

The 1918 squad: one of Carolina's earliest baseball teams

the Atlantic Coast Conference four times.

He retired last season, his 31st as a Carolina baseball coach. Rabb amassed over 500 wins in his career in Chapel Hill and guided many players to stardom in the ACC, and a few more to success in the big leagues.

Also, the former coach is the instigator of the present North Carolina Summer Collegiate baseball league, and is one of the major advocates of summer baseball.

The former intramural director and assistant athletic director said he thought that eventually the National Collegiate Athletic Association will see the logic of

scheduling baseball during the summer and revoke some of the restrictions placed on baseball during the summer.

"During the early days at Carolina, there were hardly any (scholarship players). Our grant-in-aid would be a job in Lenoir Dining Hall and a room in Emerson Stadium. You couldn't pay a boy to stay in Emerson Stadium today because everybody's used to everything being so much nicer."

Most of those players who passed through Rabb's doors went on to careers in baseball, or in some instances, football.

Danny Talbott is Carolina's career leader in hits with 121 from 1965-67, and in batting

average (.357) and second in total doubles. In a single season, Talbott holds the team record for hits (51) and doubles (12). Talbott was first team all-ACC quarterback in 1965, and led the East to a win in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco that season. He was drafted by the Washington Redskins.

With the need for a new stadium arising from the imminent demolition of Emerson to make way for a new student union, Rabb talked with University officials and got them to designate land below Ridge Road on South Campus as a site for the new field. The land had been filled in from dirt from excavation sites all over campus. The left field line was 310 feet, with a high screen at the foul pole. More dirt was filled in, and the line now extends to 336 feet.

Rabb, along with the director of the Educational Foundation, Ernie Williamson, contacted Cary G. Boshamer and requested that he start an endowment fund for the foundation. Boshamer's assets, which were

considerable, were injected, and the drive for a new park was on.

Boshamer also contributed the lights, the dugouts, and eventually the present stadium structure. "We drew up some tentative plans," Rabb said, "and thought we were going to spend about \$150,000. The whole thing came up to about \$600,000." Downstairs locker facilities and showers were soon added. Presently, in addition to the baseball team, the fencing team and football team has temporary headquarters below the stands.

The stadium itself has captured great moments. The first game in the stadium was a no-hit loss to Maryland; Coach Rabb scored his 500th win against South Carolina in Boshamer, and the New York Yankees came to town last April for an exhibition.

"The game got started through the interests of an Alumnus, Greg Poole, who was a real good personal friend and business associate of Mr. (George) Steinbrenner. It was a fine thing."

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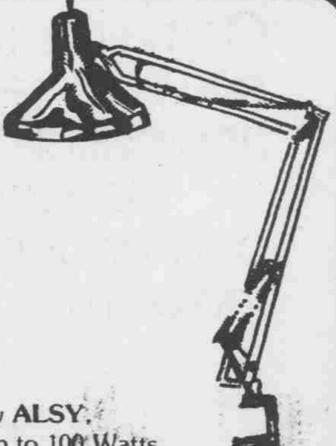
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