

Destiny Rides with Tides As Solomon Nips Garner

By STURGIS HEDRICK

THERE'S A funny thing about baseball. Most every time, someone must lose whenever the other guy wins. Who said life is fair?

Because both Jay Garner and the Red Sox and Jim Solomon and the Carteret Tides deserved to win yesterday afternoon in the best pitching duel of the Seashore League season. The Tides won, 4-3, in a 10-inning tinger that kept some 150 pairs of eyes zeroed in on every play over the 2-hour and 34-minute route.

THE RED Sox fans really know their baseball and the Broad Creek diamond presents the perfect setting. Red Sox field would do credit to many a ball park in the organized professional leagues.

So would the playing ingredients that went into this fourth straight victory for the undefeated Tides and, alas, the third loss in four starts for the fire-eating Red Sox. Both clubs showed awesome power, fancy fielding and rival pitchers who would have electrified any pro scout.

HOLLYWOOD script writers would have strained their imagination to match the contrast between yesterday's Broad Creek mound rivals.

Big Jim Solomon fired with all the poise and discipline that befits a First Lieutenant in the United States Marines. He scattered five hits, walked three and struck out eight. He set down the Sox in 1-2-3 order in seven of the 10 innings.

"PLEASINGLY wild" would best describe the 18-year-old flame-thrower from Newport. Jay Garner walked 10 and yielded 11 hits. He had at least two men on base in all but the seventh inning. But he just kept firing those rockets in at the Tides and really deserved to win.

A cruel quirk of fate beat him in the 10th. With Carteret Manager Rodney Kemp on second base and two outs, destiny struck. Tide clean-up hitter and ace catcher Andy Raynor stroked a teasing Texas Leaguer to short left center.

AND THAT'S who watched it drop in for the winning base hit. The Red Sox short-stop, left-fielder and center-fielder. Two of



Eighteen-year-old Jay Garner, left, lost a 10-inning heart breaker to Big Jim Solomon of the Tides yesterday as the Red Sox bowed 4-3 in Broad Creek. Carteret thus remained at the top of the Seashore Baseball League with 4 triumphs and no defeats.

the three called for the fly, but then backed off to let "Alphonse or Gaston" take it.

Solomon and young Garner have similar physiques. They will, that is, when Jay fills out and grows to his full stature. Solomon stands 6-4 and weighs 180, but he'll be 26 years old next Saturday. Garner stands 6 feet, but looks slimmer than his 148 pounds.

MANAGER Donnie Aycock's sluggers greeted the Tide mound ace like a county cousin in the first. Big Jim hadn't loosened up quite enough in his warm-up and the Sox made him rue it in a hurry. Richard Collins walked and Gary Robinson banged a double off the fence. 340 feet away in left center to score Collins. The Allen Garner drilled a bullet single through the middle to tally Robinson.

Tawny-haired young Jay came within one pitch of victory in the ninth. He had two outs, a 2-1 lead and two strikes on

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