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BEAVERS 11, TAR HEELS 4; Oregon State One Win From a Second Title

By **PAT BORZI**

Every time he approached the third-base line on the way to the mound Saturday night, the Oregon State freshman right-hander Jorge Reyes bounded across the dirt as if it were piled high with hot coals. That is the most obvious of Reyes's multitude of superstitions, which include tapping seven acupuncture points on his forehead and chest before every inning, and wearing the same shorts on days he pitches.

Oregon State Coach Pat Casey has watched Reyes leap this way for almost two months, since he put him in the rotation in April. Casey had more experienced pitchers to start against North Carolina in Game 1 of the College World Series final, but chose to stick with Reyes, who was 2-0 this postseason with a 1.42 earned run average.

"If we used somebody else," Casey said, "we'd be sending a message to him that we don't trust him."

And Reyes, who was pitching in a summer league when the Beavers won the College World Series last season, came through. He held the Tar Heels to three runs in six and a third innings as Oregon State won, 11-4, before an announced crowd of 26,887.

The role reversal continued in this matchup, only the second rematch of the previous year's finalists in College World Series history. Oregon State (48-18), not North Carolina, came in with the rested pitching staff this time, and won Game 1. The Beavers can wrap up the best-of-three series by winning Sunday night; the Tar Heels (57-15) failed to win Game 2 last year. Oregon State's Mike Stutes (11-4, with a 4.03 E.R.A.) is scheduled to face the Tar Heels' Luke Putkonen (8-1, 4.44).

"I don't think anybody wants this ring any more than I do," Reyes said. "I've got three roommates who are walking around with these big rings."

Though North Carolina turned five double plays, tying a C.W.S. record, the Beavers mixed timely hitting, aggressive base running and a handful of bunts to turn a one-run lead in the fifth into an easy victory. Every player in the Oregon State batting order had a hit and scored except left fielder John Wallace, who had a sacrifice fly. North Carolina, meanwhile, was 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

"I'm glad we didn't do this the last three days," said North Carolina Coach Mike Fox, whose team won three elimination games to reach the final. "In every phase of the

game, they did a lot better than we did."

Like Oregon State, the Tar Heels turned to a freshman right-hander Saturday. Alex White hoped to make up for a poor postseason (0-2, 16.76 E.R.A.). He worked out of a no-out jam with runners at first and second in the first by using his glove, sprawling for a backhand catch on Mike Lissman's pop-up bunt in foul territory and then starting a third-to-first double play.

But White struggled keeping the ball down after that. He walked Scott Santschi in the second before giving up Jordan Lennerton's two-run homer. Second baseman Joey Wong's bunt single in the third led to a run on a Mitch Canham sacrifice fly.

Reid Fronk, whom North Carolina stranded after his double on the first pitch of the game, doubled again in the fifth to drive in two runs and make it 3-2. But the Tar Heels never tied it. The Beavers' Chris Hopkins singled in a run in the bottom of the fifth. And in the sixth, when Tar Heels reliever Matt Danford replaced White (finger blister) after a one-out single by Canham, the Beavers scored two more.

A four-run seventh, which featured two North Carolina errors, four walks and no Beaver hits, wrapped it up. The Tar Heels had committed only two errors in the C.W.S. until reliever Tyler Trice's two off-target throws on consecutive bunts allowed two runs to score.

By then Reyes had left the game, and he did it with his usual panache, handing the ball to reliever Joe Paterson and making the foul-line leap in the opposite direction. Reyes had done just what he hoped, putting the Beavers in position to win another title.

"It's a lot easier winning the first game," Reyes said. "Now they've got to win two to beat us, and I don't think it's going to happen."