

UNC Splits Double-Dip With UCLA

Russ Adams' home run gave the Tar Heels a 8-7 win in game one, but UCLA followed with a 10-2 shellacking.

By MATT TERRY
Assistant Sports Editor

If the North Carolina baseball team would have known before its three-game weekend series with No. 17 UCLA that it would win just one game, the Tar Heels probably would have been quite disappointed.

Instead, with the two teams splitting Friday's doubleheader and persistent rain washing out Saturday's rubber game, UNC coach Mike Fox was left somewhat perplexed.

The Tar Heels gave him reason to be pleased with a 8-7, 11-inning win in the first game of the twinbill, but his club then responded with a 10-2 clunker.

"I don't know how I'm supposed to feel when I drive home tonight," Fox said. Josh Karp, whom experts say might be

the first pitcher taken in next June's draft, started game one for the Bruins and entered the contest with a 1.44 ERA and a .170 opponent batting average.

But UNC (11-3) jumped on Karp for a run in the first when Ryan Blake doubled home Sean Farrell, who had walked with two outs.

UCLA responded with two runs — one unearned — in the third inning off of Tar Heel starter Daniel Moore, but UNC tied it up in the bottom half on a Russ Adams single, a stolen base and two straight fielding errors by shortstop Preston Griffin.

The Bruins used two Tar Heel errors to tack on a run in the fourth, and Matt Pearl homered to open the fifth.

A single and a hit batter then chased Moore from the game, and Casey Grzecka walked off of Kevin Brower, scoring another run and giving UCLA a three-run lead.

But UNC responded in the bottom of the fifth. After Adam Greenberg led off



Second baseman Russ Adams drove in three runs in the bottom of the ninth to give UNC a 8-7 victory.

with a single, Adams reached on another fielding error and Sean Farrell singled, loading the bases.

Blake then deposited a Karp 3-2 fastball over the left-field fence, and the Tar Heels took a 6-5 lead.

"We were hoping for one big inning (against Karp)," said Fox, who is now 72-3 in non-conference home games during his Tar Heel career. "We just hoped for a couple big swings, and Ryan did that. That was a big shot in the arm."

The fifth inning was Karp's last of the night. For the game, he struck out nine and walked just one, but he allowed four earned runs in five complete innings.

He had allowed four runs in his previous 25 innings before Friday.

"Karp wasn't at his best," UCLA coach Gary Adams said. "He was good; he was solid. If we would have supported him it would have been a different story, but we made too many errors in the middle of the infield."

"I've seen Josh pitch better, and I've seen him recover better after errors."

After the game entered extra innings, the Bruins had things rolling in the 11th against Whitley Benson and Jason Howell (3-0).

But when Eric Reece rounded first too far after singling, the Tar Heels ended the threat with a rundown and

the old 7-1-4-6-2 putout that nabbed Rashad Parker at the plate.

The baserunning mistake was magnified five pitches later, when Russ Adams sent most of the 651 fans home with a line-drive homer against Doug Silva (1-2).

That marked the third time this season that Adams had ended a ballgame with a clutch base hit.

"I was just looking for a fastball," Adams said. "He got it up, and I got a hold of it pretty good."

The Tar Heels lacked anything clutch in the nightcap, which was witnessed by only a few diehard fans after the 3 hour, 51 minute marathon that proceeded it. UCLA jumped all over Scott Manshach, who lasted only two-plus innings after giving up six earned runs.

Griffin atoned for his fielding miscues in the first game by smacking a grand slam in the third off of Matt Tanner.

UNC was limited to just four hits against starter Jon Brandt, who struck out nine. The Tar Heels' only runs came on Ron Braun's two-run shot in the fifth.

Said Russ Adams, "The guys they had on the mound were all good pitchers, but we have to learn to battle with two strikes, just put the ball in play."

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WRESTLING

From Page 14

other UNC wrestlers have achieved, while Bentley and Kenny picked up their third piece of ACC Championship hardware.

With their victories the trio earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament in Iowa City, Iowa beginning March 15.

In addition to the leagues' 10 automatic births, eight wild card wrestlers gain bids. Due to Clint Osborn's (197) 3-1 record in the ACC and his close second place finish to N.C. State's No. 14 Zach Breitenbach this weekend, Lam said the junior would also make the trip to the NCAA tournament as a wild card.

Chris Collins, who took Chuckie Connor's 125-pound spot, and Chris DiGuseppe (157) took third-place honors for UNC.

Collins knocked off Maryland's Joe Guzzo 9-4 and DiGuseppe ousted Maryland's Rob Booth 12-2.

Bell and Bentley earned their titles through close, hard-fought matches, while Kenny sailed through his title match.

Bell won 6-5 against the Wolfpack's Dustin Kawa, and Bentley won 4-1 against N.C. State's Tommy Davis, as both wrestlers had to come up with big scores late in their matches.

Bell scored a crucial escape with 1:49 remaining in the third period to push his lead to 5-3 and, with the aid of one point for riding time, held on as Kawa scored

twice on an escape and a penalty. "It was intense," Bell said. "(Kawa) knows my moves and how I wrestle, so it is like the student trying to beat the teacher. I knew that because I had won it every year, everybody was out to get me, but I was prepared. It has really been special winning it four years in a row."

Like Bell, Bentley secured a lead and held on to win. The redshirt junior scored a highly disputed takedown with 1:29 remaining in the second period to go up 3-0 and fended off a myriad of attacks to win 3-1.

"It is just a relief," Bentley said. "This is the third time I've beaten (Davis) this year, and he's a tough kid. He had studied the way I wrestled, but I just keep wrestling the same every match because that is what you have to do if you want to be a national champion. I didn't let him dictate the terms of the match."

Unlike his teammates, Kenny had no trouble beating Virginia's Josh Etnu by technical fall 19-3.

Kenny virtually ended the match with a near fall at the 1:58 mark of the first period, putting him up 7-0. With 59 seconds remaining in the third period, Kenny scored a takedown to win a technical fall.

"I just felt great out there tonight," Kenny said. "I feel like a new man. I'm near 100 percent with my knee injury, and everything was just clicking."

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Adams, Blake Continue to Shine for UNC

By CURT KENDALL
Staff Writer

Friday's doubleheader against UCLA revealed one of North Carolina's weaknesses: lack of consistency.

But some heroic individual efforts led UNC to a victory in game one and have proven to be a key to the Tar Heels' early success this year.

Sophomore Russ Adams has delivered in the clutch all season for UNC (11-3), driving in three game-winning runs in North Carolina's final at bat.

And Adams, who went 3-for-10 with three runs scored on the day, came through again in the bottom of the 11th inning of game one.

The 6-foot-1 second baseman belted a 2-2 changeup over the right-center-field wall to give UNC an 8-7 victory.

"We made a bad pitch to Adams, but

I give him credit. I mean he punished it," UCLA coach Gary Adams said. "Good hitters hit bad pitches."

Friday's walk-off homer was Russ Adams' third game-winning RBI of the season, and entering the contest he boasted a .306 batting average, including six extra-base hits.

Adams hit a ninth-inning, bases-clearing triple to push the Tar Heels past James Madison on Feb. 11. His RBI single against Minnesota gave UNC a 7-6 win on Feb. 18.

Adams might have ended the game Friday, but sophomore Ryan Blake set it up with his own blast in the 5th.

Facing Bruin ace Josh Karp (2-0, 1.44 ERA), a preseason second-team All-America, Blake launched a grand slam down the left-field line, giving UNC a 6-5 advantage and spoiling an otherwise solid outing by the highly touted Karp.

"We knew they had good pitching," Adams said. "We got some hits early, got loose a little bit. The grand slam was a big hit that put us right back in the ball game."

The 6-1 Blake was one of the few Tar Heels who looked comfortable in the batter's box against Karp's arsenal of low-to-mid 90-mph fastballs and knee-bending curves.

Blake went 2-for-2 with five RBI off of the UCLA junior righthander.

Blake, who missed all but nine games last season due to shoulder surgery, is enjoying the chance to play everyday.

He has split time behind the plate and at first base this season, and has collected two home runs and 13 RBI so far.

"I just like to swing the bat," Blake said. The Tar Heel hitters showed their inconsistency in game two, collecting only four hits with no player having more than one in the 12-2 loss.

But it had no answer for the six-time defending national champions Sunday.

"We were definitely the underdogs coming in against Maryland," Coyne said. "We're disappointed because we wanted the win, but we learned a hell of a lot about our fight."

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

From Page 14

Maryland a 6-5 advantage at the break.

Finishing shots proved to be more of a challenge for UNC in the second half. Maryland goalie Alexis Venechanos, starting for only the second time in her career, didn't stop any shots during the first half, but she kept six close-range shots out of the net during the second.

UNC attacker Kellie Thompson had scored at least five goals in every game this season, but she was scoreless Sunday. "We had our opportunities," Thompson said. "We had spurts where the offense was coming on strong."

With the Terrapins hanging on to their one-goal lead, the Tar Heels gave them a scare with 15 seconds left in the match.

Amy Havrilla had an opportunity to tie the game with a free position shot. But

she missed and the Terps' win was secure.

"Although it comes down to one last shot to be the hero, it's really the culmination of the whole game," Slingluff Levy said.

The Tar Heels fared better Friday against No. 17 Johns Hopkins, winning decisively 15-5. UNC racked up nine unanswered goals to come back from a three-point deficit.

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Applications for the seven at-large positions on the DTH Editor Selection Board are available at the DTH Office, and the Carolina Union info desk kiosk.

Applicants must be available for an orientation meeting from 5-6pm Thursday, March 29 and from approximately 8:30am-4pm Saturday, March 31 to conduct interviews and make the selection.

All students may apply for at-large positions except current DTH news staff members. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Matt Dees (962-4086, mbedees@email.unc.edu) or Janet Gallagher-Cassel (962-0520, jgcassel@email.unc.edu).

Deadline: Tuesday, March 20th!

The Daily Tar Heel

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