Written by MIke Kelly
Saturday, 11 June 2011 09:26

The North Carolina University baseball team moved within one win of reaching the College World Series in Omaha on Friday.

The Tar Heels (49-14), looking for their fifth trip to Omaha in six years, defeated Stanford 5-2 at Boshamer Stadium in Chapel Hill in game one of their best of three Super Regional series. Winning pitcher Patrick Johnson was magnificent. The righthander went seven-plus innings and gave up one earned run on five hits with a walk and seven strikeouts.
A throwing error set up North Carolina's first run in the second inning; Seth Baldwin belted a two-run homer in the seventh that gave the Tar Heels a 3-0 lead. But Stanford (35-21) rallied and scored twice in the eighth, making it 3-2.
A two-out single by Tyler Gaffney, followed by Stephen Piscotty's double, put runners at second and third. They both scored on Brian Ragira's infield single up the middle. But Michael Morin (ninth save) put out the fire and the Tar Heels added some insurance with two runs in the bottom of the eighth.
The two teams play again today at 3 pm.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

NORTH CAROLINA 5, STANFORD 2
FLORIDA 11, MISSISSIPPI STATE 1
ARIZONA STATE 3. TEXAS 1
VANDERBILT 11, OREGON STATE 1

SATURDAY'S GAMES

STANFORD v. NORTH CAROLINA (GAME 2)
MISSISSIPPI STATE v. FLORIDA (GAME 2)
ARIZONA STATE v. TEXAS (GAME 2)
OREGON STATE v. VANDERBILT (GAME 2)
CAL-IRVINE v. VIRGINIA (GAME 1)
TEXAS A&M v. FLORIDA STATE (GAME 1)
DALLAS BAPTIST v. CALIFORNIA (GAME 1)
SOUTH CAROLINA v. CONNECTICUT (GAME 1)