of Pembroke, N.C.

Written nominations with justification are to be mailed to: Janie M. Locklear, Director Center for the Arts, LRDA, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. No one will be considered or reviewed unless a written nomination has been submitted. All written nominations must be received on or before June 17, 1986. Your participation will be highly appreciated.

The 1985 recipient was

Mr. James C. Maynor of Lumberton.

Written nominations with justification are to be mailed to: Gary Deese, Planner, LRDA Inc., P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372.

This is the thirteenth year that Lumbee Homecoming will sponsor the Distinguished Service Award.

In recognition of a Lumbee Indian who has worked unselfishly towards the betterment and improvements of the Lumbee community; whose efforts and accomplishments have touched the lives of many Indian persons; Lumbee Indian who has contributed in a significant and worthwhile manner by depicting Indian brotherhood and fellowship to the Lumbee community.

The 1985 Co-Recipients were Rev. Julian Ransom of Pembroke, N.C. and Mr. James Mitchell of Rowland, N.C.

Written nominations with justification are to be mailed to: Kenneth R. Maynor, Executive Director, LRDA, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372.

This is the seventh year that Lumbee Homecoming will be sponsoring The Advancement of Education Award. This award bestows tribute to an individual for their work which has brought about an improvement in education.

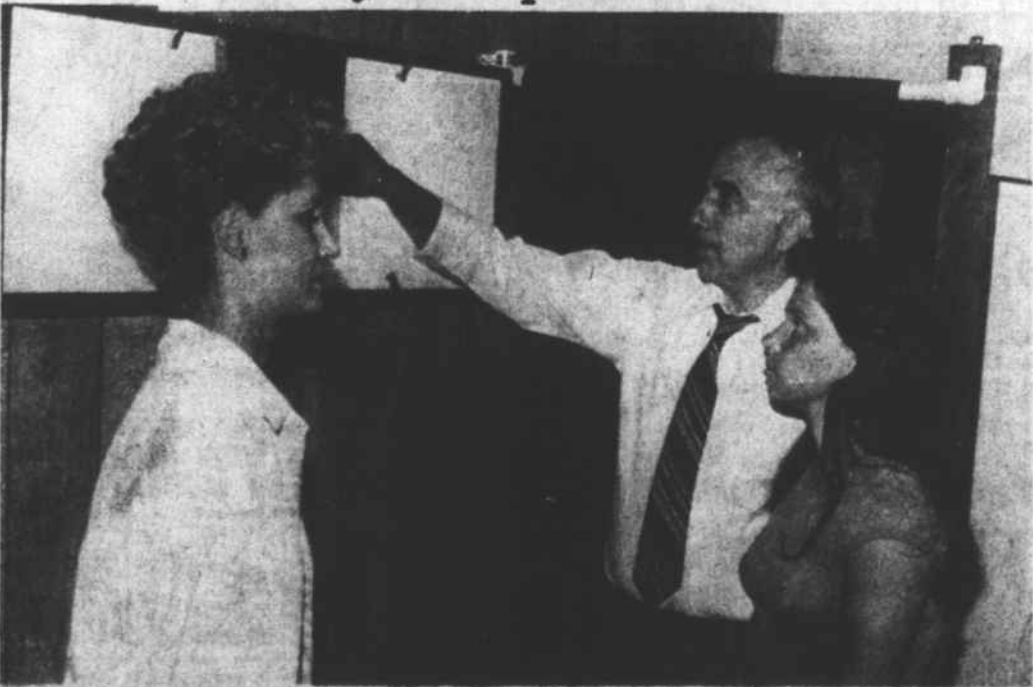
Should be a Lumbee Indian; Work in education has impacted the lives of many people; has contributed to the education of many people beyond the normal work day, or normal duties of paid position; demonstrated that education is the drive that carries one into every single opportunity that we are educated to handle; known to be an advocate for Indian Education; has exhibited concern and involvement within education; served as a guiding force towards showing children the real meaning of Indianness and freedom; an individual that believes and has committed their work towards the educational growth and development of Indian children to take their rightful place in the free world.

The 1985 recipient was Mr. Earlie B. Maynor of Pembroke, N.C.

Written nominations with justification are to be mailed to: Janie M. Locklear, Director Center for the Arts, LRDA, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. No one will be considered or reviewed unless a written nomination has been submitted. All written nominations must be received on or before June 17, 1986. Your participation will be highly appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN!

Pembroke Clinic of Chiropractic



Dr. Sabella, and receptionist Rose Revels (left) point out a problem via x-ray to a patient. [Bruce Barton photo]

Pembroke—Now open in Pembroke is the Pembroke Clinic of Chiropractic, located in the TBS Office Building, Suite 5, fronting Highway 711.

Open since April 1, the chiropractic clinic is operated by Dr. A.J. Sabella. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday—2 p.m.—6 p.m. and Saturdays, 10-12 noon. Receptionist is Rose Revels, who also doubles as a full time junior at Pembroke State University.

The clinic's specialties are back and joint pains, with emphasis on sinus, nerves, scoliosis, whiplash, slipped disc, tail bone pain, sciatica pain, lower back pain, wrist and elbow pains, hip, leg and knee pains, migraine headaches, arm and shoulder pains, nutrition analysis and more. They also promise to be courteous and solicitous of your needs. And they do honor insurance claims. Dr. Sabella, who lives in Gibson, also operates a chiropractic clinic in Laurin-

burg where many of his patients were Indians from the Pembroke area. He decided that it was time they had their own clinic, and the convenience of visiting a chiropractic clinic without having to travel so far. Dr. Sabella said, "Pembroke's a nice place to live... and work. I am looking forward to the challenge of establishing a clinic here in the heart of Indian country. People have been very nice to me and I hope to be just as nice and helpful in return."

Magnolia's Social Studies Fair Held

Magnolia School held its third annual Social Studies Fair on Thursday, April 17, 1986 in the school gymnasium. The competition featured four different divisions based upon grade levels and projects were submitted on a basis of individual, group and class participation.

In Division I (K-3), the first place project was entitled "What Do You Get From Your Tax Dollar" and it was prepared by Mrs. Regenia Brayboy's entire class. That same group of students also won third place with a class project entitled "What Is A Community?" Second place in this division was garnered by Mrs. Annette T. Hunt's class project entitled "We Live In A neighborhood."

In Division II (4-6), Rodney Maynor's project entitled "The First Successful Flight" was judged to be best and received first prize. Rodney is in Mrs. Annette Howell's class. Second place went to Crystal Locklear's project entitled "North Carolina: The Tar Heel State." Crystal is in Mrs. Earnestine Locklear's class. Tracy McNeill from Mrs. Peggy Chavis' class won third place with her project entitled "Benjamin Franklin."

In Division III (7-9), first prize went to a project

entitled "Transportation Through The Ages" by Tina Martin. She is in Ms. Ruth Locklear's seventh grade class. Second and third prizes went to ninth grade students from classes taught by Mr. David Evans. Cissy Tyner's model of a "Pioneer Cabin" won second place and Toni Burnette's project entitled "Presidents of the U.S." won third place.

In Division IV (10-12) a model of "The Parthenon" by Jeremy Hammonds and Curtis Wilcox was judged to be the best and was awarded the first place designation. Both of these students are taught by Mr. Kermit Chavis. Second prize was won by Mark Simmons and Anthony Smith whose project was a model of a "Pioneer Covered Wagon." Mark is in Mr. Chavis' class and Anthony is in Ms. Jackie Herring's class. A model of the "Mayflower" by Debbie Chavis and Lisa Locklear won third prize. Both of these students are in Mrs. Herring's class.

The Magnolia School Studies Fair was a competition based upon projects and research by Magnolia students of all ages and grades. The projects were a natural outgrowth of the social studies curriculum of the various grade levels. All students were required to do projects as a part of their normal course work but entry into the competition was voluntary. Over 100 projects were submitted. The projects were judged by Mr. Sam Kerns, a probation-parole officer from Pembroke, NC and Mr. Robert Synder, an intern at Magnolia School in the Dept. of Social Studies.

All project winners were given ribbons on the day of the fair and medallions will be presented to all first place winners during Magnolia School's annual awards program in May. Winners in this fair compete in the County-wide competition at O.P. Owens Auditorium on Thursday, April 24, 1986.

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