

On the wire: national and world news

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» Chloroform residue found on item in Anthony's car

ORLANDO, Fla. (MCT) — Jurors heard about a variety of evidence from several state witnesses in the first-degree murder case against Casey Anthony on Tuesday.

Dr. Michael Rickenbach, a forensic chemist examiner with the FBI, told jurors he tested items from Anthony's Pontiac Sunfire for chloroform, including fabric from a spare tire cover.

Rickenbach said residue of chloroform was identified on the item.

Anthony, 25, is accused of killing her 2-year-old daughter Caylee Marie Anthony in the summer of 2008. The toddler's remains were found in December of that year in woods a few blocks away from the Anthony family home.

Senators pledge to debate U.S. involvement in Libya

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — Responding to growing concern among war weary constituents about the purpose and cost of the U.S. mission in Libya, senators are poised to debate whether to send President Barack Obama a message that he needs to be more specific about his goals there.

Senators returning from a 10-day Memorial Day recess reported that their constituents want Congress to examine more closely the U.S. involvement in Libya, as well as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Libya is the immediate Senate concern, and today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee plans to discuss legislation that will test Obama's Senate support.

A full debate is expected next week.



MCT/JOE BURBANK
» Casey Anthony in court during her murder trial at the Orange County Courthouse on Tuesday in Orlando, Fla.



DTH FILE/ERIN HULL
Greg Holt has pitched in 30 games out of the Tar Heel bullpen in 2011 and owns a 7-1 record and a 3.09 ERA.

Greg Holt finally finds starring role

By Kelly Parsons
Sports Editor

When Greg Holt saw his name flash across the screen as the 247th pick in the 2011 MLB draft, the North Carolina senior jumped out of his seat.

It wasn't so long ago that Holt rarely got off the bench, playing in less than half of the Tar Heels' games during his freshman season. Primarily a pitcher during his junior year, Holt often struggled on the mound and owned a 3-4 record in UNC's 2010 campaign.

But as he was selected by the Washington Nationals on Tuesday, Holt's whirlwind journey finally brought him to a place where he'd always dreamed he'd be.

And just two years ago, few people — even those closest to Holt — thought they'd see the day.

"I was telling my mom, 'Did you ever think I was going to get drafted after the way freshman and sophomore years went?'" Holt said. "She goes, 'No.'"

Facing failure

Succeeding on the baseball diamond at West Forsyth High School didn't require much effort for Holt. It had always just come naturally for the Clemmons native.

But when the two-way player stepped onto UNC's campus in 2007, Holt was not prepared for the reality check that came along with membership on a nationally-known Tar Heel team.

"It was hard being the four year all-state player, being all-conference, all of that, and then coming in here and having people who are better than you," Holt said. "You have to look yourself in the mirror and say, 'I'm not as good as I thought I was.'"

Holt played in just 18 games during his freshman year and harbored frustrations about having to watch UNC's 2008 College World Series run from the bench.

The following season, prior to UNC's weekend series with Virginia, coach Mike Fox approached Holt with the opportunity to start as designated hitter against the Cavaliers.

But even with the ideal chance to prove himself, Holt couldn't escape a slump.

The sophomore had no hits in nine at-bats that weekend and struck out twice in the final game of the series.

That's when Holt first thought

he had hit the point of no return.

"After that, I was like, 'Man, can I really hit here?'" Holt said. "You know, (Fox) gives me the opportunity to hit against all these pitchers, and I couldn't do it. Where do I go from here?"

Searching for a niche

Holt's dad, Brian Holt, a former pitcher at Springfield College, watched his son play from the stands of Boshamer Stadium on a regular basis.

And when the one thing that had usually come so easily to Greg quickly became the cause of his struggle, he knew exactly who to turn to for help.

Holt credits his father's words of encouragement as the motivation he needed to work harder at his game.

"Baseball is such a mental game, and he was at a bad place mentally," Brian Holt said. "He still had the physical tools. He had the power and the strength. But mentally, every time he went to the plate he put too much pressure on himself."

Having spent time on the mound in addition to playing third base in high school, Holt tried his hand at pitching for the Tar Heels during his sophomore year.

At first, Holt saw similar pitfalls on the mound. In game three of a series against Georgia Tech during his junior year, the pitcher allowed five runs on two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and the Yellow Jackets went on to win the game in the tenth inning.

But Holt had his sights set on being a consistent contributor for the Tar Heels. And that was something he was determined not to throw away.

Towards the end of the 2010 campaign, Holt's performances began to turn around. Against Clemson, Holt had key strikeouts in the series finale, and he gained NCAA tournament experience by

pitching in UNC's regional games.

For pitcher Bryant Gaines, seeing his teammate turn the corner had been a long time coming.

"We encourage each other by humbling one another," Gaines said. "Greg, just like anybody else, when he struggled, he heard it from all of his teammates... I think he kind of just got sick of getting so much grief all the time that he had to play better."

Success at last

It was almost as if a switch had been flipped inside of Greg Holt.

The pitcher has a 7-1 record so far this season, and now that Holt has found his niche, the weight — and the bat — has been lifted from his shoulders.

In UNC's ACC tournament opener against Miami, the senior started from the mound and pitched 5 2/3 innings.

The very next day against Wake Forest, Holt — who owns a team-best .385 batting average — blasted a two-run homer in Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

"It's nice, people saying, 'Oh you're so versatile. You've got a two-way super star,'" Holt said. "I'm like, 'No, I'm just a pitcher who hits.'"

The Tar Heels are just two wins away from a trip to the College World Series, and Holt is looking forward to helping his team get to Omaha in whatever role he might fill.

But when Greg Holt's collegiate career ends later this month, his legacy at North Carolina will be about more than just records and championships runs.

"If (younger guys) are struggling or something like that, they can look at Greg's story and be like, 'Well, look at where he came from, and look at what he's doing today,'" Gaines said.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.

North Carolina to host Stanford in super regional

By Kelly Parsons
Sports Editor

Before doubling to center field in Sunday's NCAA regional championship game against James Madison, North Carolina short-stop Levi Michael went 0-for-11 at the plate during the tournament weekend.

Despite Michael's recent hitting slump, UNC will look for strong performances from him as it hosts Stanford in a three-game series in this weekend's NCAA super regional at Boshamer Stadium.

There's no doubt in assistant coach Scott Jackson's mind that the Tar Heel slugger will be up to the challenge.

"It's just baseball," Jackson said. "You're going to have your ups and downs, and you're going to have weekends that are great and you'll have some weekends that are not so great. But if there's anybody that's going to be ready to play this weekend, I'm not worried about Levi."

Michael, who was selected Monday in the first round of the MLB draft, is second on the team in RBI with 48 so far this season.

The shortstop has also shined defensively during the 2011 campaign. The Tar Heels have the ninth best fielding percentage in the nation.

Spot-on fielding and consistent pitching from UNC led the Tar Heels to a pair of shut-out wins in last weekend's regional games.







Fortunately for North Carolina, the squad's defense is peaking at just the right time, senior pitcher Greg Holt said.

"I think the last month we've thrown the best I've seen in the last four years," Holt said. "That's what's going to carry us all the way to Omaha, is pitching and defense. And over the last month we've played exceptionally well in both phases."

Solid defense against the Cardinal is exactly what the Tar Heels will need to earn their fifth trip to the College World Series in six years.

Six Stanford starters have bat-

THE LOWDOWN ON THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

 (35-20)	Stanford vs. North Carolina	 (48-14)
HEAD-TO-HEAD		
Pitching	Likely Friday starter Patrick Johnson owns a 12-1 record and allowed just three hits and no runs in eight innings against JMU, the No. 1 scoring offense in the nation. Edge: UNC	
Fielding	North Carolina outfielders always seem to be in the right place at the right time, and the Tar Heel infielders' sharp arms will likely ward off many Stanford scoring threats. Edge: UNC	
Hitting	Stanford's bats are hot, and the Cardinal racked up 20 hits in its 14-2 win against Illinois. If Stanford can overcome UNC's strong pitching, it could excel this weekend at the plate. Edge: Stanford	
Intangibles	Hosting Stanford at Boshamer Stadium should be a huge advantage for a team itching to get back to Omaha. UNC has lost just three games in Chapel Hill this season. Edge: UNC	

The Bottom Line — North Carolina wins the series 2-1
COMPILED BY KELLY PARSONS

ting averages greater than .300 and senior catcher Ben Clowe hit two home runs against the Illini on Sunday.

The Cardinal upset regional host and No. 1-seeded Cal State-Fullerton last Saturday before beating Illinois 14-2 in the NCAA Regional Championship game to earn its spot in the Chapel Hill super regional.

Stanford, which is 12-4 in super regional games since 1999, will be competing in hopes of making it to its 17th College World Series.

But Stanford isn't the only team with Omaha on its mind.


"That's our main driving factor, hopefully making it back to Omaha," Michael said. "That's definitely our main goal and we're going to keep pushing towards it."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.



DTH FILE/ERIN HULL
Junior catcher Jacob Stallings hit a three-run homer in the first inning in North Carolina's 4-0 win against Maine in the Chapel Hill regional.

games

**SUDOKU**
THE MATH OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to 6-2 puzzle

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14 Required payment
15 Regional woodland
16 Strength
17 Shipmate of Starkey
18 Donny and Marie's hometown
19 "In my opinion ..."
20 Red-hot entr e?
23 Night class subj.
24 Observance
25 Book before Job
29 Siskiyou County peak
31 "Life __ a Highway": 1992 Tom Cochrane hit
32 Charlottesville sch.
33 Bather using magnesium sulfate?
37 It's heard around the water cooler
40 Schiller's "An die Freude," e.g.
41 Roman existence
42 Avoidance of chewy candy?
48 "Aladdin" monkey
48 Actor Gulager
49 Nats division
53 Beefsteak, for one
55 Sign of disrespect
57 Sweater letter
58 Best man's moment of uncertainty?
61 Altar neighbor
64 Associate with
65 Phone button letters

DOWN
66 Bantu language
67 Matrimony, for one
68 Tannin source
69 "Smokey and the Bandit" vehicle feature
70 Rigatoni alternative
71 Hang
1 Bolts
2 Get tangled
3 Designer McCartney
4 Nautical beam
5 Not prone to making small talk
6 Entitlement
7 Classic number
8 "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?": "Lady Marmalade" lyric
9 Most objectionable
10 Timid
11 Sched. producer
12 Vast quantity
13 Horse power?
21 Sp. title

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