

6 Tar Heels picked in baseball draft

BY TIM CANDON
SPORTS EDITOR

After three years of college baseball, North Carolina junior pitcher Daniel Moore saw a drastic improvement in his draft position.

In 2000, as a senior out of North Rowan High School in Spencer, Moore was selected in the 23rd round by the Florida Marlins.

In this year's Major League Baseball first-year player draft, the 6-foot-5 southpaw was taken in the second round (41st overall) by the San Diego Padres.

Moore was the first of six Tar Heels to be taken in the two-day, 50-round draft on June 3-4. Junior outfielder Jeremy Cleveland (8th round, 226th overall to Texas), senior catcher/first baseman Ryan Blake (22nd round, 653rd overall to Florida), senior outfielder Sean Farrell (25th round, 752nd overall to Oakland), senior shortstop Chad Prosser (28th round, 839th overall by Houston) and junior third baseman Sammy Hewitt (34th round, 1,006th overall to Texas) were also selected.

"We're very happy for those guys, especially our three seniors who had so much success here," said UNC coach Mike Fox. "I'm very happy they're going to have an opportunity to go on. It's great to see them be able to fulfill their dream."

Fox said he knew Moore, who was the Tar Heels' No. 1 starter this season, likely would not come back for his final year if he turned in a solid junior season.

Moore went 7-3 in 17 appearances with a 3.56 ERA and 65 strikeouts in 93 2/3 innings.

"I'm excited about it," Moore said last week. "It's a great opportunity that I'll be able to pursue at the end of the season."

Cleveland led the Tar Heels in almost every offensive category this season. He hit .410 with 19 home runs and 65 RBIs, and his 103 hits established a new school record.

"I was very happy and honored to be drafted in the 8th round," Cleveland said. "Their hitting is unbelievable I'll be surrounded by a good coaching staff like I was at

Carolina."

After taking a week to decide if he'd return for his senior season or sign with the Rangers, Cleveland chose the latter.

Blake, the first of UNC's three seniors to be selected, was undrafted as a junior but was taken in the 22nd round out of high school in 1998. He hit .318 and drove in 45 runs for the Tar Heels this season.

"I was really happy," Blake said for his draft status. "I was hoping everybody was going to get a shot. Just the shot all the seniors are getting is unbelievable."

Blake signed his minor-league contract Wednesday and will join the Marlins' affiliate in Jamestown, N.Y., sometime in the next couple weeks.

Sean Farrell, who has started all of UNC's 129 games during the last two seasons, has already signed his deal and was on a 7 a.m. flight to Vancouver on Wednesday morning, where he'll join the A's affiliate in the Northwest League.

Although Farrell went undrafted as a junior, he said he was never concerned about that happening again this season.

"I had heard a lot of good things this year that it was pretty much guaranteed," Farrell said. "I wasn't too worried."

Neither Prosser, who led the Tar Heels with 13 stolen bases, nor Hewitt could be reached for comment for this story. Hewitt missed all of 2002 after shoulder surgery but came back in 2003 to start 56 games for the Tar Heels. His .355 batting average, 14 doubles and 10 home runs were all second on the team. Fox said Hewitt will return next season.

Since becoming head coach in 1999, 20 of Fox's players have been drafted. But he said his program isn't responsible, his players' hard work get them the opportunities they have all been presented with.

"It's a credit to those kids who work so hard and put themselves in a position to be drafted," Fox said. "We feel they've got a great opportunity to get better here with our program."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC exceeds postseason hopes

BY TIM CANDON
SPORTS EDITOR

As the North Carolina baseball team limped into the first day of the ACC Tournament in Salem, Va., with a 3-6 conference record in its three previous ACC series, there was plenty of reason to believe the Tar Heels' postseason would be a short one.

But the UNC bats came alive in the opening game as the Tar Heels avenged two earlier losses to Clemson with a 10-2 pummeling of the Tigers on May 22.

Next up was top-ranked Florida State, which also had handed UNC two conference losses earlier in the season, the next day. The Tar Heels handled FSU in a 3-2 pitchers' duel in 10 innings. UNC freshman Adam Kalkhof tossed 7 innings, allowing 2 runs and striking out 4.

With the score knotted 2-2 in the top of the 10th, UNC outfielder Sean Farrell ripped a line drive to left to plate the winning run and give the Seminoles just their ninth loss of the season.

However, UNC couldn't make extra-inning magic happen again when it took on N.C. State the next day. UNC reliever Whitley Benson surrendered a solo home run to State's Chad Orvella in the top of the 11th, and the Wolfpack made the lead hold up in the bottom of the inning for the 7-6 win.

Facing elimination against Georgia Tech on May 25, the Tar Heels jumped all over Tech and were up 5-0 after three innings. But UNC lost its grip on the lead and the Yellow Jackets claimed a 10-6 victory to knock North

Carolina out of the tournament. After a better-than-expected showing in the conference tourney, the Tar Heels were rewarded a No. 2 seed in the regional phase of the NCAA Tournament. UNC travelled to Starkville, Miss., where it was paired up with Middle Tennessee State, Missouri and Mississippi State.

UNC disposed of Missouri 4-3 in the opening game May 30 to set up a showdown with Miss. State the following afternoon.

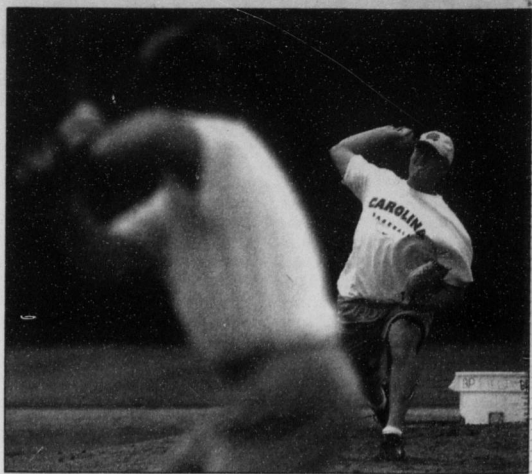
The Tar Heels surprised the Bulldogs 10-5 on their home field and erased any doubts that that result was a fluke by defeating Miss. State again on May 31, this time by a score of 8-6, to win the NCAA Regional and advance to the NCAA Super Regional for the first time since 1989.

"We're obviously ecstatic about winning," said UNC coach Mike Fox. "We've been wanting our program to take the next step. I told our players all along there was something special about this team. Great bunch of competitors, best I have ever coached. They just compete and never give up."

UNC's Matt Danford, Chris Iannetta, Greg Mangum and Farrell were all named to the All-Tournament Team. Farrell earned Most Outstanding Player honors after hitting .467 (7 for 15) with 2 home runs and four RBI in UNC's three wins in Starkville.

UNC had the chance to eliminate the team that ended its 2002 season in the Super Regional — South Carolina. But Fox said he didn't need to use that as motivation.

"I don't know if you're going to



UNC pitcher Whitley Benson practices at Boshamer Stadium in June before the team left for the NCAA Super Regional at South Carolina.

need any more motivation than to play to get to the College World Series," Fox said. "To me, that should be enough. It may help us a little bit, but we're not really focusing on them. We just need to keep trying to play our best and know that there's another really good team standing in our way."

But South Carolina never got out of UNC's way, handing the Tar Heels a 5-4 loss in the first game of the best-of-three series.

In the second game, UNC took a 1-0 lead after the 1st inning, but the Gamecocks poured it on after the first frame, trouncing the Tar Heels 14-4 to end UNC's season for

the second straight year.

"Two-out hits are what it takes to win at this time of year," Fox said after that game on June 7. "We were able to get them and win at Mississippi State, but we did not get it done here. That is just the way the game is. Sometimes you hit the ball right at people and sometimes it finds a hole. South Carolina stepped up and got it done with people on base. That is what you have to do in these games."

UNC finished its season 42-23.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Schmidt wins 800 for 2nd straight year

STAFF REPORT

North Carolina junior Alice Schmidt won the 800 meters for the second consecutive year as she beat the field on June 14 at the 2003 NCAA Track and Field Championships in Sacramento, Calif.

Schmidt won in 2:01.16, a UNC record. She beat the previous Tar Heel record, which was 2:02.5 by Monique Hennagan in 1996.

Schmidt edged LSU's Neisha Bernard-Thomas, who ran 2:01.75

and Butler's Becky Lyne, who ran 2:01.76.

Lyne had posted the fastest time in the qualifying and semifinal rounds.

Schmidt is the first Carolina track and field athlete to win two NCAA titles in the same event.

Shalane Flanagan, a two-time NCAA individual events champion in 2002-03, placed second in the 5,000 meters.

Stanford's Lauren Fleshman won the event in 15:24.06.

Flanagan, a junior from Marblehead, Mass., won the NCAA cross country title in November 2002 and the indoor 3000 meters in March 2003.

North Carolina senior Adam Shunk was declared the national champion in the men's high jump for the 2003 NCAA Indoor Championships because the previous winner — Cal State-Northridge's Jerrick Holmes — was ruled ineligible by the NCAA on June 3. No reason was given

regarding Holmes' ineligibility.

Shunk, a native of Muncie, Ind., cleared 7 feet, 2 1/2 inches and placed second behind Holmes, who jumped 7-3 3/4.

"It's rewarding for Adam," said UNC coach Dennis Craddock. "He was leading the competition until the very last jump. I don't know why (Holmes) was disqualified, but if he was ineligible then he shouldn't have been in the competition and Adam is the rightful champion."

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