

Hot bats lead Carolina to regular season title



Staff photo by L. C. Barbour

Mound ace Matt Wilson was one of three Carolina pitchers who remained undefeated with four or more decisions coming into the last week of the season.

By JOHN MOORE
Staff Writer

Coach Mike Roberts' UNC baseball Tar Heels finally put the rest of the teams in the North Carolina Collegiate Baseball League out of their misery by clinching the regular season title Saturday night.

The clincher came at the expense of Louisburg, 13-7. The Heels had defeated Louisburg last Wednesday night to assure them of at least a tie for the regular season Championship.

The Tar Heels started out Saturday night unlike a team that's won 24 out of 27 games this summer. Louisburg got off to a 4-0 lead in the first inning with the help of two UNC errors and appeared to have the Heels in command.

But just as they have done all summer, the Heels came right back. This time they unloaded five runs in their half of the first with left fielder Steve Beach connecting on a Kevin Niewalis fastball for a grand slam home run. Niewalis, the Louisburg starter had walked in UNC's first run before Beach's blow.

Beach, who led UNC with a 3-for-5 night, also homered again in the third inning immediately following teammate Lloyd

Brewer's shot over the rightfield fence. Designated hitter Laird Williams added a fourth home run for the Tar Heels in the fifth inning off Hurricane reliever Lyn Bradley.

Assistant coach Randy Warrick, who along with Bobby Guthrie, led the team in Roberts' absence, said he's never seen anything like the UNC home run explosion in his two years at Chapel Hill.

Eight different Tar Heels contributed to the 11 hit attack. Beach added five more RBI's for the night, hiking his total for the season to 16. Brewer had a single to go along with his home run and three RBI's. P. J. Gay had two singles, scored three times and stole two bases.

The only bright spot in the Louisburg lineup was catcher John Gourley, who had two doubles and a triple, but struck out his last two times at bat.

UNC starter Monte DeRatt, who wasn't particularly sharp, gave up nine hits and seven walks, but managed to go the full nine innings helped by the abundance of support by his teammates' bats.

The Tar Heels had a much tougher time with the second place Hurricanes in last Wednesday night's road game. Led by Mike Fox's homer, double, and single the Heels managed a 5-4 victory.

E. Carrington Smith

Ardent Tar Heel supporter remained loyal

While most of the populace of Chapel Hill has been wavering in their opinion of the performance of UNC head football coach Bill Dooley and the football Tar Heels, there was always one voice which remained in Carolina's corner come feast or famine. His name was E. Carrington Smith.

There was no room for pessimism in Smith's life, a life dedicated to public service in one aspect or another. He began with the Carolina Theatre, a business he ran until the

last several years. He was always involved in such civic functions as the March of Dimes and the Rotary Club. He was concerned about the community as no one person ever could be. "Carrington" was probably looking forward to this football season just as he has anticipated the last 50. Unfortunately, he didn't get the chance to see the 1977 Tar Heels.

Suffering from diabetes and failing eyesight, Smith died Monday, his age a

secret to himself and a birth certificate. Most people estimated Smith to be in his seventies.

Though illness crept up on him, Carrington never let it interfere with his pursuit of Carolina football. He could only recall twice ever missing a Carolina football game, either home or on the road, truly a remarkable record. In addition to his game record, Smith could be seen attending practices, a habit he has maintained for over 25 years.

When he wasn't chasing football in his early days, he was running the Carolina Theatre, a landmark in Chapel Hill. He opened the theatre in 1927, showing silent movies, but as the theatre business grew, Smith grew with it. It was the first theatre in the South to have Sunday performances, the first outside New York to show foreign language films, the first movie theatre in the South to integrate its audiences, and the first

movie house to schedule double features.

Football, however, was the prime mover in his life. Smith always showed up at practices and made every game. When UNC was showcasing such stars as George Barclay and Paul Severin, Smith recognized a need to help those and other athletes who had come a long way from home to play here. Thus, the Educational Foundation was established.

"He wanted the University to have a real good athletic program as well as good academics," said Ernie Williamson, director of the foundation. "I think he could see the thing was going to grow."

Smith performed little favors for the players that few of them will forget. When Barclay and Severin came from the coal mines of Pennsylvania, he went out of his way to take them in and provide a sort of

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