

Baseball Anxious to Begin 'Third Season'

UNC, which played .500 ball in the ACC, looks forward to a fresh start against new opponents in the NCAAs.

By **MIKE OGLE**
Sports Editor

North Carolina's baseball team is relieved for two reasons.

First, the Tar Heels received a bid Monday to play this weekend in the NCAA tournament.

Second, they don't have to play in the ACC any more this season.

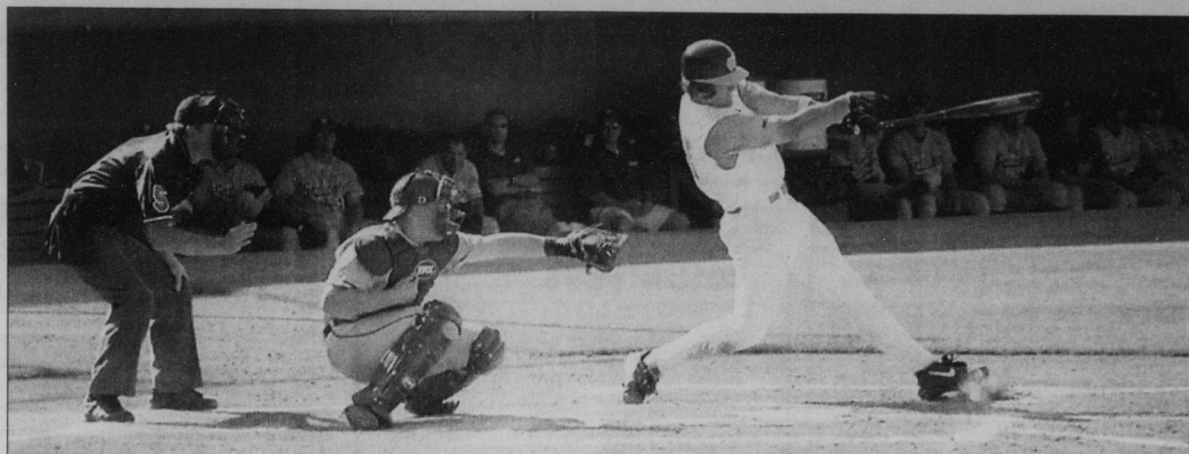
UNC jumped out to a school-record 21-0 start this year and finished with a 31-1 mark outside the conference.

But the Tar Heels (44-15) faltered somewhat in league play, finishing 12-12 in the ACC's regular season and going 1-2 in the conference tournament.

"I feel like teams in the league know us pretty well and know how to pitch us, know who to throw against us, know our pitchers," fifth-year senior Clay Hooper said. "It'll be nice to play somebody that hopefully is unfamiliar with us because we've had success against those teams."

"It's kind of a third season for us. We want to get it going again how we started playing early this year."

But the second-seeded Tar Heels open regional play Friday night in Upper Montclair, N.J., against another past 2000 foe - Penn State.



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

North Carolina first baseman Ryan Earey, shown in UNC's 4-1 loss to Florida State, collected four hits in three games at the ACC tournament. The junior also pitched 2 2/3 innings, allowing one run and two hits. He struck out three batters and did not issue a walk.

The third-seeded Nittany Lions (41-16), who received their first NCAA bid since 1976, visited Chapel Hill for a double header Feb. 13 to open their season.

The Tar Heels pounced on PSU 21-10 in the opener, and squeaked by 3-2 in 10 innings in the nightcap. But the Tar Heels are aware that they will face a different club than the one it swept in February.

"Regardless of the fact that we beat them twice, they're going to come out ready to play," junior pitcher Ryan

Snare said. "I remember they have a righty (Peter Yodis) that came out and shut us down in the second game. The first game was a little lopsided, but I understand that they hadn't been outside much."

North Carolina will send the left-handed Snare to the mound against Penn State at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Chris Elmore and Eric Henderson will follow Snare in the starting rotation in the double-elimination sub-regional.

Host and No. 1 seed Rutgers (39-16)

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UNC coach Mike Fox is glad that his team does not have too far to travel and will be playing in the same time zone. The Tar Heels could even host the super regional should they advance that far. "My grandmother and grandfather won't have to stay up to 3 a.m. listening to the game," he said. "I'm for short flights. If I had my preference we'd be on a bus somewhere."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels Can't Win Close Ones

The North Carolina baseball team dropped two games at the ACC tournament by a combined total of four runs.

By **WILL KIMMEY**
Sports Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. - Close. But not quite.

That's been the story for the North Carolina baseball team all season. Ten of UNC's 13 losses heading into the ACC tournament last week were by three runs or less.

The fifth-seeded Tar Heels again came out on the losing end of a pair of tight contests at Knights Stadium.

No. 3 seed Florida State defeated UNC 4-1 on Friday to eliminate the Tar Heels from the tournament.

North Carolina (44-15) lost two of three to the Seminoles in a similar fashion the week before (May 12-14).

"It's real tough," UNC center fielder Adam Greenberg said. "We felt like we were in every game. We never got blown out. We just couldn't get over the hump."

North Carolina also found trouble getting on the scoreboard. The Tar Heels left 10 runners on base in the contest, and they stranded a runner at third in the second through fifth innings.

"We just didn't get the big swings of the bat when we needed it and they did," UNC coach Mike Fox said.

FSU pitcher Blair Varnes was largely responsible for UNC's offensive struggles. The righty yielded eight hits in 7 2/3 innings. He failed to record a strikeout, but didn't issue any walks.

"I was just trying to get ahead and let my defense work behind me," Varnes said. "Obviously I didn't have any strikeouts so I didn't do too much myself. I credit the defense."

North Carolina didn't have much trouble scoring Thursday against ninth-seeded Duke. The Tar Heels pounded out 19 hits and scored 13 runs as they defeated the Blue Devils 13-7 in a losers' bracket matchup.

UNC catcher Dan Moylan and third baseman Clay Hooper each collected four hits, and pitcher Chris Elmore (9-1) worked 8 2/3 innings for the win.

The Tar Heels began the tournament in much the same way they finished it - with a tough loss. Danny Borrell smacked a solo home run in the bottom of the 13th inning to push Wake Forest, the No. 4 seed, past UNC 8-7.

North Carolina twice grabbed two-run leads in extra-innings, but the Demon Deacons rallied back to tie the game on each occasion.

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Florida St.	4
UNC	1
UNC	13
Duke	7
UNC	7
Wake Forest	8

UNC's Godwin Says He'll Play in NCAA Regionals

By **WILL KIMMEY**
Sports Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. - Several players that will be selected in the early rounds of baseball's June 5 amateur draft were in action at the ACC tournament.

But the most high-profile player of them all - North Carolina outfielder Tyrell Godwin - was not.

The junior sat out all three of his team's games with a pulled right quadriceps. He suffered the injury in a May 13 game against Florida State and has missed all four of UNC's contests since.

The team expects Godwin to be in the lineup when it starts regional play in the NCAA tournament on Friday. He said Tuesday that he felt better and was ready to play.

The Tar Heels could have used Godwin's bat in the 4-1 loss to Florida State that eliminated UNC from the tournament. Godwin, a preseason All-American, batted .363 with 10 home runs and 62 runs batted in this season.

"Obviously we miss his bat and his speed in the lineup," UNC catcher Dan Moylan said during the ACC tournament. "It's a lot of RBI and runs that we've got to make up for."

While the team is glad to have Godwin back in action, questions and rumors still swirl about his absence in the ACC tournament.

Some have speculated that Godwin, who is projected as a mid to late first-



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Matt McCay, North Carolina's regular right fielder, stepped behind the plate in UNC's 13-7 rout of Duke to give catcher Dan Moylan a break.

round choice, didn't take the field because he didn't want to hurt his draft status.

"I don't know the severity of his injury, but I was told he probably could have played," one area scout told Baseball America. "When you hear that, you can see why he's probably falling out of the first round. And if that happens, there are some serious signability questions."

Godwin said that wasn't the case. He said he wasn't cleared to play and might have been able to pinch hit if he had been called upon to do so.

"It was a combined decision between

me, the coaches and trainers," Godwin said. "We didn't want me to go out there and push it and tear my quad that was already pulled. At that point in time we agreed that it was too risky."

Godwin also answered to some of the critics who said he hurt his stock in the draft by not playing.

"I've kind of heard that too, and that's frustrating," he said. "But if you're banged up, and you have an agreement with the coaches and the trainers that the best thing for you is to kind of sit back, that's what you're supposed to do. "In hindsight, I say this: If I go out there and tear my quad, then I'm really

in trouble."

Greenberg Named Rookie of Year

Several teammates didn't know where freshman Adam Greenberg was going to fit in when they first met him.

"Nobody really had a good read on Adam through the fall," pitcher Chris Elmore said. "We knew he could play the outfield, but we really weren't sure what his bat was going to be like."

After settling in as UNC's center fielder and leadoff man, Greenberg showed his teammates and the rest of the ACC that his bat was of the red-hot variety.

Greenberg leads the Tar Heels in seven offensive categories, including batting average (.381), slugging percentage (.593), total bases (140), stolen bases (26) and triples (7). He also slugged eight home runs and made some highlight reel-caliber plays on defense.

The ACC honored Greenberg for his accomplishments by naming him the conference's rookie of the year.

"It's just been a fun year and a special year," Greenberg said. "I could never imagine coming in to this league and being the rookie of the year. It's just a tremendous feeling."

5 Tar Heels Named All-ACC

A handful of Tar Heels earned All-ACC honors in a vote of the league's coaches at last weekend's ACC tournament.

Senior reliever Derrick DePriest

made the first team after notching 12 saves and posting a league-leading 2.39 earned run average.

Starting pitcher Ryan Snare, first baseman/designated hitter Ryan Earey, Godwin and Greenberg all were selected to the second team.

North Carolina also had five all-conference selections last season, with Godwin making the first team and DePriest named to the second.

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

FSU	000	020	200	-	4	8	3
UNC	000	000	010	-	1	9	0

Pitching: FSU - Varnes, Hodgas (8) and McCaleb; UNC - Henderson, Earey (7) and Moylan. Leading hitters: FSU - McDougall 1-3 (3B, 2 RBI, BB); Bartholmey 1-3 (HR, 2 RBI); UNC - Adams 3-4 (2B, SR, run); Mathews 1-2 (RBI)

UNC	201	203	230	-	13	19	2
Duke	000	300	103	-	7	14	2

Pitching: UNC - Elmore, Tanner (9) and Moylan; Duke - Hornsmyer, Jr. Albers (4), Schrader (6), Thompson (7); Broadway (9) and Caradonna. Leading hitters: UNC - Moylan 4-5 (2 2B, 4 RBI, run); Duke - Becker 4-5 (HR, 4 RBI, 2 runs)

UNC	001	101	000	022	0	-	7	8	0
WFU	100	001	100	022	1	-	8	14	2

Pitching: UNC - Snare, DePriest (9), Earey (13) and Moylan; WFU - Siemon, Bush (10), Borrell (12) and Corvey. Leading hitters: UNC - Greenberg 2-7 (2 RBI), Earey 3-6 (2B, run); Prosser 3-6 (run); WFU - Brackley 2-5 (2 RBI), Borrell 2-7 (HR)

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