

Hitting woes doom UNC

North Carolina swings, misses

BY POWELL LATIMER
SPORTS EDITOR

Maybe it was something about the lighting in Omaha, Nebraska's Rosenblatt Stadium. Maybe it was the multicolored stands.

Whatever the reason, North Carolina batters simply couldn't beat their way around the bases in the College World Series.

During the course of the season, UNC averaged 6.64 runs per game. In Omaha, the Diamond Heels averaged five runs per game.

On the surface, those statistics aren't that far from par, but factor in that six of those RBI came off two late-game, go-ahead home runs (one of them a grand slam), and the average goes down to 3.8 runs scored per game, well below the season average.

Nowhere was the ineffective hitting more tangible than in UNC's two biggest success stories of the regular season, Kyle Shelton and Kyle Seager.

Seager, who led the team in RBI with 72, recorded only two in Omaha — but did rack up six strikeouts.

Shelton struck out seven times and only had one RBI in the CWS, prompting coach Mike Fox to switch up his lineup in what would be UNC's final game against Fresno State. Shelton was moved down to seventh in the order, while designated hitter Garrett Gore was moved to second.

But even that drastic change didn't work, and Gore grounded into two double plays, including the final two outs of the game.

Senior Seth Williams opened the CWS with three RBI. But he only batted home one run in the following four games and struck out seven times.

Dustin Ackley's bat was one of



North Carolina's Kyle Seager takes a swing against LSU in the College World Series. Seager went 3-for-4 in the contest, but struggled from behind the plate in Omaha along with the rest of his teammates.

the few actually making contact, and Ackley batted .522 in Omaha (12-23).

But his solo show couldn't carry the team, and Ackley was left stranded on base nine times in the CWS.

Part of the problem could have been that UNC was playing from behind against Fresno State each of the three times they met.

"We don't play well when we're behind," Fox said after the first loss to Fresno State. "I don't know why. Tonight we swung at a lot of balls. I thought the strike zone was small. I don't think we took advantage of

it." UNC's hitting woes were partially masked by the clutch performances by Tim Federowicz and Chad Flack. Federowicz knocked a grand slam to break a tie with LSU in UNC's first elimination game, and Flack belted a two-run shot for go-ahead runs in the next game against Fresno State.

But for the CWS, Federowicz batted 3-for-17 (.176), and while his six RBI were a team-high, they came on just two hits. He also struck out six times.

Flack was little better, batting 5-for-17 (.294) with five RBI and four

strikeouts.

Those two hitters led UNC in RBI, but by the final game, the wear and tear of playing four straight games in the losers' bracket showed. Flack's deep shot to center field in the seventh inning fell just short of the warning track.

With no more histrionics to save them, no more clutch hitting, UNC brought in only one run against Fresno State on June 22 — and that was on a walk.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu

USA Olympic teams take Tar Heels to Beijing

50-plus student athletes qualify

BY POWELL LATIMER
SPORTS EDITOR

With the 2008 Olympics fast approaching, North Carolina athletes are getting into the mix.

Athletes across the board are competing for spots to represent the U.S. in August in Beijing and try for a chance at a shiny new medal.

Swimming and diving

The UNC swim team has a total of 28 former, current and incoming athletes headed to the USA Olympic Qualifying Trials at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Neb.

Seventeen current Tar Heels are competing, having made the qualifying times. UNC's distance duo of Chip Peterson and Joe Kinderwater both will compete in the 1500-meter freestyle. Eliza Butts, Alison Clemens, Whitney Sprague and Ashley Sprague lead the UNC women.

Track and field

Seven incoming UNC freshmen also are competing in the trials.

On the USA track team, UNC has three current athletes competing in the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore.

Sophomore Brie Feltnagle qualified in both the 800- and the 1500-meter race. In the 1500-meter run, Feltnagle holds the ninth-best time.

Freshman All-America LaToya James, fresh off a fourth-place finish in the NCAA Championships in the 400-meter run, will try to put a cap on her first collegiate season with a strong showing in Oregon. James holds the 14th-best time in the qualifying race.

James' teammate Dominique Jackson also is a provisional qualifier.

Women's soccer

On the USA women's soccer team, rising junior Tobin Heath is the youngest player selected to the team at 20, and one of only two college players to be named to the roster. The other collegiate player is Amy Rodriguez of Southern



DTH FILE/SAM WARD

2008 UNC grad Rachel Dawson led UNC to a national championship in field hockey and now takes on the Beijing Olympics.

California.

Heath is one of seven midfielders on the roster and makes her first international appearance. Last season for UNC, Heath recorded three goals and five assists for nine total points, good for seventh on the team. Those totals come despite a late-season ankle injury that sidelined Heath for a game.

Heath joins former Tar Heels Heather O'Reilly, Lindsay Tarpley and Lori Chalupny on the roster.

Field hockey

In field hockey, three players from UNC's 2007 undefeated national championship team are on the Olympic roster.

Rachel Dawson, Jesse Gey and Katelyn Falgowski all made the team. They are joined by three other former Tar Heels: Amy Tran, Carrie Lingo and Kate Barber.

"It's a thrill for me as a coach to have six of our players earn spots on the Olympic team," UNC coach Karen Shelton told tarheelblue.com.

"They're all great representatives of our program and I'm so proud of what they've accomplished."

"Competing at the Olympics is a life-changing experience and a great privilege. They'll be Olympians for life."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu

Breschi named UNC lacrosse coach

Former Ohio State coach replaces Haus

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SENIOR WRITER

Two years ago, John Haus was the man who weathered the North Carolina men's lacrosse team through a full turnaround.

Guiding the team from a 4-10 season in 2004 to a 10-6 record and NCAA quarter-finals appearance in 2006, Haus was widely lauded for the progress he made with the UNC program.

Now Haus is unemployed. And his successor, former Ohio State coach Joe Breschi, has quite the workload in front of him.

UNC hasn't won a conference game since 2004, in Haus' heyday.

And UNC officials are making no secret of the fact that the goal next year is conference success.

Breschi is thought to be the man to make it happen.

"Joe has done an outstanding job of building a fine program at Ohio State," said Director of Athletics Dick Baddour. "I'm thrilled that he has decided to accept our offer."

At Ohio State this year, Breschi gave the Tar Heels their only non-conference loss in the regular sea-

son, a 14-11 defeat in Baltimore.

Breschi headed Ohio State's program for 11 years, turning the Buckeyes into national contenders for the first time.

He brought the Buckeyes to the team's first NCAA Tournament victory in program history, an upset of No. 8-seeded Cornell in the first round.

The Buckeyes then fell to No. 1 Duke in the second round.

"The position at North Carolina was a tremendous opportunity for Coach Breschi and his family," said T.J. Shelton, Ohio State associate athletics director for sport administration. "We wish him success."

Breschi, a UNC alumnus, graduated in 1990 after four years on the lacrosse team and a captainship and first team All-America selection his senior year.

He spent two years post-graduation as an assistant for then-UNC coach Willie Scroggs, helping the team to two conference titles and its fourth NCAA Championship.

"I made a commitment to be a Tar Heel 22 years ago to Hall of Fame coach Willie Scroggs, and now I have a chance to give back



Former Ohio State lacrosse coach Joe Breschi will replace John Haus as UNC's lacrosse coach.

to the University, alumni and Carolina lacrosse family that had an extraordinary impact on my life," Breschi said.

"My family is thrilled for the new challenge that lies ahead, and we can't wait to hit the ground running in Chapel Hill."

And Breschi will have to get started immediately — and his success in the ACC will be put to the

test in the most public way when UNC hosts the 2009 conference championship in April.

The Tar Heels are coming off an 8-6 season that ended with a disappointing 7-8 loss to Navy in the first round of the NCAA Tournament as a No. 4 seed.

The athletic department announced that Haus would not return as coach May 27.

The department reportedly also approached UMBC coach Don Zimmerman and Navy's Richie Meade about the vacancy, both of whom denied interest in the position.

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