

Tar Heels lead League by 2 1/2 games

by Joe Morgan
Staff Writer

Despite losing three out of five games for the second straight week, UNC still clings to a two and one-half game lead over Louisburg and Methodist going into the last four days of the Carolina Summer League regular season. The Heels, though, are struggling as the playoffs approach.

Blame it on the long season, the hot weather, bad luck, or a case of first-place complacency, Carolina just hasn't played consistent, sound, fundamental baseball lately. But with a record of 27-12, not all can be bad.

Twice UNC took it on the chin from Louisburg, 13-6 and 5-2, as Hurricane Kevin Staley recorded both wins. The third loss came in a game against Elon Tuesday that had been moved up from Saturday because the Fighting Christians were eager to forget the season and go home.

However, Carolina looked like the team that was ready to go home after committing six errors while Elon played as if they were

atop the league standings in winning 7-3.

The Tar Heels got their two wins from the teams fighting to keep out of the cellar, Atlantic Christian College and Campbell College.

Against ACC in Boshamer Stadium Saturday, Matt Wilson ran his record to 6-2 as Carolina slugged out an 11-5 victory with the help of six Bulldog errors.

The contest against Campbell here Monday was probably as well played and exciting as any this summer as the Heels scored a run in the bottom of the tenth inning to win 3-2.

A homer over the left-field fence by Jimmy Waugh tied the game 2-2 in the fourth inning and the drama settled in the bottom of the tenth as UNC got some help from lady luck.

Waugh singled, then stole second after four earlier attempts to steal by UNC

runners failed. With two outs, Kevin Caddell hit a sharp grounder that Campbell's shortstop fielded but threw low to the first basemen who couldn't dig the ball out of the dirt. Meanwhile, Waugh was coming home and before Campbell knew what happened, the Tar Heels were having a victory celebration at home plate.

The Tar Heels try to clinch the regular season championship in their last three games which include UNC-Wilmington away on July 29, East Carolina there July 30, and Carolina's last home game August 1 against the visiting Pirates at 7:30 p.m.

Playoffs involving the top four teams begin in Boshamer Stadium Tuesday August 3 and will end with the championship game Thursday August 4. The double elimination tournament will involve UNC, Louisburg, Methodist and East Carolina.



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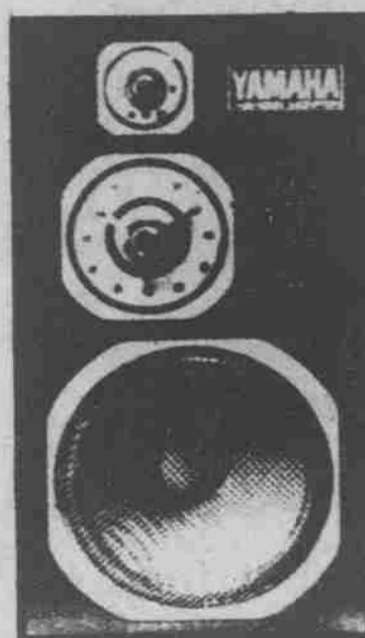
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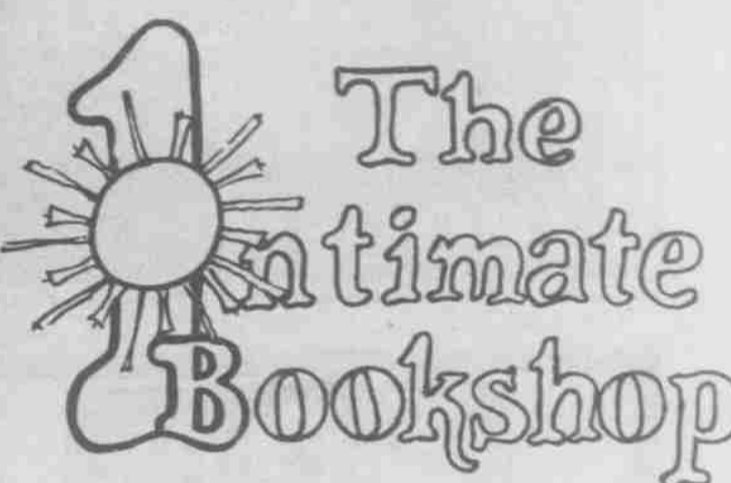
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