

Tourney starts today

Tar Heels persevere in Summer League

By R.L. BYNUM
Sports Editor

This summer, baseball Carolina-style has not quite remained in the same fashion as the successful spring team. It is comparable to JV basketball games that precede each regular season cage encounter.

A junior college team comes in and sees a chance to beat the team in Tar Heel uniforms, therefore they go all out as if they were battling the varsity team. The Carolina squad, however, is just the JV team.

Following a banner spring season that surged Carolina to the World Series, North Carolina Summer League members couldn't wait to get their shot at the nation's third-ranked team. When the Tar Heel blue invaded Boshamer Stadium for summer league play, however, it was almost a completely different squad. As the season passed, the team has shrunk week by week, taking on an even greater change.

"When they (opponents) come in here," says summer league co-coach Bobby Guthrie, "they are thinking about the team that went to Omaha, not the fact that there are several JV guys on the team. They are going, after us with everything they've got, there's no doubt about that."

Of the present starters, only three, J.D. Henderson, Phil Griffin and Kevin Caddell, remain from the spring squad's first-string line-up. Lloyd Brewer, who

was behind the plate for every spring game, is out for the year after he came down with mono.

The pitching staff was, with the exception of Rich Yonaker, comprised completely of spring players. However, that supply has been depleted.

Spring hurlers Monte DeRatt, Charlie Beverly and James 'Peanut' Parks, who all started the summer with the team, have since left for various reasons. Their departure has left Carolina with just a four-man pitching staff of David Kirk, Mike Brewer, Yonaker and Greg Norris. Norris, however, attends only the games in which he starts.

"It puts a little more pressure on our pitchers to know that they have to pitch seven to eight innings," says Guthrie. "They know that when they get the ball, that they'll be out there for a while."

In a one week stretch which ended last Thursday, the Heels dropped seven games in a row to knock them out of the regular season race. "We lost at least three games that were one-run ball games," recalls Guthrie. "We were in those games, but just didn't get the hits at the right time."

"We've been a little inconsistent with our hitting and fielding at times. Our pitchers aren't used to pitching as much as they've had to," says Guthrie.

"David Kirk didn't pitch but maybe five games the whole spring" and now he's pitching every third or fourth day. I think that the pitching depth has definitely hurt us," says Guthrie.

The Tar Heels began a winning streak Friday night, as Rich Yonaker pitched an 8-6 win. Saturday night, in front of a hefty Merchants Night crowd, Yonaker was again the hero. He scored on a wild play at home plate in the bottom of the tenth inning to give the team a thrilling 5-4 victory over UNC-W.

Even though Carolina had only 10 players on the squad Sunday night, they swept away a double-header from UNC-W, 4-2 and 7-4. The Tar Heels, with the help of this past weekend's wins, move into the upcoming double-elimination

championship tournament in second place.

The team wrapped up their regular season Monday by being whipped by Atlantic Christian College 9-3. Greg Norris took the loss. "I think we have a good shot at it," said Guthrie of his team's chances in the tournament. "I think the pitchers that we've got are going to do a real good job, and that's what it takes to win a double-elimination."

The tournament begins tonight at Louisburg and continues through Saturday.



Intramurals are swinging into their last week of round robin play and single elimination tournaments will begin early next week. The softball tournament will open up Monday, July 31, with the Bats as the favorites. Tuesday, August 1, volleyball teams start their tourney, with Mish, the Misfits and CCCP among the favorites.

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