

North Turns Panthers Into 'Mintz Meat'

BY DOUG RUTTER

Thousands of irritating gnats buzzing around Scorpion Field may have been the most menacing thing Paul Mintz faced last Tuesday when the Tar Heel Panthers visited for a high school baseball game.

Mintz certainly didn't have any problem with the Tar Heel batters. The senior left-hander pitched a one-hitter and recorded 17 strikeouts as North Brunswick rolled to an 8-0 win.

Casey McBride ripped a pair of doubles and Jeff Clark had two singles for the Scorpions, who improved to 2-0 in the Three Rivers Conference and 6-5 overall.

"I've never seen the gnats like this," North Brunswick Coach Keith Moore said as he tried to shoo the bugs away with his ball cap. "I think the humidity brought them out."

Nobody could keep the bugs away, but Mintz did a fine job of shooing Tar Heel's batters back to their dugout. A third-inning bloop single to left field by Ray Marlowe was all that separated Mintz from a no-hitter.

"Paul struggled a little bit early. He was aiming the ball a little bit instead of throwing it," Moore said. "As the game went on I felt like he got stronger."

Mintz (3-0) issued three walks in the first three innings, but did not experience any control problems the rest of the way. He struck out seven

straight batters at one point.

Only one Tar Heel batter reached base in the final four innings, and that was when Mintz committed an error while covering the bag on a ground ball to first base.

Most of the night Mintz threw his blazing fastball, which has been clocked in the mid-80s. Tar Heel's players could not keep up with the heater, and they were usually off balance when Mintz used his off-speed pitches.

The Scorpions, who notched their fourth win in the last five games, got all the runs they needed in the bottom of the first as Tar Heel committed two errors.

Jeremy Sullivan walked and scored on a wild pitch, and Jeremy Child was hit by a pitch and later scored from second base on a bad pickoff throw.

The Scorpions added three runs in the fourth inning. Mintz led off with a triple to left field and scored when Tar Heel pitcher Jamie Kinlaw uncorked another wild pitch.

James Ellis followed with a double down the right field line and Clark laid down a bunt single to put runners at the corners. After Clark stole second base, both runners scored on a wild pitch and an error.

Leading 5-0, the Scorpions padded their lead with three more runs in the fifth. McBride belted a ground-rule double to right-center field and Child followed with an

RBI single.

Catcher Robert Hewett brought Child home on a triple to center field. Hewett later scored on a ground-out by Ellis.

Coach Moore praised the play of Ellis and David Brew, two new faces in the starting lineup. Ellis had a double and RBI, and Brew played well defensively and was robbed of a hit in the fifth when he smacked a line drive to center field.

Moore said he gave the Scorpions

a couple days off following their second-place finish at the Seashell Invitational tournament over Easter break.

"I think we're fortunate to get a win coming off the break," he said. "It started out a little slow. The hitters were a little over-anxious to start. We made the adjustment around the fourth inning."

Game Summary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Tar Heel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | —0 | 13 |
| N. Bruns. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 881 |

Scorpions Top St. Pauls

North Brunswick rode the strong pitching of Casey McBride to a 5-1 win over host St. Pauls last Thursday in a Three Rivers Conference high school baseball game.

McBride struck out 11 batters and allowed just three hits as he improved his season pitching record to 3-0 in the conference and 7-5 overall.

Senior shortstop Jeremy Child belted a solo home run and Joey Fowler added a double for the Scorpions, who had five hits in the game.

North Brunswick, which has won five of its last six games, had a home game scheduled Tuesday against Bladenboro. The Scorpions

will travel to Red Springs on Thursday.

Game Summary

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| N. Bruns. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | —5 | 52 |
| St. Pauls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | —1 | 30 |



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER
PAUL MINTZ struck out 17 batters and pitched a one-hitter last Tuesday to lead North Brunswick to an 8-0 win over Tar Heel.

North Girls Blast Bulldogs

Regina McKoy had three hits, including a two-run home run, to lead North Brunswick's girls to a 23-8 high school softball win over St. Pauls last Thursday.

Patricia Dunn and Michelle Bennett added two hits apiece as the Lady Scorpions improved their record to 3-0 in the Three Rivers Conference and 9-3 overall.

Last Tuesday at Tar Heel, North Brunswick took an 11-5 win over the Lady Panthers. Wendy Ganey and Cassandra Pierce had three hits apiece and combined for four RBI to lead North.

The Lady Scorpions were scheduled to play Tuesday at Bladenboro before hosting Red Springs on Thursday.

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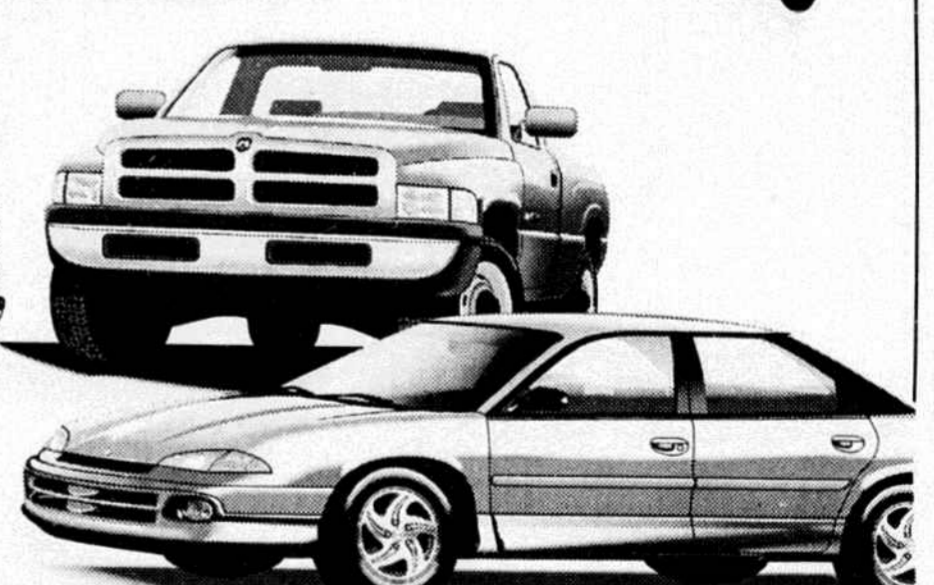
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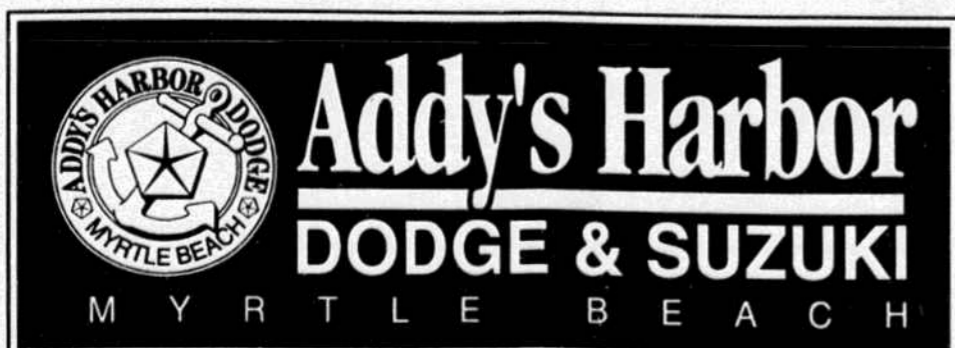
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