Bard faltered in the fourth inning when he allowed Seton Hall two consecutive hits. He fol-lowed with a wild pitch that advanced the runners to second and third.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004

But to his credit, he threw two

big strikeouts to end the inning.

"He's a guy that plays very effortlessly," said UNC pitching coach Roger Williams. "He's got an outstanding arm. He seemed to handle himself well, very com-

Miller relieved the righthander with two outs left in the sixth

inning.
Although he began with a wild pitch and a hit from his first batter, the Tar Heels' defense ended the sixth with a flyout and a fielders'

"Anytime it's our first outing, we're going to get real pumped up for it," Woodard said. "It's our first collegiate outing, and we just went out there and did what we could."

But most impressive was Woodard, who came in to close the

second game.

While facing Joey Scott, the Pirates' most prolific hitter for the weekend, the freshman righthander struck out all three batters to secure the win.

"We're looking at him to close games for us this year," Williams said. "He's very focused on what his job is, and I think, due to his con-trol, that's why he's able to very

effective."
Woodard asserted himself again in the third game when he struck out Dan Doyle looking to end the

Part of the reason the young UNC pitchers appeared so com-fortable during can be attributed to junior catcher Chris Iannetta, who expected the pitchers to step into their respective roles even with minimal collegiate experi-

"As for them being freshmen, or if they were sophomore or juniors out there, I'm going to treat them the same," Iannetta said. "I'm not going to make any exceptions for them."

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GYMNASTICS

Robella said. "She's amazing." The Tar Heels began Sunday's meet with a team score of 49.475 on vault. Bumpers and Olivia Trusty posted the competition's highest scores on the event at

On bars, though, North Carolina began to struggle. The team had set a school bars record on Friday, but a nearly disastrous fall by Mikel Hester before the competition cast a pall over the event even before it

An error forced senior Anna Wilson to ad-lib part of her routine, and she earned an uncharacteristic 9.325. Minutes later, the auditorium went silent when Curley missed the bar after a release and crashed to the floor.

Bumpers hit the bar with her wrist after one release and lost momentum, costing her valuable

Only Robella (9.90) and Trusty (9.825) turned in solid scores to salvage a team total of 48.35 on the

But the Tar Heels used that per-

"They've learned how to refocus quickly, and they have confidence in what they're capable of doing."

DEREK GALVIN, UNC GYMNASTICS COACH

formance as motivation to improve on balance beam, an event on which they had to count a fall on

"They've learned how to refo-cus quickly, and they have confi-dence in what they're capable of doing," said UNC coach Derek

"The fact that bars didn't go well didn't faze them, because they

knew what they were capable of doing on beam and floor."

Robella led the way with a 9.95 on balance beam, followed closely by Bumpers and Wilson at 9.90.

North Carolina did not count a fall on the event for the first time since Feb. 7.

"On vault, we're among the top 10 or 12 teams in the country," Galvin said. "On beam, when we perform like we did tonight, we can be at that level."

It was on floor, though, where

the Tar Heels took their performance up a notch.

Four gymnasts earned a 10.0 from at least one judge, and Bumpers earned the fifth perfect score of her career - and her third in a row.

The two weekend competitions saw UNC break or tie eight individual or team school records.

But the Tar Heels still have to head back to the practice gym and continue to fine-tune.

"They keep working on the little things," Galvin said. "It's the small execution deductions that make a difference between a 9.8 and a 9.6, and we're doing a better job as a team of addressing those things.

ney're doing it.
"And that's why they're having the success that they are.

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Mathews	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	2	0	
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Technical	fouts	UNC	(Team)					

MEN'S HOOPS

Jawad Williams made four of 10 and Sean May two of seven, which prompted some sage advice from their coach.

"Make the stupid free throw,"
Roy Williams told them.
It wasn't pretty, but it was a win.
And onward the Tar Heels march, almost certainly to the NCAA Tournament.

But more importantly, the team hopes, toward playing a complete game every time it takes the floor.

Said Manuel, "We've got to grow up and find a way to be consistent."

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BASEBALL

Backed by the early offensive outburst and a strong start from sophomore Adam Kalkhof, UNC finished off its weekend sweep of

finished off its weekend sweep of the Pirates with an 11-6 victory.

The rally started innocently enough when Greg Mangum dove under the tag of first baseman Tim Pahuta to beat out a bunt single.

Justin Webb followed with a single through the right side on a perfectly executed hit-and-run. Marshall Hubbard then laced a double to right field that scored Mangum and started the rout.

But Sunday's slugfest was very

But Sunday's slugfest was very different from the wins UNC (3-0)

picked up in the first two games. With solid starting pitching from junior Gary Bakker and freshman Daniel Bard, and stellar performances from the bullpen, the Tar Heels took the first two games of the series.

In those games, which UNC won 4-3 and 5-2 against the Pirates (0-3), the bullpen threw

9.1 scoreless innings.
UNC coach Mike Fox said he expects his team to win more games like the first two than like

"I think we're going to be more of a pitching-and-defense team," Fox said. "I was tickled to see us go out and get a big first inning (Sunday)."

Saturday's game, the second of the series, was dominated by the performance of two highly touted two runs and struck out seven in 5.1 innings, and closer Robert Woodard struck out the side in the ninth inning to record the save.

Catcher Chris Iannetta supplied all the offense UNC would need in that game, smoking a two-run double in the first inning and nailing a monstrous home run that hit the clock on the scoreboard in the fifth.

But the season opener provided the most drama of the weekend and a chance for Hubbard, a transfer, to impress his teammates.

With two outs, no runners on and UNC trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the eighth, Hubbard stepped to the plate against Seton Hall closer Chris Noonan. Hubbard calmly deposited a fastball over the left field fence to tie the game.

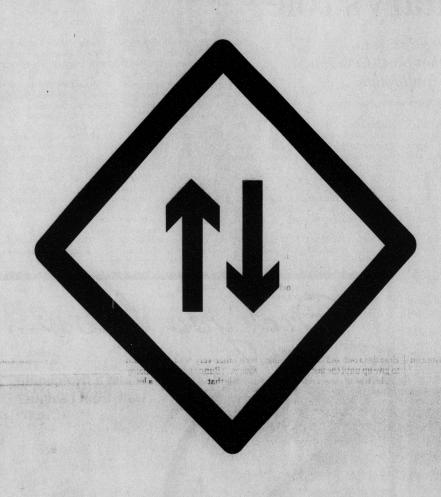
"When I hit that, everyone went nuts," Hubbard said. "He's actually more of what I've seen, so it was actually pretty good to see a guy throwing that hard."

In the bottom of the eleventh, Mangum won the opener on a two-out, bases-loaded hit.

Hubbard said the exciting finish to the first game helped set the

"It was one of those games where we were pretty flat for the whole game," Hubbard said. "That gave us a little boost and helped us out for the rest of the weekend."

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