UNC's Early Jones has banged out 10 hits in his last 19 at-bats to raise his average to .341 after a mild slump. The Tar Heels wind up the summer league season with four home games against Methodist (twice), Wilmington and East Carolina in the next four days. All games start at 7:30 p.m. in Boshamer Stadium.

Tar Heels rise to occasion; league playoffs start next week

by Jim Thomas Sports Editor

Traditionally, in baseball, the first four players in the batting order have supplied the run-producing power. The term 'Murderer's Row' was coined in the 1920s to describe the New York Yankees' imposing lineup of Tony Lazerri, Bob Meusel, Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

In modern days, when clicking on all four cylinders, the Cincinnati Reds' Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Tony Perez and Johnny Bench are referred to as the 'Big Red Machine."

Throughout most of the summer league season Kevin Haeberle, Bernie Menapace and Early Jones (they lack a clever nickname) have led the Tar Heel hitting corps. But Monday the bottom

of the lineup was responsible for a comefrom-behind win over Louisburg at Cary Boshamer Stadium.

Trailing 6-4 in the eighth inning, after blowing an early 3-0 lead, UNC's Randy Porch, Bill Lee and George Swain combined to drive in three runs of a fiverun uprising off reliever-third baseman Randy Warrick to rally the Tar Heels to their third straight win.

Earlier in the week, after a narrow 2-1 loss to East Carolina at Greenville, the Tar Heels coasted to a 5-2 victory over visiting Methodist Friday and outslugged Louisburg 9-7 away Sunday to boost their record to 17-8 with one week left in the regular season.

Against Methodist Friday, ace righthander Bob Thomson pitched out of a seventh inning jam to gain his six straight win since losing in the season

opener. The Tar Heels managed only five hits off Monarch starter Sam Tolar and his second inning replacement Jerry Neal but scored two runs on two perfectly executed squeeze bunts to turn back the latest challengers to their league lead.

Sunday against Louisburg Bernie Menapace and Early Jones belted consecutive home runs in the ninth inning to break a 7-7 tie.

Jones led the hitting attack with three hits and three runs batted in while Menapace drove in two with two hits and Mike Fox went 3-4 with one rhi.

On Monday Carolina rose to the occasion for the second game in a row against Louisburg with a five-run eighth inning. After Jones led off with a double off the rightfield wall off Hurricane starter Bill Lucas, Porch followed with his second single of the night to put runners on first and third with no outs. Lee greeted reliever Warrick with another single, scoring Jones and closing the gap to 6-5.

The next batter, Mike Fox, bunted back to the mound and when Warrick's errant throw to third rolled to the leftfield fence, the UNC second baseman raced to third chasing in Porch and Lee ahead of him for a 7-6 Tar Heel

The Tar Heels currently hold a three and one-half game lead in the league standings, but starting with a doubleheader against second-place Methodist Tuesday, were scheduled to play seven games in six days. Carolina Thursday, July 31, 1975 / The Tar Heel / 5

Jim Thomas, Editor

Tournament schedule

Jim Mallory, president of the North Carolina Collegiate Summer Baseball League, has announced plans for a threeday, double-elimination playoff

The regular season will conclude, if rains do not intervene August 3. Mallory said that, due to the tight race this year, August 4 will be left open for makeup games and that all makeup games must be played by that date, if at all possible.

At 7:30 p.m. August 5, the regular season champion will host the fourth place team and the second place finisher will host the third place team. The next day all four teams will move to a central site. The site will be the home field of the first place finisher, and in case the team couldn't host the tournament, it will be the home of the second place team.

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE:

Game 1: #1 vs #4

Game 2: #2 vs #3 Game 3: Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2, 4 p.m. Game 4: Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2, 6:15 p.m.

Game 5: Winner Game 3 vs Loser Game 4, 9 p.m. Game 6: Winner Game 4 vs Winner Game 5, 7 p.m. Game 7: If necessary, the

above two teams will meet 20 minutes after completion of Game 6.

winds up the season with home games tonight, Friday, Saturday and Sunday againt Methodist (twice), Wilmington and East Carolina, respectively. All games are scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Another late-season surge for Early

by Jim Thomas Sports Editor

Bill Lee and Steve Rackley were gesturing comically in the background causing Early Jones' face to break into an ear-splitting grin. "It's like this when you're winning," the popular UNC centerfielder said of his teammates' clubhouse antics.

Minutes earlier the Tar Heels had erupted for five runs in the eighth inning for a come-from-behind 9-6 win over visiting Louisburg to boost their record to 17-8. The win solidified Carolina's hold on first place and virtually assured Coach Mike Roberts' Tar Heels of hosting the playoffs which begin next week. But Jones was also smiling for another reason. The likeable outfielder from Trenton has banged out 10 hits in his last 19 at bats to raise his average to .341 after a mild slump which saw his average dip below the .300 mark.

A year ago, Jones assaulted summer league pitching for a .361 average to lead the Tar Heels to a surprising tournament championship over favored Louisburg. This summer, however, he got off to a slow start after batting a modest .268 during his regular Atlantic Coast Conference season.

"I guess it takes me a while to finally get in the groove," explained Jones. "I got started late this summer. I wasn't hitting the ball real well. But every player wants to finish the season strong. I've been making real good contact in the last few games."

Prior to Monday's win over Louisburg, the hot-hitting Jones blasted two home runs, driving in three runs in a 9-7 slugfest against the Hurricanes Sunday. Against starter Bill Lucas and his late-inning replacement, Randy Warrick, Jones ripped three hits in four trips to the plate, including a perfect bunt which resulted in a two-base throwing error and allowed Bernie Menapace to scamper home with the first run of the game.

"We try to be the aggressor all the time." Jones said of the surprise bunt which caught then third baseman Warrick off guard. "We want to put the pressure on and make it hard on the defense. They have to be alert and make



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Before the season started no one thought the Tar Heels would be contending for the championship, much less threatening to run away with the regular season title. Wilmington and Louisburg were tabbed as the preseason favorites.

"Yeah, I heard that talk, too," said Jones, "but I didn't believe it. I knew some of the guys on the jayvee team who were going to play summer league baseball and I knew they could do the job."

The Tar Heels currently hold a three and one-half game lead in the standings but starting Tuesday were scheduled to play seven games in six days. "All we have to do is just win a couple of games and we can clinch it and play the tournament here, which should do a lot for our confidence." the UNC centerfielder said. "I feel good about our

chances. We've swept a series with everybody."

Six days after the tournament is over football practice will begin and the fleet Jones is trying to out for Coach Bill Dooley's squad as a wide receiver after playing as a substitute defensive back during the 1974 season.

"Coach Dooley said he couldn't offer me a scholarship this season," explained Jones, "but I could still come out for the team. I talked about moving to wide receiver with offensive end coach Charlie Carr this past spring. I hope I'll have a better chance of playing.'

Jones did not play football his first two years at Carolina. Instead, the rising senior came to school on a baseball scholarship. As a starting quarterback for Jones Senior High, he guided his team to consecutive 7-2 season records.

"I wasn't offered a football

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scholarship," recalled Jones, "but one day I was eating in Ehringhaus and Coach Dooley approached me and asked me why I hadn't come out. At first I had no idea what position I would play and didn't think I would make it. I was way behind and had not played in two years. But it turned out pretty good. I made a tackle against Wake Forest and traveled with the team to the Sun Bowl."

Jones hasn't had much time to think about football during the summer but he isn't worried about making the adjustment once the baseball season is over. Meanwhile, he'll concentrate on hitting and helping the Tar Heels repeat as summer league champions.



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