

ACC tennis

Despite poor conference record, Heels are confident

By NORMAN CANNADA
Staff Writer

Although the UNC men's tennis team enters this weekend's ACC Tournament in Charlottesville with one of its worst records in recent years, the Tar Heels are still confident of their chances to repeat as conference champions for the 10th consecutive season.

"I think we can really put it together," Carolina coach Don Skakle said of his team's chances in the upcoming tournament. "If we can just believe that we're good, then we'll play that way."

One of the bright spots in the Heels' 15-9 overall record and 1-4 ACC mark has been the play of Gary Taxman and Dek Potts in the No. 1 doubles position. The Taxman-Potts combination has reeled off an impressive 18-0 mark this season and are a favorite to win this weekend.

"I think Gary and I both play better in doubles than we do in the singles," Potts said. "I don't think there is anyone better than us in the conference, and if we play reasonably well, we should win it."

Potts' performance at his No. 5 singles position has not been quite as successful. "I've been pretty disappointed in my singles play," he said. "I've lost eight matches this year, but I didn't think I should have lost more than two."

Only a freshman, Ray Disco has held his own

against more experienced opponents at his No. 2 singles and No. 3 doubles positions. "It's been okay, but it could have been better," Disco said of his season. "Most everyone I've played against this year, I could have certainly beaten."

Disco added that one of the main reasons for Carolina's sub-par season has been its failure to win the close matches. "We have just been letting some of the close matches get away from us," he said. "I still think we have as good of a chance to win this weekend as anyone else in the conference."

Potts said another reason the Tar Heels are not winning as many matches this year has been a lack of intensity in the team's play. "Everyone has had some matches where they weren't absorbed into their match. We have also been playing timid and hitting the ball with a lot of insecurity."

In their last match of the season, the Tar Heels lost a narrow 5-4 decision at Duke Tuesday afternoon. Skakle said he did not feel the loss, which came a day after his squad's first ACC victory over Maryland, would affect the players' confidence going into the tournament.

"I don't think the loss will hurt us any more than State or Clemson did," Skakle said referring to two of the Heels' other close matches. "It would have been good to have beaten Duke, but we've got to concentrate on playing well this weekend." Carolina will be going to the tournament a day

earlier than most of the other teams to finish a rain-delayed match with host Virginia Thursday afternoon in Charlottesville. The two teams split the singles matches 3-3 on March 23 in Chapel Hill before rain halted play.

Skakle said the Tar Heels have a very good chance to win four of the six singles flights in the tourney: No. 1 (Taxman), 2 (Disco), 4 (Chris Fenichell) and 5 (Potts). "I think those are the best shots in singles," he said. "I still have a lot of confidence in our doubles teams, and I think all three of them will be in contention."

Potts agreed that the Tar Heels should be contenders in almost every position. "I'm not counting our chances out in any division," he said. "I really don't know of anyone in the conference who has a lock on any one position."

As for teams to beat in this weekend's tournament, Potts said that Clemson, State and the Tar Heels should be the main contenders. "Clemson is the regular season champion so maybe they should be favored, but this is just like the basketball tournament—it's a whole new ballgame and past records don't count."

Singles
Gary Taxman (UNC) d. Ruby Forgas 7-5, 6-1, David Robinson (D) d. Ray Disco 7-5, 3-4, 6-1, John Stauffer (D) d. Neal Carl 6-2, 6-4, Chris Fenichell (UNC) d. Mike McMahon 6-3, 6-2, Ross Dubins (D) d. Dek Potts 7-5, 6-2, David Boissevain (D) d. Tom Buford 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles
Taxman-Potts (UNC) d. Forgas-McMahon 4-6, 6-2, 7-6, Robinson-Stauffer (D) d. Fenichell-Buford 7-5, 7-5, Disco-Carl (UNC) d. Dubins-Boissevain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.



No. 3 singles player Neal Carl . . . Heels in ACC tourney



Dek Potts

Beat Campbell on Tuesday

Heels drop game to Wake, 10-7

From Staff Reports

WINSTON-SALEM—Wake Forest overcame an early Carolina lead to take a 10-7 ACC baseball victory from the Tar Heels here Wednesday.

Carolina jumped on top with three runs in the second inning and added four more in the fourth to take a 7-3 lead.

Wake came back to take an 8-7 lead in the seventh inning and then added back-to-back home runs in the eighth to secure the victory.

The Tar Heels had two men on base with no outs in the eighth and ninth innings but could not score.

Blaine Smith, a senior right-hander, started on the mound for the Heels and was replaced in the fifth by James "Peanut" Parks. Parks took the loss and falls to 3-3. Craig Shumock led the Tar Heel

hitting attack with a home run, double and three RBIs. Jim Atkinson and Jim Rouse had two hits each.

Both Carolina and Wake totaled 10 hits each. The Tar Heels committed two errors while the Deacons made four.

Meanwhile, Tuesday night the Heels won another wooly one, downing Campbell College 8-6 in Boshamer Stadium. A two-run double by Kevin Caddell in the eighth inning gave Carolina the come-from-behind win.

The real story in the game, though, was in the other two columns of the line score. The two teams combined

for 25 hits and eight errors.

Most of the hits were singles into shallow left and right field. UNC second baseman Roy Clark had the longest shot of the evening with a triple to the center field warning track in the third inning.

Run explosions by the Camels forced the Tar Heels to play catch-up most of the evening. Both squads scored twice in the second inning, and Carolina took a 4-2 lead in the third off a single by Jim Atkinson and a double by Jim Rouse.

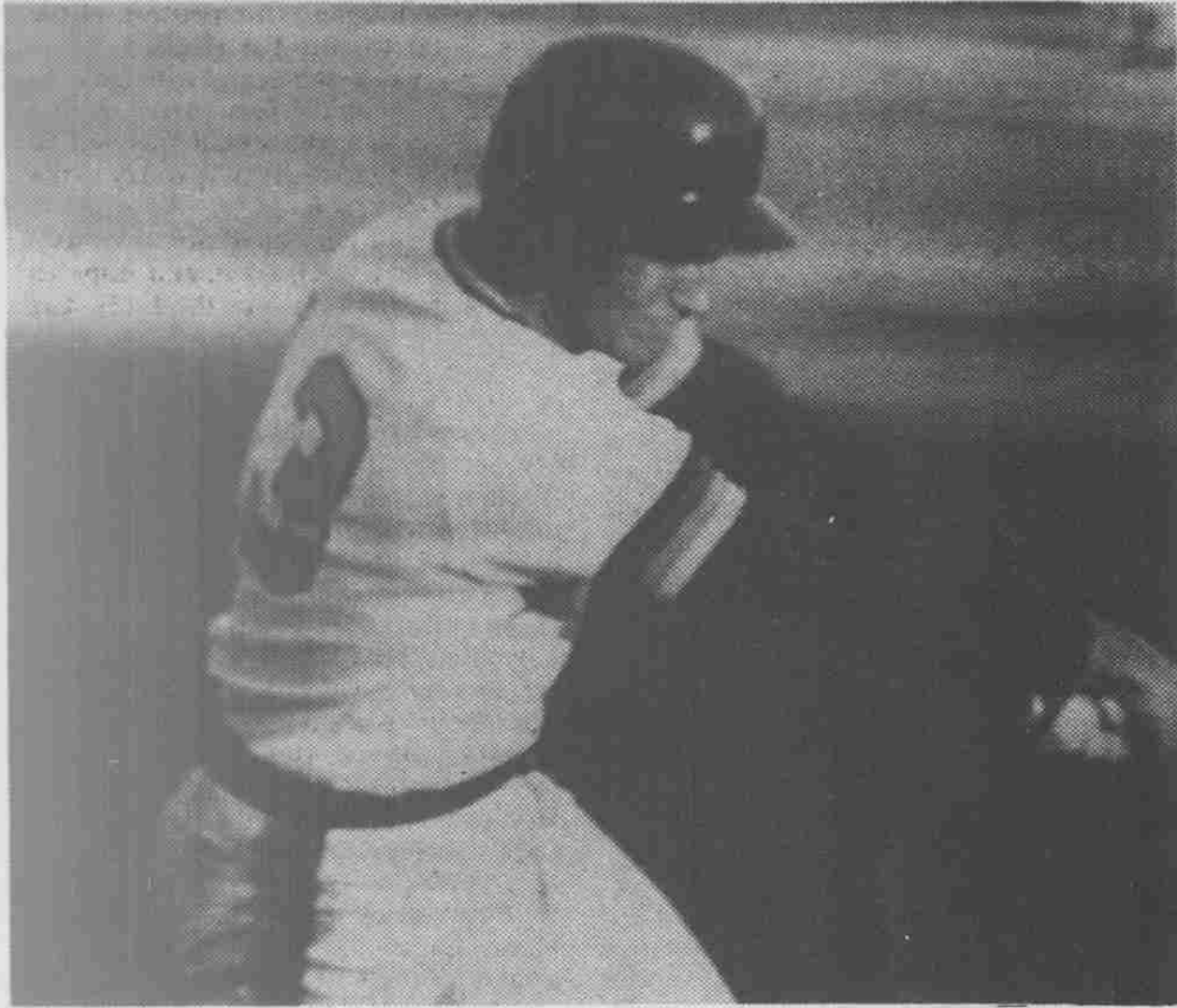
In the fourth, however, Campbell charged ahead, scoring four more runs. UNC answered with a run in the

bottom of the fourth, then again in the seventh, to tie the game at 6-6 going into the eighth inning.

Leading the Tar Heel hitters were Caddell, and shortstop Craig Shumock, each with two RBIs. Lloyd Brewer, Atkinson and Rouse also had RBIs.

Steve Streater took the win for Carolina, relieving starter Dave Kirk in the fourth inning.

The Tar Heels, now 21-14 overall and 4-4 in the ACC, host Pfeiffer at 7:30 Friday night in Boshamer Stadium. They travel to Raleigh Saturday for a 2 p.m. contest with N.C. State.



DTH/Andy James

Tar Heel freshman shortstop Craig Shumock . . . three hits vs. Campbell, two vs. Wake

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I DREAD GETTING OLD... WILL YOU LOVE ME WHEN I'M OLD AND CRABBY?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRABBY, YOU KNOW

BUT IT'S HARD TO CHANGE

NOT IF YOU CHANGED GRADUALLY... YOU COULD BE NICE IN THE MORNING AND CRABBY IN THE AFTERNOON

BUT I'D STILL BE OLD ALL DAY!

DOONESBURY by Garry Trudeau

IT'S JUST INCREDIBLE! YOU GUYS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!

WELL, WE STILL HAVE OUR HAIR. THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!

BOY, AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH? SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, ANYWAY?

WELL, I'M WITH THE LEHMAN NOW. I'M ALREADY A JUNIOR PARTNER. NO LESS!

FANTASTIC! HOW ABOUT YOU, ALI?

IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE ALLAH BY SITTING ON THE APTOLLAH'S ISLAMIC TRIBUNAL.

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