The Daily Tar Heel

Former UNC Lefthander Bynum Finds Success in Mino

Rancho Cucamonga's Mike Bynum leads the California League with a 2.28 ERA, which earned the lefty a spot at the all-star team.

BY WILL KIMMEY Sports Edito

KINSTON - Mike Bynum likes moving around, experiencing new places.

That's a good thing because success as a minor league base ball player often results in a promotion to a new team in a new city

As a high school senior in 1996, the 6-foot-4 lefthander chose to attend North Carolina so he could get out of Florida, where he had lived all his life.

Bynum excelled on the mound during his three years in Chapel Hill. He went 7-1 with a 3.90

ERA and 89 strikeouts in 85 1/3 innings as a junior in 1999. Before Bynum could grow tired of his

new home, he was on the move again. The San Diego Padres selected

Bynum with the 49th overall pick in the '99 draft and shipped him out to the Idaho Falls Braves of the Pioneer League

Bynum enjoyed his brief stint in rookie ball, but his opponents most likely did not. He did not allow an earned run in 17 innings of work at Idaho Falls and earned a promotion to advanced Class A Rancho Cucamonga, which is situated east of Los Angeles.

scoreless innings. "The first league I played in out in Idaho, the competition wasn't what I was expecting," Bynum said

"But those guys were coming out of high school and just picking up wood for the first time. When I got moved to Rancho, the competition was a lot better."

But Bynum was still ahead of them. He tossed 10 innings for the Quakes before allowing a run, ending his career-opening

string of scoreless innings at 27 - three games worth of The batters eventually figured Bynum out, but not com

pletely. He finished his first pro season with a 3-1 record and 3.29 ERA at Rancho Cucamonga. Bynum's success has carried over into 2000. He leads the

California League with a 2.28 ERA and has racked up an 8-3

record while allowing 65 hits in 83 innings. Those numbers earned him a spot in the 2000 All-Star Futures Game in Atlanta on July 9 and a trip back east to Kinston's Grainger Stadium, the home of the 2000 all-star game between the California and Carolina leagues. Despite being back in North Carolina, Bynum said the sur

undings weren't all that familiar.

"I haven't really seen that many people because of summer school, and my family's in Florida," he said before working two scoreless innings for the Cal Leaguers. "So it doesn't real ly seem like home even though I am in North Carolina."

Bynum didn't get an opportunity to speak with any of his old Tar Heel teammates while he was in the area. He was, however, excited that former teammate Ryan Earey was a sixth-round selection by the Padres.

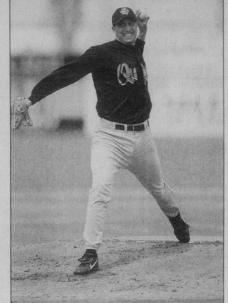
Earey, a righthander, has already started a game at Idaho Falls.

"Definitely in spring training I'll be seeing him, and hop-fully he'll be on my team someday," Bynum said. Bynum said he was proud to see a lot of North Carolina players getting drafted. He also talked about another former ammate, Kyle Snyder, who was selected 7th overall by the

Kansas City Royals the same year Bynum was chosen. Snýder, a 6-8 righthander always took center stage while the two were in school. Scouts liked Snyder's size, his mid-90s fastball and his potential to be dominant at the major-league level. But Snyder has been hindered by various arm injuries during his brief pro career. Now Bynum, who used to play sec ddle to Snyder, has now moved to the forefront.

"I know Kyle has been struggling; he's been injured throughout his whole pro career right now," Bynum said. "I'm fortunate to stay healthy, and I feel like I'm throwing the ball real well.

Bynum relies on three main pitches: a fastball in the low 90s, a change up and a slider, which is his best pitch. While he sometimes struggles with control and would like to be able to



Mike Bynum has compiled an 8-3 record with the Class Á Rancho Cucamonga Quakes this season.

spot his fastball more consistently, Bynum can always rely on

his slider to get him out of a jam. He's used the sharp, late-breaking pitch that moves in under righthanded hitters' hands and tails away from lefties to record 149 strikeouts in 138 professional innings.

Some Pioneer League managers likened Bynum's slider to that of Hall of Fame lefthander Steve Carlton.

"It's an honor to be even compared in the same sentence with Steve Carlton," Bynum said. "He's one of the best pitch-ers of all time, but I can't put any more pressure than there

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another move and another new city could be on the horizon. The Padres organization is a bit short of lefthanders, which should also work in Bynum's favor.

But the team doesn't want to push the 22-year-old up through the ranks too quickly. Bynum will probably not gain a promotion to Double-A Mobile in Alabama until next season.



Kyle Snyder

has suffered through several arm injuries

which have stunted

his progression

"I know they're taking me slow," he said. "They want to build my confidence up a little right now. That's why they haven't moved me up to Mobile because they want me to stay in one place throughout the whole year instead of moving around all over the place." So it might not be time for Bynum to

acquire a new address just yet. But he will return to some familiar surroundings in the fall as he comes back to UNC to

work toward finishing his degree in business administration. If Bynum finishes up the second half of his season in the same manner in which he started it, expect him to be in Mobile in 2001. Triple-A Las Vegas would be his next destination and then on to San Diego and the fulfillment of every Little Leaguer's dream. And Bynum likes his chances of making that dream a reality.

"Pitching throughout the major leagues is pretty thin right now, especially lefthanded pitching," he said.

"So I'm in a good situation being with the Padres. They do need lefthanded pitching."

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

Tar Heels Score Big for U.S. Women's National Soccer Team

Staff Report

Three members of the 1999 North Carolina women's soccer natio champion team are playing for the U.S. National Team this summer. Sophomore forward Susan Bush led

the way for the U.S. Team as it rested five regular starters Sunday. Bush, the Most Outstanding

Offensive Player at the Women's Collge NCAĂ



Tournament. UNC sopho-more goalkeeper Jenni Branam got the start in the **Rising sophomore** Susan Bush tallied four assists and a goal Sunday for the U.S. Women's Soccer Team.

game Branam, in her

fourth career game, picked up her first shutout and made one save as the Americans out-shot Costa Rica, 39-4. Former UNC defender Lorrie Fair, the 1999 Honda Sports Award Winner

and first-team All-American, scored two goals in a one-minute span of action Friday in an 11-0 victory against Trinidad & Tobago.

Jaworsky Eliminated From U.S. Team

T.J. Jaworsky, a former UNC All-American wrestler and current North Carolina assistant coach, lost a 5-0 decision to Bill Zadick of Iowa at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Dallas on Friday.

Jaworsky, who was wrestling in the freestyle competition at 138 3/4 pounds, was eliminated from competition for a

The Daily Tar Heel

Former Tar Heel

Mike Bynum

opened his pro career in 1999 with

27 consecutive

spot on the 2000 U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team. Jaworsky advanced to Friday's match ith a pair of wins Thursday. He won his first match by pin, defeating Jason Mester in only 51 seconds. Jaworsky had a tougher time in his second match of the day but was able to defeat Shawn Charles by a 3-2 decision.

ACC/Big Ten Challenge Games Set

The pairings have been set for the second annual ACC/Big Ten Challenge, a two-day competition matching two of the nation's top men's college basketball conferences.

The nine-game event, which will be televised by ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN Regional Television, will take place the first Tuesday and Wednesday following Thanksgiving, Nov. 28 and 29, from seven campus sites and two neutral sites. North Carolina will play a rematch

against Michigan State in the event, meeting the Spartans on Nov. 29 in East Lansing, Mich.

The other pairings include Wake Forest at Michigan, Northwestern at Clemson, Illinois vs. Duke (at the Greensboro Colesium) and Georgia

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Nov. 28. Purdue at Virginia, Maryland vs. Wisconsin (at the Bradley Center Milwaukee), Penn State at N.C. State and Minnesota at

Tech at Iowa on

all take place on Nov. 29. These two con-

resented by three the national team. last year's

Commissioner John Swofford.

voted on by the league's nine faculty representatives

The MCI Center in Washington, D.C., was selected as the site for the 2005 tournament. The Greensboro Coliseum will host both the 2006 and 2010 tournaments while the Ice Palace in Tampa, Fla., will be the site for the 2007 tournament. Charlotte will be the host site for the 2008 tournament and the Georgia Dome in Atlanta will be the site for the 2009 tournament

As previously decided, the 2001 tourent will be in Atlanta, 2002 in lotte and 2003-2004 in Charlotte

Greensboro.

UNC Assistant Heads To UNC-W Ann Hancock, an assistant coach at UNC for the last eight years, has been named head women's basketball coach

at UNC-Wilmington. The 29-year-old Hancock, who grew up in nearby Elizabethtown, becomes the eighth coach in the 27-year history of the program. She succeeds Bernie Flax, whose contract was not renewed.





of men's Final Four teams. National champion Michigan State as well as North Carolina and Wisconsin each made it to Indianapolis last season

Future sites for the Atlantic Coast Conference Men's Basketball Tournament were announced by ACC Conference

The sites for the tournament were

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