

# UNC Goes Down Fighting, but Ends Season With Tournament Losses

BY STEVE ROBBLEE  
SENIOR WRITER

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Apparently Ted Williams was wrong. Hitting a baseball isn't the hardest thing in sports; it's stringing hits together.

Despite outpitching Georgia Tech May 18, North Carolina fell to the Yellow Jackets 7-4 in the first round of the ACC Baseball Tournament, all but eliminating the pitching-thin Tar Heels in the double-elimination tournament.

The loss sent UNC to the losers' bracket where it managed a 13-12 win against Duke Thursday before falling to N.C. State 11-6 Friday.

Unlike the Tar Heels, the Jackets made their hits count, stringing together three straight singles and a Brandon Hensley triple — all with two outs in the first inning — to go ahead 3-0.

### BASEBALL

UNC	4
Georgia Tech	7
Duke	12
UNC	13
N.C. State	11
UNC	6

The two errors that the Tar Heels made against Tech cost UNC, but other fielding miscues hurt UNC even worse.

Hensley's first-inning triple was a catchable line drive that UNC center fielder Dave Leisten lost in the Greenville night. And in the sixth, right fielder David Boone overran a pop fly that scored a run for the Yellow Jackets, making the score 5-2.

"Basically, what we saw today is what we have done the entire year," UNC head coach Mike Roberts said. "We have struggled with the routine ground ball and the routine fly ball. I wish I could answer why, but I can't."

Although the loss dropped UNC starter Sean Murphy to 9-6 on the season, Roberts said he was pleased with his performance. "(Georgia Tech starter Andy) Rigby's an outstanding pitcher, but I thought Murphy pitched as well as Rigby did," Roberts said. "Rigby just got a little bit better defense behind him, without a doubt."

And Rigby didn't give his teammates as much of a chance to make errors, striking out 12 batters to Murphy's six. He fanned UNC first baseman Crandel Coltrane in

the fourth to earn the Georgia Tech season strike out record.

But when UNC did make contact against Rigby, the ball often found the gap. UNC roughed up Rigby for 11 hits — two more than he had given up in 52 previous starts.

Catcher Manny DaSilva started an outstanding ACC Tournament performance by going 3-for-4 against the Yellow Jackets. He went 9-for-13 in the tournament

including three home runs.

"I'm seeing the ball now as well as I have (all year)," DaSilva said. "I'm back in the groove now like I finished last year off. I was having trouble getting the ball in the air, and coach and I corrected a few things. And it's really worked, I'm seeing the ball real well."

Several Tar Heels had bats as hot as DaSilva's in the Tar Heels' second tourna-

ment game, a 13-12 come-from-behind win against second-seeded Duke.

Coltrane, who went 5-for-6 in the game, scored on a wild pitch with two outs in the ninth to give UNC the win.

The Tar Heels exacted some measure of revenge against the Blue Devils, who swept a three-game set from UNC May 8-10. The victory bounced the Devils from the tournament without a win.

In the season-ending loss to N.C. State, the Tar Heels fell behind 9-0 through four innings. Starter Josh Potter (0-7) gave up six runs through 2 2/3 innings.

The Tar Heels scored three in the sixth to close the gap, and trailed 11-4 going into the bottom of the ninth. Manny DaSilva managed a two-out, two-run homer for UNC, but that was all it could muster in its final at bat.

## UNC's Shoddy Defense Hurts Chance to Upset No. 2 Jackets

BY JAMES D. WHITFIELD  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENVILLE, S.C. — All through the season, North Carolina's baseball team struggled in the field. But UNC's defense has never played quite like it did last week at the ACC Tournament.

In losing 7-4 to second-ranked Georgia Tech at Greenville Municipal Stadium on May 18, the Tar Heels took this shoddy defense to a new level, costing themselves several opportunities to pull off a major upset.

Misjudged fly balls, booted ground balls and a dropped throw across the infield played a major part in UNC's exit from the winner's bracket.

"We have struggled with the routine ground balls and plays," UNC head coach Mike Roberts said. "I wish I could answer why, but I can't. It's just got me baffled."

Yes, North Carolina only committed two errors in the final box score, but the consequences of those errors and other misplayed balls certainly led to the loss.

The Tar Heel "comedy of errors" got started right off the bat. In the first inning, with one Yellow Jacket run already home, runners on first and second and two outs, third baseman Brandon Hensley nailed a fly ball to deep center.

However, what seemed to be a routine fly ball turned into a UNC nightmare. Centerfielder Dave Leisten lost the ball in

the Greenville night and the inning's third out quickly turned into a two-run triple.

"Leisten definitely lost the ball in the dark part of the evening in the first inning," Roberts said.

Going into the second, the score should have been 1-0, Georgia Tech. Instead the No. 2 seed led 3-0.

In the sixth frame, the Greenville night struck again.

Georgia Tech rightfielder Michael Smith reached base via a double to right-center field. Just like the first time, the Tar Heels had two outs on the board and the inning appeared to be over. But up stepped Jacket shortstop Nomar Garciapara.

The Georgia Tech All-America candidate looped a Texas-leaguer over the second baseman's head. The ball appeared to be high enough for a Tar Heel fielder to get underneath, but it bled in with the dark-gray sky and hindered rightfielder David Boone and second baseman Robbie McIver's attempt. When the ball touched grass, Smith had scored from second to put the Rambler's Wreck up 5-2.

"I'm not really sure what happened to David Boone in the sixth inning," Roberts said. "He came running in extremely quick, and I guess he just misjudged the baseball, which is a human error and does happen."

And if that wasn't enough, North Carolina blew away any chance of a rally in the eighth inning. Already trailing 6-4 with a runner on third and two outs, third baseman



North Carolina starting pitcher Sean Murphy hurls a pitch toward the plate. The 6-foot-1 junior struck out six batters over seven innings of work.

Casey Hoch fielded a ground ball cleanly and threw to first. However, first baseman Crandel Coltrane dropped a good throw to allow the seventh run to score.

If UNC had played the game mistake-free, it would have won by a run.

"We've proven that we can play with anybody over the course of the season, but we are not winning the close ball games because of our defense," Roberts said.

But the errors shouldn't be a surprise. North Carolina booted the ball 113 times during the regular season — an ACC high. That translates out to 2.05 errors per game.

Surely, two errors per game makes a victory hard to come by.

The main culprits come from the middle infield. The three players who manned the middle rank one-two-three on the error chart (Mitch Tynes, Hanes Torbett and Robbie McIver respectively).

Yet that trio is comprised of two sophomores and a junior. More than likely those players were learning to play the UNC way.

For Roberts' sake, let's hope that's what it was. If not, UNC could be in for a long 1995 campaign.

## Numbers Don't Lie — Tar Heels Depended on Massey

Just about two months ago, everyone with any knowledge of ACC baseball thought UNC designated hitter Cookie Massey was a lock to break the single-season ACC home run record of 25.

He didn't quite make it.

Thanks to an April 8 hand injury, North Carolina's "designated masher" sat out 10 games.

And the rest is history.

Massey finished the season by only belting two home runs over the remainder of the schedule.

He broke the hand while diving for a ball during batting practice. I guess you

just can't take the competitive nature out of some guys.

Massey returned to the lineup April 26

and played in UNC's remaining games.

But it was quite obvious that the hand wasn't 100 percent.

His average dipped from the .360-range to a season-end figure of .345, and he only drove in six more runs on the season.

Even UNC head coach Mike Roberts admitted that Massey was having trouble getting the ball into the air for extra base hits because of the hand.

But, Massey, much to his credit, played on. Complaining little of the raw deal he was dealt, the ex-UNC football player desperately tried to position his team into NCAA tournament contention.

Yet North Carolina could not crawl out of the slump.

The Tar Heels record was 25-9 overall and 7-3 in the ACC at the time. But after Massey's injury, UNC racked up a 9-12 record and its run total dropped from 8.32 runs per game to 4.47.

Granted, after Massey's injury, the Tar Heels didn't host the likes of Davidson and Marist (UNC scored more than 20 runs against these teams), but a four-run drop?

The 5-foot-11, 220-pounder simply meant so much to this club, and it's a shame to see him go out with a whimper instead of a bang.

Massey had the uncanny ability to change the direction of a game with one swing. One long fly ball and all of a sudden the Tar Heels would be in the thick off it once again.

Sure Massey changed the complexion of many games, but one that comes to mind was played last season in Raleigh.

The Tar Heels trailed No. 3 N.C. State 5-1 and the Wolfpack fans at Doak Field were ragging Massey pretty good. One fan even proclaimed after an early strikeout, "If that was a Big Mac, you would have hit it."

But Massey had the last laugh by launching a two-run homer in the sixth and a solo shot in the eighth to give the Tar Heels a 7-6 win. The comeback victory gave UNC the momentum for a strong ACC and NCAA tournament showing.

The gentle slugger will now look for work in the pros, probably by trying to latch on in the American League.

But he surely won't be forgotten around Boshamer Stadium anytime soon. All the massive swings and even the drag bunt he successfully completed earlier this season will go down in Tar Heel baseball lore.

It's just a shame he didn't go out with the flurry of home runs we all became so accustomed to seeing.

### Calvin and Hobbes



### THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner

- ACROSS
- 1 Surrealist painter
  - 5 Vision
  - 10 Advantage
  - 14 Religious image
  - 15 AKA
  - 16 Go idly about
  - 17 Place for political deals
  - 20 Skirt border
  - 21 Tightly drawn
  - 22 Ahead of time
  - 23 Certain baseball club
  - 24 Vessel
  - 26 African
  - 29 Last place, in baseball
  - 31 Pacer's gait
  - 32 Color
  - 33 Donkey
  - 36 — ego
  - 38 Secreted
  - 39 Disprove
  - 41 Whiskey
  - 42 A Bronte
  - 44 Italian coins
  - 45 "The — of Sleepy Hollow"
  - 47 — of the Apes"
  - 49 Weathercock
  - 50 Adolescent
  - 51 Praise highly
  - 54 Ireland
  - 55 Litigate
  - 58 Illusory gimmickry

- DOWN
- 1 Start of pan or rag
  - 2 Highest point
  - 3 Weaving machine
  - 4 Ballpoint fluid
  - 5 Expedition
  - 6 AKA Troy
  - 7 Young sow
  - 8 Holbrook or Linden
  - 9 Mao —tung
  - 10 Misprints
  - 11 Portal
  - 12 London prison
  - 13 Oscar's cousin
  - 18 Catchall abbr.
  - 19 Card player, at times
  - 23 Destiny
  - 24 Like some eyes
  - 25 — wives' tale
  - 26 Asterisk
  - 27 Paris airport
  - 28 Stopover
  - 29 Infant
  - 30 Israeli statesman
  - 32 Glow
  - 34 Certain
  - 35 Proofreader's instruction
  - 37 Entertain elaborately
  - 40 Verbe
  - 43 Chess pieces
  - 46 Called forth
  - 47 Sentence ender
  - 48 Ogle
  - 50 Race official
  - 51 Son of Isaac
  - 52 Yuletide
  - 53 Ripped
  - 54 Norse epic
  - 55 Just average
  - 56 Russian river
  - 57 Behold
  - 59 Macaw
  - 60 — or never
  - 61 Team cheer

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