

Former UNC Lefthander Bynum Finds Success in Minors

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 Editor

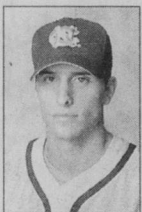
KINSTON — Mike Bynum likes moving around, experiencing new places.

That's a good thing because success as a minor league baseball 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.



Former Tar Heel Mike Bynum opened his pro career in 1999 with 27 consecutive scoreless innings.

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.

"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 shutouts.

The batters eventually figured Bynum out, but not completely. 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 surroundings 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 really 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 hopefully 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 teammate, Kyle Snyder, who was selected 7th overall by the Kansas City Royals the same year Bynum was chosen.

Snyder, 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 second-fiddle 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

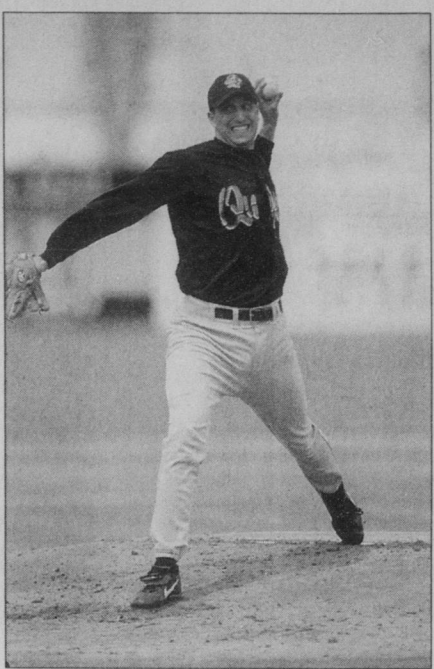


PHOTO COURTESY BASEBALL AMERICA

Mike Bynum has compiled an 8-3 record with the Class A 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 pitchers of all time, but I can't put any more pressure than there is on myself."

"Although it is an honor, I've got to just keep going out and throwing every day the way I've been throwing."

Should Bynum continue to throw as well as he has been, 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.

"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."

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

Staff Report

Three members of the 1999 North Carolina women's soccer national 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 Women's College Cup, tallied four consecutive assists in the second half as the U.S. Team recorded an 8-0 victory against Costa Rica at Cardinal Stadium in the Women's Gold Cup Tournament.



Rising sophomore Susan Bush tallied four assists and a goal Sunday for the U.S. Women's Soccer Team.

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

spot at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team.

Jaworsky advanced to Friday's match with 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 Coliseum) and Georgia

Tech at Iowa on Nov. 28.

Purdue at Virginia, Maryland vs. Wisconsin (at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee), Penn State at N.C. State and Minnesota at Florida State will all take place on Nov. 29.



Former UNC wrestler T.J. Jaworsky lost at the U.S. Olympic Trials and was eliminated from the national team.

These two conferences were represented by three of last year's men's Final Four teams. National champion Michigan State as well as North Carolina and Wisconsin each made it to Indianapolis last season.

ACC Tournament Sites Announced

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

The sites for the tournament were voted on by the league's nine faculty representatives.

Movie listings for Fantasia 2000, The Perfect Film!, The Perfect Storm, and Crouper. Includes showtimes and theater names like East Franklin and Chapel Hill.

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.

As previously decided, the 2001 tournament will be in Atlanta, 2002 in Charlotte and 2003-2004 in Greensboro.

Student Airfares advertisement for Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Features Student Universe logo and contact information.

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.

Carolina, Chelsea, and Myself movie listings. Includes showtimes and theater names like Chapel Hill and Weaver Dairy.

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Eastern Federal Theaters and Plaza Theatres advertisement. Lists various theaters, movies, and showtimes.

Classified Advertising

Large classified advertising section with multiple columns of text for various services, including real estate, transportation, and employment.