

North Carolina catcher Ryan Blake tries to block Towson's Mark Chiccini from scoring after first basemar Chris lanetta's errant throw got past him in the fifth inning. Chiccini scored, but Towson came up short, 9-4.

# Baseball escapes with sloppy win

BY KELLIE DIXON

North Carolina did just enough to get past Towson on Tuesday

Despite scoring two runs in the first inning, the Tar Heels sunk into a lethargic mind-set that nearly cost them the game.
But the Tar Heels survived the

Tiger come-back, 9-4, win-ning the first of UNC

UNC

matchups

scheduled for this week at Boshamer Stadium.

"The worst thing that probably could have happened," said UNC coach Mike Fox. "We got an early lead, and then just the natural tendency is to relax a little bit."

the start of the fifth inning, the Tar Heels (17-7) had settled in, seemingly cozy with a lead bolstered by a fourth-inning surge highlighted by a solo homer from Chris Iannetta and doubles from Chad Prosser, Jeremy Cleveland and Blair Waggett.

on the scoreboard atop an accumulated five for UNC, Scott Manshack put all he had into his next pitch.

"I did it for four innings, so I didn't lose any confidence," Manshack said. "I just kept telling myself, 'Focus on this guy. You can

Tiger Brian McKenna leaned back slightly, tightened his grip and drove the ball into left field, spurring a sequence that eliminated the lead runner. Third baseman Sammy Hewitt relayed the ball to Prosser, who chased down Towson's Jeremy Stifler between second and third.

"I think what happened in that inning was everybody got a little sloppy," Prosser said. "We kind of got laid-back."

As the game continued, UNC committed two more errors to match its season high of four, But Towson (9-7) refused to go which was accumulated in the Tar quietly. Two Tar Heel errors on Heels' 14-5 win against Monmouth

ILINA BASI

sloppy throws triggered a four-run
Tiger rally.

With runners on first and third,
and two Tiger runs already glowing
on March 15.

"I didn't think we were very
aggressive," Fox said. "You make
mistakes when you're not aggressive. ... There are all kinds of rea-sons for why you aren't ready to play midweek games. I don't buy any of them."

North Carolina redeemed itself, however, in the sixth inning with runs from second baseman Greg Mangum, Prosser, Cleveland and

North Carolina intends to tweak several aspects of its game, particularly its defensive prowess, as it goes into its second matchup

goes into its second matchup against Towson today at 3 p.m. "We still need to pitch and play defense," Fox said. "We're getting lulled into the fact that we're a great offensive team.
"We're not that kind of team. I

think everyone thinks, after (two wins against) Wake (Forest), that we're that kind of team — we're not."

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

# Rivals Scott, Sweetney meet again

know, like Sean May. Got great hands, can pass, can hit the short jump shot. He's a great athlete." That's pretty much what a lot of

people are saying about Sweetney these days. But once upon a time, it was Scott who was stealing the headlines from Sweetney.

Both were highly touted high school players in Maryland, but Scott – not Sweetney – was the state's Player of the Year in 2000.

Now Sweetney is in the spotlight. But the Hoyas better not neglect

"I was just thinking, "They better not give me any more looks,' because I was ready to light the place up," Scott said.

The sophomore has lit up many

Midway through the second half, the Cowboys made a run by switch-

ing to a zone defense and forcing UNC's shooters to hit. Most of them

went cold, but Scott didn't.

a venue of late, averaging 14.3 points per game during his last four games and shooting 57.1 percent from long distance in his last six. "Melvin is shooting the ball extremely well," said Coach Matt Doherty. "Since he's been starting and playing more our shooting

and playing more, our shooting percentages have gone up." Scott originally was inserted into the starting lineup out of necessity when Jackie Manuel hurt his foot March 14. But Scott has taken much better care of the ball than Manuel — Scott has committed just one turnover in his last 134 minutes - and his defense has improved to the point that UNC can't justify playing Manuel over Scott solely on the basis of superior defense.

"A lot of people don't think I play good defense, but that's one of

the keys to my game," Scott said. Scott has become a key to UNC's game, and tonight he'll get a chance to outshine Sweetney again.

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

#### THE LOWDOWN ON TODAY'S GAME

Georgetown (17-14)

**North Carolina** (19-15)

#### PROBABLE STARTERS

Georgetown

F: Michael Sweetney, 6-8 F: Victor Samnick, 6-8 F: Brandon Bowman, 6-8 G: Gerald Riley, 6-6 G: Tony Bethel, 6-2

UNC

F: Jawad Williams, 6-8 1/2 F: David Noel, 6-6 : Rashad McCants, 6-4 G: Melvin Scott, 6-1 1/2 G: Raymond Felton, 6-0 1/2

TODAY AT

VALTREX

**CAROLINA** 

Location: Smith Center Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM
Television: ESPN2
Keys for UNC: Keep the momentum
going. The surprising NIT turnout has inspired the
Tar Heels, and a vamped crowd can only do good
things for UNC against Georgetown. And if the
perimeter shots don't fall, like in the Tar Heels'
drought against Wyoming on Monday, then UNC
needs to drive to the basket and get Sweetney in
foul trouble. With him on the bench, the Tar Heels'
road to the NIT semifinals becomes a lot smoother.
Keys for Georgetown: The Hoyas might have
scraped by Providence shooting 39 percent from
the field and with Sweetney nursing four fouls on
the bench for 7:27 in the second half, but that
won't work against UNC. Sweetney needs to show
off his skills in the paint but avoid becoming an
easy target for the referees.
UNC Bench: Jackie Manuel's defensive skills will
come in handy against the Hoyas, and UNC will
need his height (yeah, he's only 6-foot-5, but that's
decent when compared with the rest of the Tar
Heels) to handle Georgetown's trio of big men.
Georgetown Bench: The Hoya reserves managed
only two points collectively against Providence, so
Georgetown won't be counting on much production from players off the pine.
Prediction: UNC 78, Georgetown 60

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