



UNC's Scott Johnson slides into second base
... Delaware came back to beat UNC 6-5.

Tar Heel/Jeff Neuville

JMU wins

*Delaware, Citadel put a stop to
UNC's World Series hopes*

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The 1983 NCAA East Regional Baseball Tournament held at Boshamer Stadium last weekend was a disappointment for UNC and its baseball team.

Not only did the Tar Heels end their season a little bit earlier than expected, losing to The Citadel and Delaware in the double-elimination tournament, but sparse attendance and sporadic rain storms interfered with Carolina's efforts to be the perfect hosts.

For James Madison University however, the tournament was a tremendous success. James Madison went undefeated throughout the tournament and will go on to represent the East at the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska next week.

The tournament began on Thursday with sixth seeded James Madison upsetting No. 1 seed South Carolina, 9-4. That loss set the tone for a chaotic afternoon as a torrential 20 minute rain storm delayed the start of the second game three hours.

UNC Coach Mike Roberts shed shirt and shoes and joined the Boshamer grounds crew in their feverish attempts to make the field playable so the tournament could go on.

Three hours later, after holes were dug in the infield for drainage and sand poured in the basepaths, the field was fit enough to play on. But Mother Nature responded with an even harder barrage of rain and hail that forced the cancellation of the remaining two games scheduled for Thursday.

With the schedule revised, four games were played on Friday, with the last one ending well after midnight. The Citadel crushed Delaware 14-5, and then UNC rolled over William and Mary 11-0 to end the first round.

Delaware sent last year's winners, South Carolina, back home by beating the Gamecocks 12-11 in 11 innings. James Madison eliminated William and Mary 13-8 in the marathon game that started well after 10 p.m. and lasted until almost 1 a.m.

Carolina's bubble was burst Saturday morning as The Citadel held off a Carolina rally to win 5-3. The Tar Heels then had to beat Delaware immediately following their loss to The Citadel in order to advance in the tournament. Although ahead 4-2 in the ninth inning, the Heels managed to squander their lead and lost to the Blue Hens 6-5.

With Carolina's season over, the fans stayed away and missed James Madison's 5-2 victory over The Citadel. Only about 350 people watched the championship game between James Madison and Delaware on Sunday. As could be expected, Carolina's three games drew the most fans, with a high of 1,125 witnessing Saturday morning's game between the Tar Heels and The Citadel.

Going into Sunday, James Madison remained the only undefeated team in the tournament, while Delaware and The Citadel had one loss each. In the fight for survival between Delaware and The Citadel, Delaware won, 7-1. A few scattered showers threatened to ruin the championship game, but the Boshamer grounds crew again made the necessary repairs to keep the tournament going.

James Madison managed to squeak out a 6-5 victory and the tournament championship in a game that could have gone either way at any time.

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