

April 17, 1975

Kemp's Tides Face Salter Path In Seashore League Play Sunday

By STURGIS HEDRICK

ERNEST Lawrence Thayer put the words in the mouth of Rodney Kemp: "The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day."

The 28-year-old Kemp scored one of the biggest hits of his career when he dramatized those epic words before a sell-out crowd for the "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" concert at West Carteret High School gym.

NOW IT'S UP to Rodney, in his first year as manager of the Carteret Tides, to pluck the joy from Salter Path when he visits there Sunday to test the mettle of Manager Otis Pittman's Braves. And beware, Rodney, those Braves are victory-starved after last week's 24-strikeout 8-1 loss to Dallas Arthur and the Eastern Blues.

Skipper Pittman has a solid club at Salter Path. He just might start right-hander Neal Smith, who pitched three fine relief innings against the Eastern Blues, striking out four and yielding just one hit and one unearned run. Smith also feasted on Lefty Arthur's hurling with two singles, a triple and a home run.

PITTMAN'S heavy artillery should be ready, too, after last week's frustration. You just don't silence the booming bat power of a Ronnie Willis or a Ted Willis two weeks in a row. Fleet-footed catcher Craig Weber, a radio personality when he's not playing ball, also should challenge the Tides' pitching.

Right-hander Rick Heal, who fanned eight and hurled a three-hitter in submerging the Western Blues, 19-1, is primed again to exercise his mound mastery at Salter Path. He has great breaking stuff and has superior handling by Andy Raynor, his 21-year-old catcher. Andy gunned down four-would-be base-stealers at second last week.

AND THE TIDES are loaded with batting punch. Right-fielder Bob-McIntosh and third-baseman George Gilbert are hitting .667, Raynor and center-fielder Kemp are batting .600 and shortstop Fletcher Poulk at .429 and first-baseman Chuck Lewis have it in their bats to quell any joy in Salter Path.

Manager Joe Lawrence has been re-enforcing his Beaufort Sea Dogs for a supreme surprise against the Eastern Blues in Smyrna. Skipper Wilson Davis will keep his ace, Dallas Arthur, in pitching reserve and hope his well-balanced and heavy-hitting champions can keep applying the pressure on the Sea Dogs.

It's anybody's game when the Western Blues travel to the home field of the Red Sox. Jay Garner, 18-year-old right-hander, showed the Seashore League a strong arm in winning 4 and losing 1 last year.



Catcher Andy Raynor, shown here, and right-hander Rick Heal will make up the battery again this week, as Rodney Kemp's Carteret Tides take on Salter Path at 2 p.m. Sunday.

SEASHORE STANDINGS					
	Won	Lost		Won	Lost
East Blues	1	0	West Blues	0	1
Red Sox	1	0	Sea Dogs	0	1
Tides	1	0	Braves	0	1
GAMES SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.					
Beaufort Sea Dogs at Eastern Blues					
Western Blues at Newport Red Sox					
Carteret Tides at Salter Path Braves					