

SPORTS

Pirates of the Carolinian: ECU pillages Boshamer

By MARK ANDERSON
Assistant Sports Editor

What school has the best baseball program in the state of North Carolina? How about the N.C. State Wolfpack, 35-6 on the season and ranked 12th by Collegiate Baseball/ESPN? Or maybe the North Carolina Tar Heels, 31-6 and ranked 11th?

How about the unranked East Carolina Pirates?

Don't laugh. Fresh off an 8-5 win over the Wolfpack Tuesday, ECU pounded the Tar Heels 8-1 yesterday, completing a two-game sweep of UNC this year. The Pirates' fourth straight win ran their record to 30-4, their seventh 30-win campaign in the last nine years — and they still get no respect.

"We're not worried about respect," said Jim Ambrosius, the Pirates' winning pitcher. "Rankings are nice, but we're just trying to get ready for the tournament."

North Carolina didn't take kindly to the season's first night game at Boshamer Stadium, losing for the first time in 24 tries at home. The loss also snapped the Tar Heels' five-game overall win streak, dropping their record to 31-7. UNC's lone bright spot came when ACC player of the week Ron Maurer extended his hitting streak to 23 games in the seventh inning.

"They (the Pirates) were just the better team tonight," UNC head coach Mike Roberts said. "These non-conference, mid-week games always concern me because it's a struggle to get the

guys ready to play. They didn't seem to accept the challenge tonight, which is rare for this year's team."

East Carolina turned the lights out early for UNC with a six-run first inning. Tar Heel lefty Frank Maney lasted only 1/3 of an inning for the second straight start. After striking out the leadoff man, Maney surrendered a line single to left to ECU right fielder Tom Yarborough. He then walked catcher Tommy Eason and first baseman Calvin Brown to load the bases.

Pirate third baseman John Gast ripped a double just inside third to score the night's first two runs and draw a trip to the mound from Roberts. The coach had an animated discussion with his struggling lefty.

"I told him he had to throw the curve and the change for strikes," Roberts said. "He doesn't throw hard enough to get people out with only a fastball."

Much to Roberts' dismay, Maney proceeded to prove his coach's predictions immediately. First, he couldn't throw a strike to designated hitter Corey Short, which loaded the bases. Then, he couldn't throw a 3-2 fastball hard enough to get the Pirates' top hitter Steve Godin out.

With the help of a strong wind, Godin drove Maney's payoff pitch over the 400-foot mark in center for a grand slam, staking ECU to a 6-0 lead.

"Frank did a poor job tonight, and that's his last start," Roberts said. "He threw nothing but the fastball for strikes, and you can't do that. We tried to get

him one more start, but he's done. He won't pitch again until he proves he can throw three pitches for strikes."

That six-run cushion served perfectly to calm the nerves of ECU freshman starter Ambrosius. Making his first appearance in college, the lefty tamed the Tar Heels to the tune of no runs and four hits over six innings.

"That six-run lead made it a lot easier," Ambrosius said. "I didn't know I was going to start until two hours before the game. But I've been ready; I was just waiting for the call."

After missing half the season with a stress fracture in his lower back, Ambrosius answered coach Gary Overton's call perfectly. He allowed only two balls to leave the infield during his stint — a weak pop by catcher Rich Griffith that fell between three Pirates in right field and right fielder Todd Nichols' fly out to right.

Ambrosius did get himself into trouble with seven walks, but the Tar Heels' potent offense (12th nationally at 8.14 runs a game) failed to capitalize.

"I had a good mix of pitches," he said. "My slider was working well, and I really worked spots tonight. I was confident, but it was only my first game so I never felt in complete control."

But after adding an insurance run in the second, the Pirates were in complete control. UNC reliever Mike Lanier walked Eason to start the frame, and Brown bounced a single in the hole between first and second. Roberts



UNC reliever Rich Hernandez mopped up Wednesday's disappointing 8-1 loss to East Carolina

DTH/Kathy Michel

brought in lefty Rich Fernandez, who enticed Gast into a fly ball to left.

Eason appeared to tag and score from third but was called out when the Tar Heels appealed. But Fernandez could not escape, as Short drove a run-scoring triple to the base of the wall in right.

North Carolina mustered its only tally in the seventh inning off ECU reliever Mike Whitten. Happy to see Ambrosius gone, UNC designated hitter Chad Holbrook greeted Whitten with a walk, one of five he drew on the evening. Maurer followed with his bad-hop hit,

putting runners on first and second. First baseman Brad Woodall, substituting for the ill Steve Estroff, moved the runners with a ground out back to Whitten. Left fielder Mark Kingston then drove in his 16th run of the year with a sacrifice fly to left.

Jimmy goes to camp

Dougherty combines laughs with strikes

By JAMIE ROSENBERG
Sports Editor

Hey baseball moms: Need something to keep your sons busy during those long afternoon hours? Wanna make sure your little Tar Heels stay out of trouble on road trips?

Well, all you have to do is fill out a few forms and drop your athletic offspring off at Boshamer Stadium. Camp Dougherty is in session.

The day's activities may include everything from locker-room floor hockey to full-court Nerf hoops, all courtesy of that fun-loving director, UNC pitching ace Jim Dougherty.

Your son will wear Carolina blue, travel to exotic lands such as Clemson, S.C., and hang out with one of the Atlantic Coast Conference's biggest sports nuts — with a strong emphasis on the "nut" part.

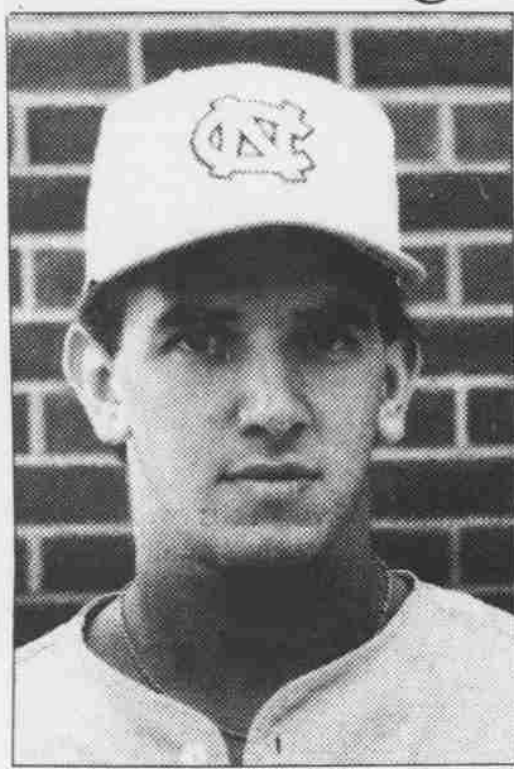
"Anytime we're some place and it's boring, like the Citadel or the locker room, Jim usually finds a ball and something else to play hockey with or basketball with," said Michael Hoog, Dougherty's roommate and partner on a powerful UNC pitching staff. "He's just always going like that."

"At the Citadel one time he bought two Nerf hoops and put them at either end and we ran full-court basketball with the Nerf hoops."

"He started hockey in the locker room. We have a training table, and he's got his stick and we've got goalie pads down there. He gets his stick and starts scoring on people and does the play-by-play the whole time."

Activities at Camp Dougherty, as his teammates have affectionately dubbed it, are supplemented each day with jokes, pranks and various sports trivia. Anything goes, and no one is spared.

Come game time, however, Director Dougherty takes a break and turns into one of the ACC's best pitchers. Using a sidearm delivery for the first time in his career, the right-hander from Brentwood, N.Y., has blazed through his senior season with a 7-2



Jim Dougherty

record and all the seriousness of one bent on receiving a call from a Major League club in June. He leads the conference in innings pitched (78.2), holds a share of the top spot in victories and stands at second in complete games (4) and strike outs (66). He is also tops on UNC's all-time strike out list with 260.

"I think he's improved drastically over the last 12 to 24 months," UNC head coach Mike Roberts said. "He's matured in his understanding of what he's got to do as a pitcher to be the best pitcher in the ACC, not just one of the best pitchers."

Dougherty's maturity and seriousness, though, stay between the white lines. With a team doing as well as the 31-7 Tar Heels, anything can happen when he walks off the field.

"It's hard to joke when you're losing," Dougherty said. "Jokes don't always go over too well when guys are uptight because you're not playing well, but this is prime time, because we are doing well and everything just gets accepted."

When Dougherty chooses to be serious, life is no summer camp for opposing hitters. Mixing up a fastball,

changeup and slider — all thrown sidearm — the 6-foot-1, 200-pounder has not allowed more than three earned runs in any of his starts this season, and he struck out 10 in a March 23 victory over Maryland.

"Our confidence has risen dramatically this year in Jim Dougherty," Roberts said. "I think that he and Michael Hoog are the best two pitchers in the ACC, and I think Jimmy can beat anybody in the country."

Roberts has been most pleased with Dougherty's switch to the sidearm delivery from the overhand motion he used last season. Coming out of the bullpen most of 1989, Dougherty posted a 6-3 record with a 3.61 ERA and four saves — not shabby numbers by any means, but ones Roberts and pitching coach Mark Halvorsen felt could be better.

"Jimmy's biggest problem his first three years was his consistency in the strike zone," Halvorsen said. "So what we did was we played around in the fall with him just dropping his arm down and being kind of in between a sidearm and a submariner."

"What it did immediately was it helped his consistency in the strike zone. His walk ratio (2.52 per nine innings, second in the ACC) has been outstanding."

For now, Dougherty will keep mixing business with pleasure in helping UNC in its quest to return to the College World Series. Nothing would make him happier than avenging a 6-0 loss to Mississippi State in an NCAA South Regional game last year. Nothing, that is, except winning a national championship.

"I'll even take another loss in the regional if we get a chance to go back to the World Series again," he said. "No one on the team's going to be satisfied unless we go back to Omaha and do better than we did last year."

Beyond that, Camp Dougherty will travel wherever its director finds a need for a few laughs and a good starting pitcher.

Oiled Expos down Cardinals 6-4

From Associated Press Reports

ST. LOUIS — Oil Can Boyd won his first National League start and Tim Raines hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh inning as the Montreal Expos beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-4 Wednesday and averted a three-game sweep.

Boyd, who left Boston to sign with Montreal as a free agent on Dec. 7, gave up four hits and three runs in six innings, struck out four and walked two. He was only 3-2 last season, missing

four months with a blood clot in his right shoulder.

Tim Burke, the fourth Montreal pitcher, got the final four outs for his first save and finished the seven-hitter.

With the score tied 3-3 in the seventh, Marquis Grissom blooped a one-out double, stole third and scored when Raines flied out to right off Greg Mathews, 0-1.

Montreal added two runs in the eighth on Delino DeShields' RBI single and Raines' run-scoring groundout. Pedro

Guerrero drove in three Cardinals runs with a two-run homer in the fourth and an RBI single in the sixth. Jose Oquendo hit an RBI single in the ninth.

Cardinals starter Jose DeLeon gave up three runs and eight hits in five innings, struck out six and walked two. Mike Fitzgerald's RBI single in the second gave Montreal the lead. Boyd retired the first 10 batters before Willie McGee singled with one out in the fourth and scored on Guerrero's first home run.

On Tap

Today

SOFTBALL, vs. UNC-Wilmington, Finley Field, 6:00 p.m.
MEN'S TENNIS, at Duke, 2:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S TENNIS, vs. Duke, Tennis Center, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13

BASEBALL, at Virginia, 3:00 p.m.
MEN'S GOLF, at Iron Duke Classic, Durham, All Day
SOFTBALL, at East Carolina, 5:00 p.m.
WOMEN'S TENNIS, at Virginia, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 14

BASEBALL, at Virginia, 2:00 p.m.
MEN'S GOLF, at Iron Duke Classic, Durham, All Day
LACROSSE, vs. Virginia, Kenan, 2:00 p.m.
MEN'S TENNIS, vs. Virginia Tech, Tennis Center, 1:30 p.m.
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK, Florida, Kansas, Southern California, Gainesville, Fla., TBA

Sunday, April 15

BASEBALL, at Virginia, 2:00 p.m.
MEN'S GOLF, at Iron Duke Classic, Durham, All Day

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

THURSDAY

Women's Tennis

vs.

Duke

2:00 pm

Tennis Center

Hardee's

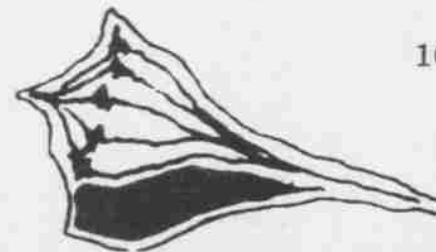
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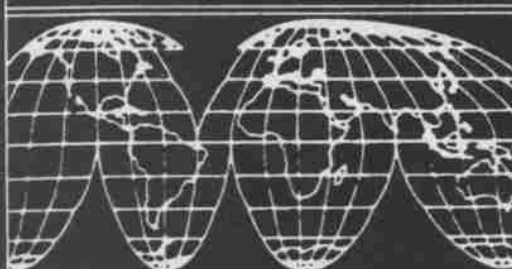
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