The Daily Tar Heel

Heels roll through regionals Catching some

BY POWELL LATIMER

CARY - On to the next one. In three games last weekend, North Carolina players showed everyone why they have dirt from Omaha on their old uniforms.

First the Diamond Heels dispatched Mt. St. Mary's 16-8 as UNC bats found gaping holes in The Mount's defense. The Tar Heels racked up nine doubles and tied for a school record.

When Mt. St. Mary's loaded the bases and threatened to tie the score in the seventh inning, Rob Wooten came in and left all three runners stranded on base to seal the win for the Tar Heels.

The following two games — both against UNC-Wilmington — featured a little less bat-swinging, in favor of precision pitching.

In UNC's second game, ACC Pitcher of the Year Alex White threw a complete game as UNC won 5-1. The junior made up for his 0-3 record in the 2007 postseason by striking out eight and giving up only one earned run in his 2008 NCAA debut.

"You know it is a well-pitched game when you can take the box score and fold it in half," UNC coach Mike Fox said after the game. "The game started for us just like we wanted and ended just about the same way. ... That's why

prepares for its second season

under coach Butch Davis, DTH

staff writer Christian Wisseh sat

self and his transition to college

DTH: How would you describe

GL: I think that everybody

knows that I made the decision to

come here at the very last minute.

And being here, being around my

teammates and being around the

campus life and atmosphere in

Chapel Hill, I feel that I made the

how you can come and meet new

people and just like fit right in like a

piece to a puzzle. It just works.

influence on your athletic career

I mean it's just amazing, you know,

DTH: Who has been the biggest

GL: I think my dad has. He never

missed a practice or a game. Whether

it be baseball, football, basketball,

track; he's never missed anything

And he's always instilled hard work

into me. So I feel like the only way I

can repay him is to perform on game

DTH: Is there a professional

GL: I like to nitpick off of differ-

I mean guys have various speeds

DTH: Like you said earlier, you

and strengths and different moves and I just like to pick from different

whose game you model your's

ent guys and what they do.

people and make my game

your UNC experience thus far?

life at UNC.

right decision.

day

after?

monected starter Gre

Alex is the ACC Pitcher of the Year We have no problems giving him the ball in big games, and it was a great win for us

Throughout the weekend, UNC pitchers were assisted by the redhot bats of Tim Fedroff, Dustin Ackley and the bottom of the North Carolina lineup.

Ackley was his usual productive self, pushing his RBI total to 75 on the season – good for fourth on UNC's single-season all-time list - and recording his 100th hit on the season.

Fedroff, on the other hand. asn't so much stellar as supernatural. The junior right fielder batted 9 of 11 on the weekend with eight runs, en route to garnering regional MVP honors. His performance was such that one reporter exclaimed Sunday: "People just don't do that.

Fedroff's show was matched Sunday at least by DH Mark Fleury. Fleury knocked in a threerun homer in the fifth inning that would give UNC a crucial cushion going forward.

"I almost kind of knew it was coming because he threw me a fastball before, and I think he was going to catch me off guard and beat me again," Fleury said after the game

So I was kind of cheating for it and, I was lucky he threw it there, the contributions of Graepel and



UNC's Dustin Ackley receives a throw to prevent a runner from stealing against UNC-Wilmington during the NCAA regional in Cary last weekend.

and put a good swing on it." Adding to the run production

there in the eighth inning, to add on that seventh run, which proved

Even with Fleury's shot and

Gore

Catching up with UNC's Greg Little

to be a big one.

ed to prevent a third game with was the defensive prowess pro-vided by Fox's substitution of Ryan UNC-W. In the seventh inning, again Graepel into the lineup for Garrett

UNC found itself with runners on base and the potential to throw "I thought Ryan Graepel was away a late-game lead. And again terrific all weekend at shortstop," Fox said. "He played exceptionally went to that bullpen to bring Fox out Wooten. ell and got a big swing of the bat

Six more strikes, and it was game over

Fedroff, still more work was need-

On to the next one.

Conctact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu

Senior struggles behind the plate

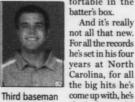
serious Flack

BY MIKE EHRLICH

It all just seemed so familiar. Chad Flack stood outside the visitor's locker room of Kenan Stadium on Monday, fielding questions about his sub-par per-formance in the regional round of the NCAA Tournament.

Well, sub-par puts it pretty lightly. The cleanup hitter went 1-13 for a brutal .083 average during the threegame span, with five strikeouts. He swung at bad pitches, hit balls right at fielders, didn't knock in a

run and looked generally uncomfortable in the



Chad Flack has been inconsistent this season.

about bouncing back from tough times. "It happens in baseball every year. It's just one of those things that you've got to put behind you. and just go out there and work

also had an awful

for four years,

the senior said

"I've done it

lot of struggles.

hard and try to get better." Easier said than done. The struggles started early for Flack, as he went 0-3 in his 1ar Heel debut and managed just one hit in his first 14 at-bats.

After rebounding for a huge first year, many expected the freshman All-American to be drafted after his junior year. A record-breaking sophomore campaign enhanced these notions.

But then those hitting troubles came back, and he struggled to a 247 batting average his junior year before hearing his name passed over in the MLB draft.

The hitting woes continued for most of this year before he finally recovered a bit in the second half - only to flail unsuccessfully at the ball all weekend long in the post-

TRIBUNE

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Solution to

last weeks' puzzle

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so each row, column

"I swung the bat decently in some of the at-bats, and in some of the atbats, I chased some pitches," he said. "It's more about getting myself out." Even without the help of Flack's bat, the Tar Heels cruised through the Cary regional and into a super regional matchup against Coastal Carolina. And the super regional round is where Flack has had some

career-defining moments. In each of the last two seasons, the third baseman has hit the gamewinning home run in the decisive game of the super regionals, including a blast against Alabama two years ago that arguably revitalized

the entire Tar Heel program. It is the senior leadership he's provided and those timely hits that still have Flack's teammates believing in him.

"It's been rough, I guess, the past few years," fellow senior Seth Williams said. "But Chad, his leadership, just him being out there. He's going to come through with one of those clutch at-bats. You know Chad's going to come through."

And his coaches believe, too. "That's baseball — you're going to have those weekends where you're

just not seeing it right," said coach Mike Fox. "But he's been there before. He's a veteran.

"A guy that's done it like he has over his last three years, we've got to put him in there and put him in that situation again and trust that he'll come up with some big hits again."

Fox insisted that in spite of what some critics have suggested. the cleanup spot in the order will still belong to Flack. And against a Coastal Carolina team that put up 47 runs in the three games of its region-al, the guy that's been Mr. June the last two years might need to deliver.

And if he's demonstrated one thing in his time at UNC, it is that he has learned how to respond to adversity.

"Its something you have to learn as a baseball player," Fox said. Managing failure is the hardest thing that you have to do in this game. So it takes some mental toughness, but he's been through it before.

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

Bored? Look here.

Check out the best of June events in the University and Chapel Hill. See pg. 7 for the calendar.

Sharing stories

UNC is hosting an exhibit featuring photographs of New Orleans' 9th Ward. Go online for story.

Spreading the wealth

The N.C. House missed its deadline for next year's budget but expects it Thursday. Go online for story.

Race for the cure

An N.C. man is running across the state to raise money for cancer research. See pg. 3 for story.

The 'Big' picture

Our Dive staffer gives a warm welcome back to the girls of "Sex and the City." See pg. 4 for review.

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As the UNC football team committed to the Tar Heels late. Did the hiring of Butch Davis play a factor in that decision?

GL: I would say it did. His abilange prog Little. Little chatted about himmake them win championships is

tremendous. I don't think that many guys have that. But Carolina hasn't been known for winning in football and that's one thing I wanted to come do also was make Carolina known for something more than basketball

DTH: How would you describe Coach Davis?

GL: Coach Davis, he's the kinda guy that always has his arm around you or always wants to shake your hand and make eye contact. And that's a guy that I know is not going to backstab you or turn his back on you. He's always gonna be very up front in everything that he does, and he's not gonna sugarcoat anything.

DTH: Coming out of high

school, did you have any difficulties learning (offensive coordinator John) Shoop's offense?

GL: Oh yeah, I would always line up wrong, always be in the wrong place and always run the wrong routes for those first couple of weeks. He was always on me. He'd said, 'Greg, you need to study more, and you need to put more time into it.' And I was like, man, you know this is tough. But being at this level there's so much time and so much effort you gotta put in to it.

DTH: Was there a veteran that took you under his wing and showed you the ropes?

GL: Hakeem Nicks, we played



Greg Little stretches for extra yardage against Duke last season. The two-sport athlete had a chat with the DTH to talk about his experience at UNC.

kinda taught me the things to focus on and stay away from. He told me, 'Don't be late for class, sit up front, and those type of things; the things that you should do right.

for UNC. What was that experience

GL: To play for North Carolina basketball, which has so much his tory, it was a dream come true. I feel that I've helped some of those players to the next level. I've guarded Ty (Lawson), Wanye (Ellington) and Danny (Green) at times, and they're all trying to move to the next level,

sexually active?

correct & consistent condom use does not prevent STDs

100% of the time

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with chlamydia have no symptoms

& pelvic inflammatory disease

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DTH FILE/JOANNE MCVERRY

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DTH

Classified Ads

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DTH: You also played basketball

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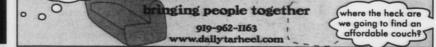
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we going to do this old couch?

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