

## Atlantic Coast Conference

*Covered by Ethan Kagno*

### **Kyle Johnson, OF/LHP, Duke – 2 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 6 RBI, HR (GS)**

The highly-touted two-way sophomore may be the best dual-threat prospect in the 2026 draft class. Johnson pinch hit for the Blue Devils and capped off a nine-run fifth inning with a two-run opposite field single through the right side. In his second at-bat in the seventh, he hit a grand slam pull-side to left center (102 EV, 400 FT, 29.2 LA), for his third home run of the season—already tying his long ball output from his freshman campaign (3 HR in 75 AB).

While Johnson's results haven't been as appealing on the mound in two starts thus far, he has showcased some impressive slugging and in-game power and collected his first multi-hit effort in a 18-1 victory over Cornell. The mid-90s southpaw will continue to get Friday night starts on the bump, hoping for better results in his third outing which is lined up at home against Northwestern.

### **Parker Detmers, RHP, Louisville – 6.0 IP, 6 H, 1 R (0 ER), 0 BB, 9 K, QS, W**

The younger brother of Angels lefthander Reid Detmers, Parker, bounced back following a tough first outing (3.0 IP, 3 H, 4 R/ER, 2 BB, 3 K) and dominated Western Michigan, striking out nine and walking none en route to a quality start. He asserted his dominance early, striking out the side in the first inning and pitching a perfect frame in the second. He possesses a lively mid-90s FB (T96), mid-80s SL with good depth, low-80s splitter with solid tumbling action, and a high-70s CB.

All six hits Detmers surrendered were singles and he pitched well to limit damage. "Today felt really good," said Detmers. "I had all four pitches working for me ... and when everything's on, it gives me all the confidence, especially with my defense behind me." The hard-throwing righty will look to take a big step forward in the Cardinals rotation this season and gives head coach Dan McDonnell a solid 1-2 punch with Patrick Forbes, both of whom turned in solid summers with the Brewster Whitecaps of the Cape Cod Baseball League. Detmers lines up to face St. John's at home in his next start.

### **Brian Walters, RHP, Miami – 6.0 IP, 0 H, 0 R/ER, 1 BB, 9 K, QS, W**

Walters shined for his second straight start this season, going six hitless innings in a masterful performance against Princeton. He's heavily reliant on the FB/SL combo and occasionally mixed in a changeup to LHH. The fastball is up to 97 and sits in the mid-90s with good sink and commands it well. The low-80s two-plane slider has sharp break and pairs well off the heater.

He struck out the side in the first inning and retired 12 straight following a HBP early in the second. "The goal always is to remain calm and continue to fill up the strike zone ... making quality pitches to give my team my best," said Walters. "Staying consistent with my preparation

allows me to repeat my delivery the best I can and in turn allow my pitches to be more consistent.”

Walters has carved out a weekend role in the revamped Hurricanes rotation that also includes Nick Robert and Griffin Hugus. In Walters’ first two outings, he’s posted an impressive 11.0 IP, 3 H, 1 R/ER, 3 BB, 19 K statline for the ‘Canes who are off to a hot start. Walters could follow in his older brother’s footsteps into becoming a high-leverage bullpen arm at the pro level.

**Jake Ogden, SS/3B, Miami – 3 AB, 3 R, 3 H, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 1 SB**

Ogden is off to a blistering start, adding to his .357/.419/.500 slashline with a 3-for-3 day at the plate in the finale of Miami’s four-game sweep of Princeton. The ‘Canes put up 36 runs in the series and Ogden was a large part of that. His day started in the first inning, singling up the middle with the bases loaded to score Michael Torres, later scoring that inning off of a Bobby Marsh grand slam. In the seventh, Ogden singled home sophomore Daniel Cuvet and advanced to second on the throw, and later scored from second on a Dorian Gonzalez base knock.

Defensively, Ogden felt right at home at shortstop, converting four assists in a solid showing on the infield. The UNC Greensboro transfer played 54 games at the hot corner last season and made 30 starts there in the Cape Cod League this past summer. He’s moved around the infield so far for Miami, appearing at 3B, SS, and even 1B. With Cuvet likely manning third for the foreseeable future, Ogden’s athleticism and range should help him seamlessly stay on the left side of the diamond for a majority of games this season.

**Kane Kepley, OF, North Carolina – 4 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 2 RBI, 1 3B, 1 BB, 1 HBP, 1 SB**

It’s likely you’ll see plenty of Kane Kepley on the daily sheet this season. The Liberty transfer has some of the best bat-to-ball skills in the 2025 draft class and profiles as a potential top two round selection come July.

In a 9-6 game with two outs and runners on first and third in the eighth inning, Kepley took a first pitch breaking ball pull side down the left field line for a two-run triple, scoring Jackson Van De Brake and Carter French for a pair of insurance runs. “I wasn’t really expecting a breaking ball,” Kepley said. “I was sitting fastball and reacted ... but I saw [the pitcher’s] curveball pop and was able to put a good swing on it ... it felt really good because I didn’t come through with bases loaded earlier in the game so I wanted to redeem myself in that at-bat.”

Kepley has some of the best plate discipline in the country and has amassed nearly a 2:1 walk to strikeout ratio at the plate in all college competition. He’s barely dipped below a .450 seasonal OBP in college, getting on base in any way necessary. Kepley will be a mainstay atop the Tar Heels lineup with the innate ability to set the table for guys like Luke Stevenson, Hunter Stokely, and Tyson Bass, to name a few.

**Jake Marciano, LHP, Virginia Tech – 5.0 IP, 1 H, 0 R/ER, 1 BB, 7 K, W**

Freshman southpaw Jake Marciano starred in his first start (second appearance) of the season, allowing no hits through four scoreless innings and surrendering a lone single after five frames. The 6-foot-3, 180-pounder earned his second win of the new season after he appeared in relief on Opening Day against Bucknell, tossing three innings and fanning six. The highlight of his afternoon came in the second inning– Marciano was nearly immaculate– throwing 10 pitches (nine strikes) and amassing his fifth consecutive strikeout of his outing.

Marciano operates with a low-90s FB with carry, two-plane low-80s SL, and mid-80s CH with late depth. It's a repeatable operation with short arm-action and garners solid extension down the mound. He sits into the back leg well and commands the zone. The young lefty could be a freshman to keep an eye on this season.

**David Lewis, 3B/1B, Virginia Tech – 4 AB, 1 R, 3 H, 2 RBI, 1 2B, 1 3B**

The second Hokie to make the daily sheet, the senior hot corner put on an offensive display yesterday finishing a home run shy of the cycle in Tech's 6-2 win over UNC Greensboro. Lewis tripled in his first at-bat off a liner to shallow left-center past the diving glove of Zachary Walsh in the second inning to score Treyson Hughes. His next at-bat he showcased some opposite field pop with a double to the right-center gap and later singled to shortstop in the sixth that knocked in Hughes for the second time.

Lewis started his collegiate career at Clemson before transferring to D2 North Greenville for his sophomore and junior seasons prior to coming to Virginia Tech for his final year of eligibility. The right-handed slugger totaled 42 long balls for the Trail Blazers and slashed .390/.476/.854 showing he had what it took to get back to ACC competition.

**Alex Hernandez, INF/RHP, Georgia Tech – 5 AB, 2 R, 2 H, 2 RBI, 1 2B, 1 HR**

The two-way newcomer hit his second home run of the series, and seventh and eighth RBI of the week on Sunday in game three of a four-game homestand against Marshall. The two-run shot came in the third inning off a first-pitch fastball, as Hernandez hit a frozen rope to the opposite field (106 EV) that gave the Yellow Jackets a 4-0 lead. First to bat in the bottom of the fifth, Hernandez went pull side down the left field line for an extra-bagger and later scored on a Parker Brosius sac fly.

The freshman has been swinging a hot bat as of late and has shown his prowess on the mound as well early on, picking up a five-out save on February 16 against Old Dominion. The 6-foot-2, 188-pound righty relies heavily on his secondary offerings including a low-80s sweeper, a mid-80s changeup with fade; and a fastball that tops 93.

**Marek Houston, SS, Wake Forest – 5 AB, 1 R, 2 H, 4 RBI, 1 HR, 1 SB**

Marek Houston picked up right where he left off. On the heels of a 10-for-14 week, Houston delivered with his fourth home run of the season— an oppo-taco in the fourth inning off an 0-1 fastball on the outer half of the plate. He later drove in two with a line shot up the middle to give the Demon Deacons a three-run lead entering the ninth inning. Houston came into the game with a 1.397 OPS and is up to 19 RBI on the season which ranks first in the ACC. One of the top overall infielders in college baseball, Houston is likely to hear his name called early on Day 1.