

## *County Baseball Scrapbook*

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### "Morehead City Baseball"

by James Webb

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... Without a doubt, our greatest accomplishment in sports has been in baseball, our national pastime. We can trace baseball in Morehead City back to 1891 when the "Ov's" were formed. This team, coached by Ed Cartwright of the Washington, D. C., club of the National League, played together for three years and were never defeated. Their play was not restricted to local competition, but they defeated many teams from larger cities including Wilson, Goldsboro and New Bern. Members of this team were : Fred Royal, Nathan Piner, Will Howland, John Wade, Fred Fulford, Bill Jackson, Joe Wheel Wallace, Gib Arthur, George Piner and Will Webb.

There was another team in Morehead City about the same time as the "Ov's". This team was called the "Feasters." Although this team lacked the all-around ability of the "Ov's", they did not lack for spirit and love of the game.

Mr. Fred Royal, outstanding pitcher for the "Ov's," and also the oldest living male native of Morehad City, attributes the fine record of the "Ov's" to the exceptional leadership and general sports knowledge of Mr. Cartwright.

The names of Paul Webb, Winfield Wade, Halbert Ball, Bradley McIntosh should bring back good memories to the older citizens of good games on the baseball diamond. In 1930 young Walter Davis almost pitched Morehead City to the eastern championship in Hamlet. After working for 13 innings and allowing only 2 hits, the game was called because of darkness with the score tied 1 and 1. On the very next day at McColl, S.C., being the only pitcher on the team, Walter tried to go the route again, and the team got as far as the ninth inning before going down to defeat.

Jake Wade, Robert McCready and Ben Wade are other local boys who have left their mark in the baseball history books. Jake and Ben, sons of Mrs. Jacob Wade, both reached the major leagues and each had a good measure of success there. Ben is still active and is rated as one of the better pitchers in the Triple A Pacific Coast League.

In more recent years our high school teams have won several conference championships and have produced several outstanding teams. Our Tidewater League team has done well in its seasonal play also. It seems but a short time ago, in September, 1949, when Morehead was playing Marshallberg in the finals of the Tidewater League playoffs. There were 1700 people in attendance for the Saturday-Sunday games. Pitching for Morehead City on Sunday was a young Durham man named Roger Craig, who won his game 4 to 2. As most baseball fans know, Roger is now one of Brooklyn's starting pitchers and is making his mark in the majors...