Inconsistent Pitching Performances Plague Tar Heels

The UNC baseball team has allowed 84 runs in 28 wins, the same number of runs it has given up in nine losses.

By WILL KIMMEY

WINSTON-SALEM - The Cleveland Indians have boasted one of the most productive batting orders in seball over the last decade

But the Indians ave no World vs. UNC-Wilmington vs. UNC Series titles to show for their offensive exploits.

The reason is at Boshamer Stadium simple: inconsistent pitching.

North Carolina, which averages 8.3 runs per game, has closely resembled Cleveland so far this season.

Like the Indians, the Tar Heels have won their share of slugfests. But the inhabitants of Boshamer Stadium have also had a few too many contests when the guys with bats couldn't keep pace with the quantity of runs allowed by their hurlers.

When UNC receives strong efforts on the mound, the team usually wins. Tar Heel pitching has held opponents to 84 runs in the team's 28 victories this season, an average of 3.0 per contest.

But the hurlers have allowed the

men to cross home plate in the team's nine losses, which comes out to 9.3

runs a game. Wake Forest chalked up nine runs in two of its three wins against UNC over the weekend. North Carolina's starters combined for just 3 2/3 innings of

3 2/3 innings of work in those out- of work this weekend The ineffectiveness on the mound even spilled over to North Carolina's most reliable reliever, Derrick DePriest. The senior had fashioned a team-leading 0.93 ERA entering the weekend but was rocked for eight runs - five earned in 4 2/3 innings. He also committed

Derrick DePriest

gave up five earned runs and made two

two errors fielding bunts.
"We just had a bad weekend,"
DePriest said. "I had a horrible week-

This inconsistency has posed prob-lems for the Tar Heels, especially in con-ference play. UNC has given up nine or more runs in six of its eight ACC losses, and its starting pitchers have lasted an average of 3 2/3 innings in all eight

"It's a concern, but you can't expect those guys to go out there and dominate like they have most of their starts so far,"



Junior Eric Henderson provided an exception to UNC's pitching efforts this weekend. He allowed two earned runs in 6 1/3 innings Sunday.

shortstop Clay Hooper said. "But there's no question when those guys go out and give us their best, we're right there in all

those games, and we've won them."

Eric Henderson, who pitched in

Sunday's 4-3 loss, gave the team his best and counted as the lone exception to UNC's struggles on the hill.

But recently, Henderson has conformed to the rule more often than not. The lefty hadn't held an opponent to fewer than five runs in his last three starts - all losses - prior to Sunday.

> Food Without

"You have to pitch in this league - there's no question about it," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "We just don't seem to be getting the job done right now, but it's not a concern. We've just got to get some consistency out there."

Fox said the pitchers need to work

more on the mental aspects of their games rather than the physical ones to get past the hurdle.

Our pitching will be fine," Fox said. "I think they're all kind of fighting themselves a little bit – which you can do in this game – but we'll have to get over that mentally."

Worth Noting

■ With designated hitter Ryan Earey struggling at the plate, Fox looked to his bench for some offensive production. Outfielder Ryan Mathews got the call, pinch-hitting for Earey with the

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bases loaded in the fourth inning of game two. He walked to force in a run and then drove in another one with a sacrifice fly to center in the eighth.

Mathews started at DH in the final game of the series and again prospered, going 3-for-4 with a solo homer.

Adam Greenberg continued his assault on ACC pitchers with a 7-for-14 weekend at the plate. He collected a triple, a homer and five RBI in the series.

The Sports Editor can be reached at

EASTERN FEDERAL THEATERS CHAPEL HILL



Slow Starts Equal Bad Finishes

Starter	Opponent	Date	Score	IP	H	R	ER
Ryan Snare	Georgia Tech	3/17	5-4	5.0	7	5	5
Eric Henderson	Georgia Tech	3/18	16-3	3.0	5	5	5
Chris Elmore	Georgia Tech	3/19	8-7	3.1	4	5	5
Matt Tanner	Towson	3/21	9-8	1.2	6	6	5
Eric Henderson	N.C. State	3/24	14-11	5.0	9	7	7
Eric Henderson	Clemson	4/1	10-2	3.0	6	6	4
Ryan Snare	Wake Forest	4/7	9-7	2.1	4	3	1
Chris Elmore	Wake Forest	4/9	9-8	1.1	3	3	3
Eric Henderson	Wake Forest	4/9	4-3	6.1	7	4	2
Totals (Average Per Start)			9.3-6.6	3.1	5.7	4.9	4.1

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Sublets

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Roommates

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