

Defending League Champs Open With 8-1 Win over Salter Path

By STURGIS HEDRICK

DALLAS Wayne Arthur electrified some 500 baseball enthusiasts and spellbound the Salter Path Braves yesterday afternoon as the champion Eastern Blues waltzed back home with an 8-1 triumph tucked away in their bat bags.

Scenic Burnetts Field provided the setting in Salter

Path as Lefty Arthur mystified 24 strikeout victims, a Seashore League record, in this opening success for the defending champion Blues. The 22-year-old southpaw won 10 and lost none for the undefeated Blues last year. But yesterday's gem saw him at his strikeout best.

DALLAS' FIRST two

pitches were balls. Then he came in with a blistering fast ball that Neal Smith hammered 340-feet away over the left field fence for the game's only home run. Leftfielder Joe Willis draped himself into the mesh barrier in a gallant try. But that drive was long gone.

And that was it for the Braves. Shortstop Neal outguessed the Blues' pitcher three more times, waited for his fast ball and collected two singles and a triple in a 4-for-5 day at the plate. Craig Weber, the fiery Braves' catcher, solved Dallas for two singles and a walk and stole a base.

BUT THE other ten players summoned by Salter Path Manager Otis Pittman could add only three more safe blows, two of them infield scratches.

Arthur blew his blazing fast ball past the Braves for most of his strikeouts. But he also kept the batters off balance with a swooping overhand curve and a sweeping sidearm whistler.

HE WALKED four and had a long count on several batters. But this tendency toward wildness, if you can call it that, came when his live fast ball jumped out of the strike zone. We'll be hearing a lot more from this 6-foot 170-pounder from Bettie.

Dallas had scouts from the Cincinnati Reds, Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Mets on his trail before he developed arm trouble in his '74 senior year at Atlantic Christian College. Rest and a bit of cortisone cured all that, however, and he would have excited any bird dogs

who saw him yesterday. That buggy-whip left arm looked better than ever.

ARTHUR'S wizardry proved downright embarrassing for two of the best hitters among the Braves. Ronnie Willis went down swinging 0-for-5. It was 0-for-4 in strikeouts for Ted Willis.

Ronnie Fulcher with a double and single, Crawford Pigott with a double and single and Kenny Lewis with a single and three doubles in four trips gave the Blues more than enough power at the plate.

BUT PERHAPS the overall strategic master was Blues' Manager Wilson Davis. He gave his ace southpaw the ball and said, "Go get 'em, Dallas."

In other league action Sunday, the Red Sox defeated the Beaufort Seadogs 15-3 and the Carteret Tides defeated the Western Blues 19-1.

East Bows to 'Pups

THE CAMP Lejeune Devilpups scored a 3-1 win Thursday at East Carteret. Kapetan got the mound win, fanning 7 Mariners, walking 5 and allowing only one hit.

Brad Piner took the loss for East. He struck out 10 Lejeune players, hit one, walked 3 and gave up 2 hits.

EAST WAS charged with 2 errors in the game, Lejeune with only one. The Mariners left 6 base-runners stranded, compared with 5 for Lejeune.

East got one run in the first inning on a walk, a stolen base and a double by Brad Piner, the Mariners' only hit. Barry Lawrence scored.

The Devilpups got all 3 runs in the third-inning on singles by Isbell and Rick Webb, a sacrifice by Bremerman, a hit batsman and an error. Isbell, Webb and Duggan got the runs.

The loss gives East Carteret a 4-4 record so far. Lejeune has an impressive 7-0 mark to date.

TRASH FIRE

The Morehead City Fire Department sent one truck to a fire in a green box on Country Club Road last