

Tar Heels blast Panthers

BY POWELL LATIMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

CARY — The rain let up, but North Carolina's bats did not.

Intermittent showers turned the No. 2 Tar Heels' matchup with High Point into a sloppy defensive affair — or that could have been a result of the craters left in the outfield

from the shelling UNC hitters dished out in the High Point 5 10-5 win. UNC 10

It started in the bottom of the fourth inning. With the game tied at one, High Point starting pitcher Ryan Basham hit first Chad Flack and then Tim Federowicz to put two Tar Heels on base. Then freshman Brett Thomas — in his first start of the year — got some of his 6-foot-4 frame behind a pitch for an RBI single to give UNC the lead.

"Never once have you heard him complain about not playing or not swinging the bat," Flack said. "It takes a high level of concentration to do that without seeing pitching all the time."

Thomas later would score follow-

ing Garrett Gore's two-RBI single.

High Point (16-24) then brought in reliever RJ Chlebnikow to stop the bombardment, but Gore scored on a series of missed throws to complete the four-run inning.

Just like that, the Tar Heels (36-7) were up 5-1 — a lead they did not relinquish.

"The main thing is that you've got to put hits together. You can't get one or two hits here and there and leave the two guys on base," Flack said. "I think it was some timely hitting today."

UNC kept up its siege of the outfield in the fifth inning.

First, Tim Fedroff singled on the opening pitch of the inning — the third-straight leadoff hitter on base for UNC.

Then Flack sent a frozen-rope into left field on the first pitch he saw as well.

Just to round things out, second baseman Kyle Seager brought in his league-leading 60th RBI on UNC's third consecutive single.

Then came the cherry on top as two more runs came in on another blunder to make the score 8-4.

From then on, the Tar Heels could cruise toward the win on the strength of relievers Colin Bates and Brian Moran, who completely shut down the High Point attack. Moran's sliders and fastballs always seem to find the strike zone.

"As a reliever, if you come in and throw strikes consistently you're going to have a lot of success," said starter Mike Facchinei, who gave up one earned run in 4.2 innings of work. "You'd be amazed at how well you can do if you just throw strikes."

Wednesday's game, combined with Tuesday's 17-0 shellacking of Charlotte, gives UNC plenty of confidence heading into its weekend series with No. 3 Florida State.

"I think people are still questioning how good we are or we aren't ... we've kind of been down that road before," coach Mike Fox said.

"I don't think confidence has been an issue. I think that the mystique of us playing the Florida States and the Miamis has been erased the past couple of years."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Penn. win spurs Clinton donations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton parlayed her campaign-saving primary victory into a fundraising bonanza Wednesday in the Democratic presidential race. Barack Obama, his delegate lead intact, said, "We just keep on plugging away."

Clinton said donors had contributed more than \$3 million to her candidacy in the hours since her Pennsylvania victory, some of it from thousands of new donors.

McCain criticizes N.C. television ad

RALEIGH (AP) — The N.C. Republican Party said Wednesday it's launching a television ad calling Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama too extreme for the state, despite the objections of GOP presumptive nominee John McCain.

In an e-mail to state GOP chairwoman Linda Daves, McCain said the advertisement was "offensive" and urged party leaders to withhold the ad.

Bush promotes top Iraq commander to chief of U.S. Central Command

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Bush is promoting his top Iraq commander, Army Gen. David Petraeus, and replacing him with the general's recent deputy, keeping the U.S. on its war course and handing the next president a pair of combat-tested commanders who have relentlessly defended Bush's strategies.

Bush will nominate Petraeus to replace Navy Adm. William J. Fallon as chief of U.S. Central

Command, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Wednesday. The command's area of responsibility features some of the most vexing military and foreign policy problems facing this administration and its successor.

Fallon stepped down in March after a magazine reported that he was at odds with President Bush over Iran policy. Fallon said the report was not true but had become a distraction.

Australian torch stop sees protests

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Scuffles erupted Thursday as pro-Tibet activists and China supporters gathered in Australia's capital for the start of the Olympic torch relay. Police manned crowd-control barriers and vowed that nothing would stop the flame from completing its trip.

Organizers of Australia's portion of the relay worried that chaotic demonstrations that marred the event elsewhere could be repeated.

British celebrate slayer of dragon

LONDON (AP) — Londoners gathered Wednesday in Trafalgar Square, beneath statues of imperial lions and military heroes, to celebrate England's patron saint — a third-century Turkish soldier who supposedly slayed a dragon but likely never set foot in Britain.

Little wonder the English have an identity crisis.

April 23 is St. George's Day, England's national day. But it's not a public holiday, and for decades it passed largely unnoticed.



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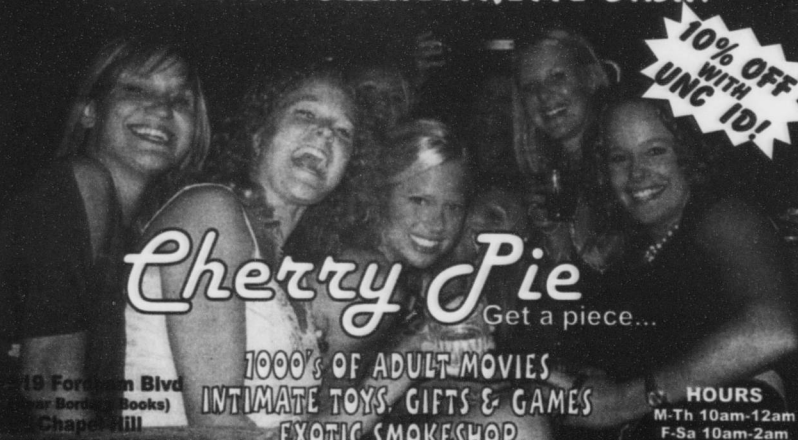
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If interested, please contact: **Tiffany V. Hambricht, RDH**
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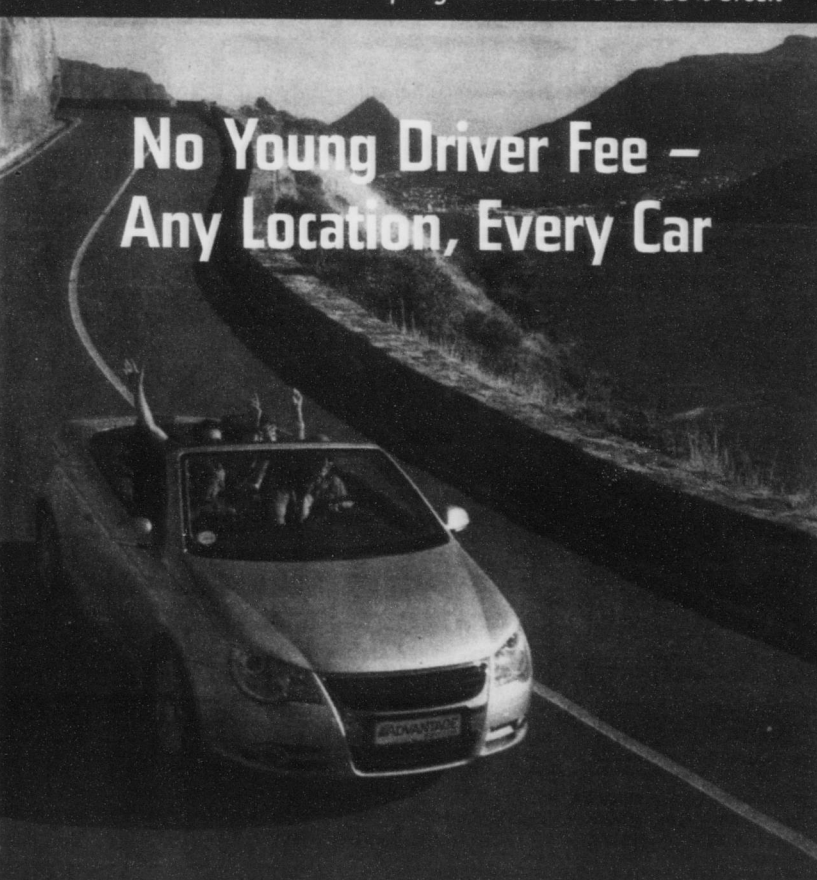
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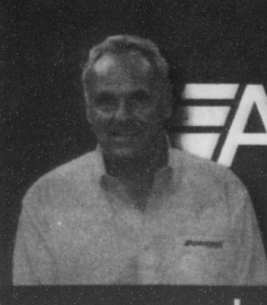


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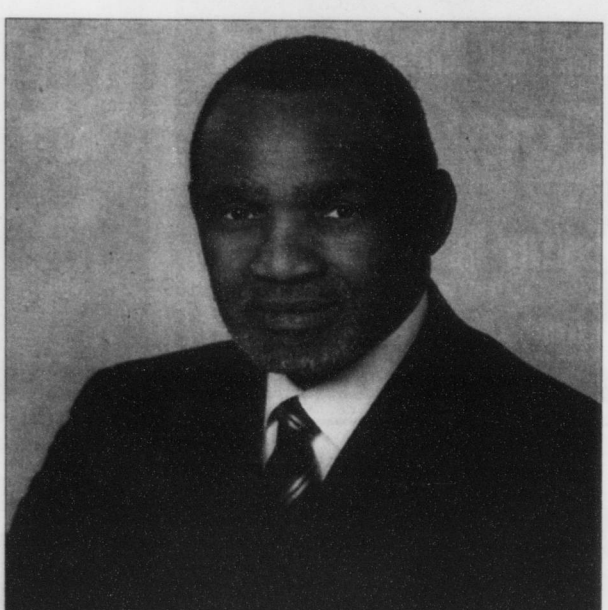


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