The Daily Tar Heel

Injury Has Minimal Effect on Curry Mets Beat El Duque; **Yanks Lead Series 2-1**

By WILL KIMMEY SportSaturday Editor

Quarterback Ronald Curry, who was carried off the field with a sprained right knee in Saturday's loss to Clemson, showed few effects of the injury in

Monday's practice. "He's a little bit stiff, but he threw the ball really well," Torbush said. "As a matter of fact, he

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threw a lot better than I thought he would. He didn't miss a snap in probably could have if he had wanted to."

Curry did not practice Tuesday

ecause his grandmother died, and he left town to be with his family. Torbush said he doesn't know when

his signal caller will return to practice but expects Curry to start Saturday at Virgi

Defensive end Julius Peppers also missed practice Tuesday because his brother was in a car accident. Fullback Anthony Saunders had to leave halfway through the workouts to tend to a family matter involving his cousin.

Lafferty Out With Mono

Punter John Lafferty, who started the past two games, will likely miss the rest of the season with mononucleosis. The sophomore averaged 35.4 yards per punt in 20 attempts



UNC quarterback Ronald Curry (right) is healthy after suffering a knee injury at the end of the first half against Clemson.

Freshman Blake Ferguson, UNC's starting punter for the season's first five games, will resume his former role. games, will resume his former role. Although Ferguson averaged 39.1 yards per kick, he lost his job after having a punt blocked for a touchdown against Georgia Tech.

"I wish I wouldn't have gotten the job like this," Ferguson said. "I would have liked to have competed against him. But God does some weird things, and he put me in position

Torbush said Ferguson reminds him of former UNC punter Brian Schmitz. As a senior last year, Schmitz's kicks

traveled an average of 47.8 yards, single-season records for the ACC and North

DTH/JEFF POULAND

"The only thing is we didn't ask Brian Schmitz to jump in there and do battle as a true freshman," Torbush said. Torbush said he won't know who will

serve as Ferguson's backup until after Thursday's practice.

Short Gains

North Carolina is averaging just 2.9 yards per carry and has enjoyed just 10 running plays of more than 15 yards this

Only two of those long runs have come from the tailback position, one each for Brandon Russell and André Williams. Curry has six and Saunders has two.

But Torbush said he expects UNC's young tailbacks to make that figure

We've been one block away sever-"We've been one block away sever-al times in the last few games from breaking a big one," he said. "We've been able to get 5, 6, 7 hard yards but it seems like somebody from the back-side is dragging somebody down and getting them around the legs, which keeps that 7-yard run from turning into 20-yard run. "I do feel like even though yardage at

times does not seem like it, our running game has improved over the last two or three weeks."

Fumble?

Torbush declined to say if he thought Bosley Allen touched the third-quarter punt that was ruled a fumbled and covered by Clemson. "The main thing I can say is Bosley

should have gotten away from the ball immediately or caught it," Torbush said. "But that's the way things are, and that's as far as I'm going to take it." He added that he will send tape of

that play and others the coaching staff felt involved questionable officiating to the league office to be reviewed -apractice that takes place every week.

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

Benny Agbayani knocked in the game-winning run with a double in the eighth inning off Orlando Hernandez.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Back in their raucous

NEW YORK – Back in their raucous den, with its ear-splitting music and jets roaring overhead, the New York Mets were right at home – and right back in this Subway Series. Benny Agbayani got Shea Stadium shaking with a go-ahead double in the eighth inning as the Mets handed Orlando Hernandez his first postseason defeat, beating the New York Yankees 4-2 Tuesday night to cut their World Series deficit to 2-1. A sellout crowd of 55.299 went crazy

Series deficit to 2-1. A sellout crowd of 55,299 went crazy as Armando Benitez held on in the ninth inning this time, helping the Mets end the Yankees' record 14-game win-ning streak in the World Series. John Franco wound up with the win. Benitez, who blew a ninth-inning lead in Game L. closed it out after giving up a

Game 1, closed it out after giving up a leadoff single to pinch-hitter Chuck Knoblauch

Nothing bizarre about this one,

No pitchers throwing bats instead of balls, a stunt from Game 2 that cost Roger Clemens a \$50,000 fine. Hernandez began the night with an

Horoscopes

Today's Birthday (Oct. 25).

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8-0 record and a 1.90 ERA in postsea-son play, and set a Yankees' World Series record by striking out 12, break-ing the mark of 11 set by Bob Turley in 1956.

Still, in a ballpark where the Mets thrive on late-inning magic, it was not enough.

Now, after two one-run defeats at Yankee Stadium, the Mets get a chance to draw even.

Bobby J. Jones will pitch Game 4 on Wednesday night against Denny Neagle and Bill Clinton is expected to become the first president in office to attend a Series game since Ronald Reagan in 1983

Hernandez, who struck out the first three hitters in the opening inning and took advantage of a few extra inches on the outside corner of Jeff Kellogg's strike zone, fanned Robin Ventura to start the eighth.

But after Todd Zeile singled, Agbayani doubled into the left-center

field gap. Agbayani has hit in all 12 of the Mets' postseason games this year, including a 13th-inning home run that beat San Francisco in the division series.

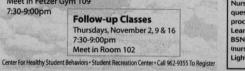
Pinch-hitter Bubba Trammell added a sacrifice fly for insurance.

The sixth inning saw the Mets tie it at 2, and showcased all this Subway Series. has to offer – big stars delivering in big spots, dueling fans and drama with every pitch.



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