

Tar Heels Blank Texas To Stay Alive

Written by Mike Kelly
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The University of North Carolina baseball team staved off elimination Monday afternoon.

The Tar Heels (51-15), who were humbled by Vanderbilt on Saturday, bounced back and defeated Texas 3-0 at the College World Series at Ameritrade Park in Omaha, NE. The win moves the Tar Heels into an elimination game Wednesday against the loser of Vanderbilt-Florida.

Kent Emanuel was the savior. The freshman from Woodstock, Ga., handcuffed the Longhorns (49-19), limiting them to just four hits. The lefthander went the distance, walked one and struck out five. He also threw the first complete game at the CWS in five years.

"Didn't really surprise us," said North Carolina coach Mike Fox. "He's been on the big stage, and down the stretch he's really been throwing well for us."

Emanuel is 9-1 with a 2.33 earned-run-average. He's only given up 31 earned runs with 32 walks and 125 strikeouts in 113 innings this season.

"It's definitely with my change up today," Emanuel said. "I threw less inside today, lesser than I have all year. So today is definitely the change up, getting them out in front early."

And the Tar Heels backboned his effort by pushing three runs across the plate. Ben Bunting was 4-5 with a run scored and an RBI; Jacob Stallings knocked in two runs. But the Tar Heels left nine men on base. UNC scored twice in the third and picked up an insurance run in the ninth for its final margin of victory.

"Right now I'm fortunate to be seeing the ball real well at the plate," Bunting said. "Trying to hit the first stike I see, and not getting myself into bad counts. I been fortunate to put some good swings on the ball right now."