

It's ACC baseball tourney time in Atlanta

North Carolina is slight favorite

By KURT ROSENBERG
Staff Writer

Just inside the North Carolina clubhouse under the stands at Boshamer Stadium, a piece of yellow legal paper hangs on the wall. Scratched hastily in black magic marker, the message is clear: "40+."

The sign represents the unofficial requirement for a trip to the NCAA regionals. Forty or more wins will assure the North Carolina baseball team a fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAAs. And 40 is the exact number of wins the Tar Heels will have if they win a fourth consecutive ACC tournament this week.

The ACC coaches — UNC's Mike Roberts excluded — slept easily Tuesday night. They went to bed with the knowledge that upon arising this morning, ready for the first round of the tournament, they would not be awakening in the state of North Carolina, but rather in Atlanta. For the first time in six years, the tournament will be held outside the Triangle area of North Carolina. It was in Raleigh in 1980, in Chapel Hill from 1981-83 and in Durham last year.

The general consensus is that the ACC coaches noticed a distinct correlation between the site of the event and the success UNC was having. The Tar Heels believe the tournament was moved from Chapel Hill to Durham because they had won it twice in a row, then to Atlanta when they swept through it last year.

"They're gonna move it to Mexico if we win it this year," North Carolina second baseman Mike Jedziniak says.

But the UNC players said they felt that moving it to Saskatchewan, or even to New Zealand, would make little

difference. Certainly, they would rather play at home. But the Tar Heels' approach is that while they can take the tournament away from North Carolina, they can't take the tournament championship away from UNC.

"We're the ACC champions," Jedziniak says. "We're the team to beat, and I think we're gonna win this tournament, too. We know what we have to do to win. If I put myself in another dude's shoes on another team, I'd be saying, 'God, these guys have won three in a row, and they won it in five games (the minimum) last year.'"

The irony is that while the Tar Heels generally are viewed as the team to beat in this year's balanced tournament, they enter it seeded only third. Virginia and Clemson finished their conference schedules with records of 9-4, and the Cavaliers emerged as the top seed after winning a coin toss. UNC finished at 9-4-1, N.C. State at 8-5, Georgia Tech at 6-7-1, Duke at 5-8-1, Maryland at 5-8 and Wake Forest at 1-12-1. Had it not been for the Tar Heels' suspended March 19th game against Duke being ruled a tie after UNC had taken a 6-2 lead, however, they would have finished in first place.

North Carolina opens the tournament today at 10 a.m. against Duke. The Tar Heels will start Greg Karpuk (5-2, 2.97 ERA) and if they win will probably have Roger Williams throw on Thursday against either Clemson or Maryland. The other games today are Virginia-Wake Forest at 1 p.m., Clemson-Maryland at 4 p.m. and N.C. State-Georgia Tech at 7 p.m.

Virginia, Clemson, UNC, N.C. State and Georgia Tech all appear to have realistic chances of winning the tournament, at least if the remarkable balance that characterized the regular season is an indication.

"It's gonna be the best tournament ever," Roberts says. "There doesn't seem to be a real dominant team. When you realistically look at it, Georgia Tech may be the team to beat because they're playing at home. For everybody else, it's a toss-up."

But predictions all depend on whom you talk to. While Yellow Jackets coach Jim Morris agrees with Roberts, saying,

"It's up for grabs," N.C. State coach Sam Esposito says, "There's no clear-cut favorite, although you sort of have to go with Carolina." And though Clemson's Bill Wilhelm also emphasizes the balance, he too says, "North Carolina is the best."

That might be difficult to dispute when you consider the Tar Heels' play of late. After its dismal 9-10 start, UNC has gone 26-3-1 during the last month. There are no questions about North Carolina's offensive potency. Led by B.J. Surhoff (.405, 13 home runs, 43 RBI, a school-record 69 runs scored, 26 stolen bases and just 3 strikeouts), Scott Johnson (.372, 20 homers, 74 RBI, .782 slugging percentage), Devy Bell (.328, 9 homers, 35 RBI), Chris Lauria (.361) and Walt Weiss (.310), the Tar Heels have accumulated almost eight runs a game and have hit 69 homers.

And their pitching has been solid the last month. Williams (7-1, 2.66 ERA) may be the ACC's best pitcher. Karpuk has had a good year, Brad Powell (3-4, 2.50) has been very sharp recently, and Steve McGuire (3-1, 3.23) is more than adequate. Todd Koczynski (6-2, 3.60) and Tim Kirk (1-1, 2.95) head a deep bullpen.

UNC could have the deepest staff in the conference, and pitching depth generally is viewed as the area in which tournament is won and lost.

But the Tar Heels clearly will have to play better than they did in some of their ACC games this year, when they lost four times after holding the lead. And though they have tradition on their side, in the tournament anything is possible.

"Everyone's tough," Devy Bell says. "It's gonna be neck and neck, like the basketball tournament, where no one had any idea who was gonna win. Nobody can predict who's gonna win the ACC tournament."

A capsule summary of the field:

Virginia Record: 30-10, ACC 9-4. Seed: First Coach: Dennis Womack. Leading Hitters: Jeff Booker .453, 34 RBI; Keith Kowalski .365; Woody Hall .361, 10 HR, 42 RBI; Bill Narleski .342, 8 HR, 42 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Tim Burcham 7-1, 2.68 ERA; Andy Kooz 4-1, 3.20; Bob Malloy 4-2, 4.82; Yogi Biggs 5-1, 3.80.	Georgia Tech Record: 26-11-1, ACC 6-7-1. Seed: Fifth Coach: Jim Morris. Leading Hitters: Steve Newbern .411, 7 HR, 31 RBI; Scott Jordan .396, 6 HR, 35 RBI; Walt McConnell .381, 7 HR, 44 RBI; Pete Geist .350, 6 HR, 30 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Kevin Brown 6-3, 2.53 ERA; Keith Fleming 5-3, 4.56; Roger Kinard 4-0, 2.84.
Clemson Record: 27-17-1, ACC 9-4. Seed: Second Coach: Bill Wilhelm. Leading Hitters: Jim McCallom .406, 16 HR, 53 RBI; Bill Spiers .379; Mark Biegert .361; Dillon .319, 27 RBI. Leading Pitchers: John Pawlowski 7-1, 3.38 ERA; Randy Mazey 4-0, 3.08; George Stone 7-3, 3.28.	Duke Record: 18-13-3, ACC 5-8-1. Seed: Sixth Coach: Larry Smith. Leading Hitters: Bud Nixon .356, 3 HR, 25 RBI; Erik Albright .344; Chip Mathes .330, 21 RBI; Gordie Austin .321. Leading Pitchers: Scott Bromby 8-3, 4.01 ERA; Alan Soyer 3-3, 3.76; Don Fowler 2-4, 4.44.
North Carolina Record: 35-13-1, ACC 9-4-1. Seed: Third Coach: Mike Roberts. Leading Hitters: B.J. Surhoff .405, 13 HR, 43 RBI; Scott Johnson .372, 20 HR, 74 RBI; Devy Bell .328, 9 HR, 35 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Roger Williams 7-1, 2.66 ERA; Greg Karpuk 5-2, 2.97; Todd Koczynski 6-2, 3.60.	Maryland Record: 14-17, ACC 5-8. Seed: Seventh Coach: Jack Jackson. Leading Hitters: Bryan Davenport .417, 4 HR, 36 RBI; Paul Schlagler .386, 10 HR, 32 RBI; Alex Pauley .352, 10 HR, 34 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Dave Karczeski 3-1, 6.63 ERA; Ed Russell 2-5, 5.50; Alex Pauley 1-0, 4.34.
N.C. State Record: 29-14, ACC 8-5. Seed: Fourth Coach: Sam Esposito. Leading Hitters: Doug Strange .388, 7 HR, 41 RBI; Mick Billmeyer .377, 10 HR, 41 RBI; Bob Marczak .365, 32 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Paul Grossman 8-1, 2.51 ERA; Robert Toth 6-0, 3.24; Hugh Brinson 4-3, 3.31.	Wake Forest Record: 22-21-2, ACC 1-12-1. Seed: Eighth Coach: Marvin Crater. Leading Hitters: Tommy Gregg .424, 11 HR, 41 RBI; John Morabito .383, 5 HR, 39 RBI; Darryl Barnes .370, 1 HR, 7 RBI. Leading Pitchers: Keith Ksanskak 4-0, 2.64 ERA; Randy Talley 2-0, 3.20; Mike Featherstone 2-4, 3.80.



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 - From Thursday, March 28, 1985, through Wednesday, July 3, 1985, 94Z will designate at least one song during each working day (Monday through Friday) as the "Money Song." The Money Song will be announced and played in its entirety during the "94Z Morning Zoo." When the Money Song is broadcast again during the preannounced time period, listeners may call the toll-free telephone number (800) 338-9400 or 866-9400 (in Wake County) after the Money Song has been broadcast. The ninth (9th) caller will win a minimum of \$100 and will be eligible to register for a chance to win the Grand Prize.
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 - Once a person has registered for the Grand Prize drawing as a Money Song winner or by any other method, such person may not register again. Money Song winners will not be eligible to win additional cash prizes for a period of thirty (30) days after the Grand Prize is awarded.
 - The 94Z One-Half Million Dollar Cash Giveaway Grand Prize will be awarded by a drawing or other random selection system. 94Z reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, the method of the drawing or other random selection system. The drawing will be held on Thursday, July 4, 1985, at a location and time to be announced. Registrants must be present to win and must present positive proof of age and identification at the time and location of the drawing prior to the award of the Grand Prize.
 - The 94Z One-Half Million Dollar Grand Prize is non-transferable. Results of the drawing will be final.
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