

Mark Whicker

'Moving right along'

In quest of the sacred goal of filling space, and since the number of stories today is inversely proportional to the space that needs to be filled, we revert to amateurism, plagiarism, and just plain desperation.

The Tar Heel baseball team, which played East Carolina in Durham last night and now readies for Wake Forest in the finale tomorrow night, is hitting a good .271. However, the ERA of the pitching staff is 4.84 and the team is fielding only .949.

Doug Lanham leads the race for leading hitter with a .330 mark. Jack Gillis is hitting .322 with 30 RBI's and Mike Roberts is hitting .313.

Shortstop Bobby Elliott, along with his useful .295 average, has had an outstanding year in the field. A rash of recent errors has pulled his fielding down to .948, but his major league plays have been merely routine.

The best thing going on the tube right now—and maybe any time—is the Stanley Cup playoffs. Montreal's exciting 4-2 victory over Chicago Sunday was the epitome of hockey's excitement; it sure beat the NBA playoffs and the Byron Nelson Classic.

What's amazing is how old some of those players are, like Montreal's Jean Beliveau and Henri Richard. And yet they're there every week, surviving through hard checks against the boards and seemingly never suffering injury. The Carolina Cougars seem to have seen the light. They're supposedly in the process of buying the Greensboro Generals, which is very minor league but still exciting.

The Tar Heel tennis team, with only one senior graduating, goes for the ACC title this weekend in Columbia, S.C. Clemson will give Carolina its only competition for a second straight championship. Fred McNair, Jim Corn, Forrest Simmons and Mike Kernodle have been magnificent—their combined record was 77-15 in regular season—but freshmen Richard McKee and Richard Hardaway almost stole the show. McKee was unbeaten and Hardaway lost only one, that to Clemson's misplaced first man Safraz Rahim.

The Tigers defeated UNC with that trick earlier in the year, "sacrificing" lower men to McNair and Corn and putting their top players in the bottom part of the order. The most intriguing part of Clemson's team is its doubles tandem of Rahim and Nunna—playing together, an Indian and a Pakistani. That's like butting Amwar Sadat and Moshe Dayan in the same foursome in a golf match.

Vida Blue, which sounds like a new brand of champagne, has led the Oakland A's to a big lead in the Western Division of the American League. Blue, a dazzling lefthander, has an 8-0 record since losing the opener to Washington. But Oakland struck back at the Senators with a great trade this weekend.

The A's got ace reliever Darold Knowles and potentially explosive first sacker Mike Epstein for reliever Paul Lindblad, catcher Frank Fernandez and aging first baseman Don Mincher. Nat owner Bob Short and manager Ted Williams are reportedly at odds over the deal, which isn't the first time that's happened.

Next deal for the stumbling Senators may be Frank Howard to Milwaukee for Dave May, Ted Kubiak and a tall Schlitz. At least, don't put it past them.

Basketball Weekly, which should know, picked UNC's basketball team third in the nation after its NIT victory. Another publication has already put the Tar Heels fourth in the rankings for next season.

Olympic champion George Foreman went for his 28th straight victory last night against Argentine heavyweight Greg Peralta. What's interesting is that the World Boxing Association ranks him as the top contender for Joe Frazier's crown, and doesn't even rank Muhammad Ali.

Basketball Weekly would know better than that. Joe Frazier probably would, too.

Football Coach Bill Dooley and his staff have apparently done it again. They've cornered the market on good North Carolina and Virginia talent. In the list of signees elsewhere on this page, you'll notice that 25 of the 39 are from either North Carolina or Virginia, the same formula that Dooley used to build his Peach Bowl team last year.

In the past, State seemed to get the top local athletes. An occasional Danny Talbott or Ken Willard might seep through to Chapel Hill, but Earle Edwards consistently picked up the Roman Gabriels, Charlie Bowerses, Dennis Byrds, Jim Donnans, etc. Now with the help of northern blue-chippers like Son McCauley and Paul Hoolahan, the Tar Heels are strong with Bud Grissoms, Ken Taylors, Ike Oglesbys, Paul Millers, and others from North Carolina. Outstanding among the new crop are 6-6 defensive end Charles Waddell from Southern Pines and quarterback Charles Baggett from Fayetteville.

They should investigate Jack Nicklaus and convict him, just like any other monopoly. The rest of the pro players wish they had the power over him that his wife Barbara possesses.

When Jack only finished second in the Masters to Charlie Coody, his wife talked him out of inactivity and got him back on the tour. Nicklaus promptly walked off the Tournament of Champions title by eight strokes, despite the fact he wasn't playing very well, and then won the Byron Nelson Sunday with three straight birdies on 15, 16 and 17. Fortunately, his wife has given him permission to rest for three weeks.

UNC's all-league catcher

by Dan Collins
Sports Writer

Carolina's all-conference catcher Mike Roberts has one distinct goal in life.

"I want to play professional ball, and I hope to get a chance this summer," says the determined receiver. "If I don't get a chance I will be back here next year."

If Carolina loses a catcher then there's a chance they will gain their first representative to the professional ranks in some time. It's a well known fact that good young catchers are in demand by pro scouts and Roberts fills the mold.

The Junior backstop has always been an outstanding fielder, illustrated by the fact that last year he won the All-ACC honors with a mediocre .234 batting average. This past summer however, he worked hard on his hitting weaknesses and the results have payed off.

The Kingsport, Tenn. native hard work to his improvement at the plate as well as a change in batting stance. "I have opened my stance since last year," stated Roberts. "Before I was blocking myself off and trying to go to right field. Now I'm pulling the ball better."

Jayvees win finale

The jayvee baseball team ended the season on an impressive note with a 10-2 victory over Sandhills Community College last week.

Pitcher Jeff Wood was touched for three hits and two runs in the first inning, but allowed no hits for the next six frames.

Steve Groome also pitched hitless ball in the last two innings.

UNC pounded 15 hits, with six doubles and two triples. Catcher Russ Niller, formerly of the varsity, had a perfect day with four hits in four trips, including four RBIs, a double and a triple.

Third sacker Tommy Smith added three hits in four at bats with a double and two runs driven in. Durwood Powell had two doubles and two RBIs and Wood mixed a double and a triple in his three hits.

Shortstop Dickie Witt also contributed two hits, with a double. "With a performance like that, we hated to see the season come to an end," said Coach Dick Prindle.

"We were pleased with the effort of the players throughout the season," he concluded.

by Rick Brewer
Special to the DTH

For Roberts, baseball is more than just a spring sport. In the summer, when many of his Carolina teammates are toiling at their summer jobs, Roberts continues to play baseball.

For the past three summers the right-handed slugger has played in the Valley League, a highly competitive semi-pro league in Virginia. The first two seasons in the league Roberts spent his time playing for New Market but last year switched and played for the team located in Charlottesville.

Catcher has been Roberts' position ever since his high school days. All three

years he participated in baseball at his high school in Kingsport were spent behind the plate, and it was from this school that he was recruited for the job of catcher for the Tar Heels.

At the start of the current season Roberts was having his difficulties at the plate and he found himself alternating with backup man Russ Niller. Since then, however, Roberts began to meet the ball and has been a mainstay for the Heels ever since.

When asked about how he felt about alternating, the confident Roberts replied, "I didn't particularly like it. I felt

I should be catching, but there's some things the coaches feel have to be done and they were giving everybody a chance before the crucial conference games came."

The big news concerning the Tar Heels squad at this time is their heartbreaking eight game losing streak. Roberts was quick to give his reasons for this tailspin.

"The fact that we lost three one run ball games in about five days knocked us out of the conference earlier than we would have liked to have been out. Since then it's been inconsistent pitching and fielding, and leaving men on base."

'Ready to play'

McNair gives warning to ACC foes

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Freddie McNair says he's "ready to play" and that should be sufficient warning for his opponents at the Atlantic Coast Conference Tennis Championships this weekend.

McNair, the University of North Carolina's star sophomore, will be the top-seeded player when the tournament gets underway Thursday in Columbia, S.C.

McNair is ranked number one by virtue of his 6-0 record against conference opponents this season. Overall, Freddie posted an impressive 19-3 mark. Well, it's impressive to everyone but him, anyway.

"The entire season has been a big disappointment," says McNair, the former National Interscholastics champion from Chevy Chase, Md. "When the season started I had hopes of going

undefeated, but my game never got off the ground.

"My big problem has been concentration. I've had a lot of things on my mind lately—schoolwork, what to do this summer, my future plans and things like that. Two of my losses (to Princeton's Bill Colson and Presbyterian's Milan Kofol) have been to players I've beaten easily in the past couple of years."

Carolina Coach Don Skakle says Freddie's main problem has been a lack of hard competition.

"He's rarely challenged," says Skakle, "and that causes him to lose his concentration. He needs to play every match as if it's for the national championship and try to put it away as quickly as possible."

Freddie promises to do just that in the ACC Championships.

"I'm really looking forward to the tournament," he says. "I'm getting

myself mentally prepared for three days of good tennis. I believe I'm ready to play."

If McNair is in top form this week, he will be a tough man to beat. He's currently ranked as the 30th best player in the country, amateur or professional, by the USITA. In a pre-season poll of coaches, he was picked as one of the 10 top collegiate players in the nation.

Freddie had a brilliant summer last year. He defeated Gene Scott, the nation's 12th ranked player and a six-time Davis Cupper, at the National Amateur Grasscourt Championships. He also knocked off Roscoe Tanner in the Washington Star International Open.

The win over Tanner was an especially sweet one for McNair, Roscoe was the NCAA singles runner-up last year and was named Stanford's Man of the Year, beating out All-America quarterback Jim Plunkett.

In the latter part of the summer Freddie and Charlie Owens, the 12th ranked doubles team in the country, won the Bronze Medal at the University Games in Turin, Italy.

However, McNair still ranks his victory over Tanner in the National Interscholastics Championships as his biggest win ever. That victory two years ago made him the number one high school player in America.

Now his goal is to be the number one player in the ACC. His chance comes this weekend.

Quincy back

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Bob Quincy, former sports information director at the University of North Carolina, is rejoining the Tar Heels as an announcer on the UNC radio network.

Homer Rice, Carolina Director of Athletics, said Tuesday that Quincy will be the "color" man on the Tar Heel Football and Basketball Network for the 1971-72 season.

On the network, Quincy will team with Woody Durham, popular Greensboro sportscaster who was selected last week as the play-by-play man.

"We are delighted to have two Carolina graduates on our broadcasting team," Rice said. "Woody and Bob long have been among the leading sports figures in the state."

Heels sign 39 players in football recruiting

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—The University of North Carolina has announced the signing of 39 student-athletes to football grants-in-aid in what appears to be a banner recruiting year for the Tar Heels.

There are 21 backs and 17 lineman the list of signees released by Carolina Head Coach Bill Dooley. Thirteen of the players hail from the state of North Carolina and 12 are from Virginia.

"We are pleased with our recruiting this year," Dooley said. "On paper, it looks like one of our best groups of incoming freshmen. It was the type of year we must have in order to be competitive in the Atlantic Coast Conference."

- Dick Oliver, 5-11, 195, Roanoke, Va.; David Barrett, 6-1, 200, Saltville, Va.; Tommy Collins, 6-3, 220, Richmond, Va.; Jon Tassar, 6-2, 200, Herndon, Va.; Ted Elkins, 6-1, 195, Charlotte, N.C.; Joe Peduto, 6-3, 215, Staunton, Va.; Tommy Jones, 6-0, 205, Concord, N.C.; Ralph Gilliam, 6-2, 205, Elon College, N.C.; Gary Cowan, 6-2, 204, Sylvia, N.C.; Jack Todd, 6-2, 220, Medford Lakes, N.J.; Tommy Embrey, 6-1, 195, Vienna, Va.

LINEMEN

- Ronnie Robinson, 6-2, 255, Burlington, N.C.; Lee Califf, 6-4, 240, Alexandria, Va.; Pete Marchetti, 6-5, 240, New Philadelphia, Pa.; Ken Huff, 6-4, 245, Coronado, Calif.; Jeff Turcotte, 6-4, 240, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Tom Maier, 6-1, 220, Northport, N.Y.; Bill Wicks, 6-1, 225, Norfolk, Va.; Dan Swain, 6-3, 200, Thomasville, N.C.; Gary Nelson, 6-1, 225, Brevard, N.C.; Charles Waddell, 6-6, 225, Southern Pines, N.C.; Robert Jones, 6-2, 205, Virginia Beach, Va.; Chris Van Cuyk, 6-3, 205, Tampa, Fla.; Andy Chacos, 6-5, 215, Bethesda, Md.; Ernie Razzano, 6-1, 230, Howard Beach, N.Y.; Mike Lyon, 6-1, 200, Fairfax, Va.; Andy Harris, 6-3, 200, Charlotte, N.C.; Mickey Donovan, 6-0, 215, Olean, N.Y.

BACKS

- Frank Townsend, 5-11, 160, Fayetteville, N.C.; Alan Brumfield, 6-1, 175, Danville, Va.; Charles Baggett, 6-0, 180, Fayetteville, N.C.; Hy Shapiro, 6-2, 175, Oswego, N.Y.; Chris Kupec, 6-4, 200, Syosset, N.Y.; Tom Reghanti, 6-2, 195, Grosse Point, Mich.; Kip Arnall, 5-11, 165, Richmond, Va.; Bobby Myrick, 5-10, 165, Goldsboro, N.C.; Terry Cantrell, 6-0, 185, Atlanta, Ga.; Mark DiCarlo, 6-1, 185, Atlanta, Ga.; Jimmy DeRatt, 6-0, 185, Sarasota, N.C.

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—Stereo Review, April, 1971



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