

Eastern Blues to Meet Tides in Toughest Test

1975
4-0

By STURGIS HEDRICK

THIS IS A true story, not a fairy tale. But . . . once upon a time, a St. Louis Cardinal baseball scout took a good, long look at Mickey Mantle and passed him over.

Mickey's home fans in Commerce, Okla., were aghast, because they knew what their native son could do. He could run like a rabbit, hit the ball out of

sight from either side of the plate and had a rifle for an arm.

AND MANTLE'S fans proved smarter than the scout. Because just two years later, 1951, Mickey started his meteoric career with the New York Yankees that landed him in the Hall of Fame in 1974.

The fans in Carteret County are like that. They

know their baseball and they can't understand what big league oversight permits Dallas Wayne Arthur to remain with the Eastern Blues.

ANYWAY, it's all to the good for the county. Because Seashore League fans will get to see Lefty Arthur pitch Sunday at 2 p.m. against the Carteret Tides on the neutral East Carteret High School diamond.

This very well could be one of the most important games of Arthur's legendary career, because both the defending champion Blues and the Tides are undefeated at 4-0. And Carteret has its own "Super Pitch" in USMC

Lieutenant Jim Solomon, a gifted right-hander. Both are undefeated in two complete games.

SOLOMON has hurled two five-hitters in beating two tough ball clubs, the Salter Path Braves and the Newport Red Sox. But he'll celebrate his 26th birthday on Saturday and is proud to say, "I'm a career Marine." The New York Mets liked him as a prospect when he starred on the mound for Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio. But Jim chose the Marines.

Arthur's case is quite different, however. He's 22

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and ripe for a professional career. He's ready, too, since he's free to travel. He's a bachelor and can come back to his shrimping career after he has had his shot at the majors.

DALLAS' career verges on the incredible. He won 10 and lost 0 last year and averaged 13 strikeouts a game as he pitched the Blues to the pennant. He's better than ever this year, with a fabulous 52 strikeouts in 25 innings. He's batting .375 and

leads the league in runs-batted-in with 7.

Down East Manager Wilson Davis has caught the best since he earned his living playing baseball back in the '50s. Here's how Wilson appraises Arthur:

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the other clubs are moving up fast as contenders and will bear plenty of watching Sunday.

The Red Sox, with Gary Robinson leading the league regulars at bat with a cool .700, will meet the Braves at Salter Path. And the hard-luck Western Blues will face the Sea Dogs in Beaufort.

"HE'S REALLY tough to catch. He not only throws hard, but every ball he throws moves and jumps in a hurry. He has the 'loosey-goosey' grace about him that belongs to the great athlete. He appears lazy, yet he's off that mound like a cat. He can field with anybody in the majors."

So it's up to Manager Rodney Kemp to counter with Solomon's all-around finesse and the Tides' heavy artillery. Fletcher Poulk is hitting .545, Solomon .500, Bob McIntosh .467, Andy Raynor .357, Chuck Lewis .353, George Gilbert .333 and Wayne Mobley .315.

THE EASTERN Blues have experience and savvy on their side. Thirty-two-year-old Carroll Hill is hitting .625, 37-year-old Crawford Pigott .444 and the youngsters on the club — Ronnie Fulcher, Kenny Lewis, Arthur, Manley Gaskill and Joe Willis — all are batting better than .300.

Sunday's will be the biggest game so far for the 20-game Seashore title. But

SEASHORE BATTING LEADERS
(A few statistics are not available)

PLAYER	AB	R	H	2b	3b	HR	SB	RBI	AVE.
Mitch Lawrence, Tides	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.000
Gary Robinson, Red Sox	10	3	7	3	0	0	0	5	.700
Carroll Hill, E. Blues	3	3	3	1	0	0	2	1	.425
Fletcher Poulk, Tides	22	7	12	3	0	0	4	5	.545
Jim Solomon, Tides	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	.500
Bob McIntosh, Tides	15	4	7	1	0	0	2	3	.467
Crawford Pigott, E. Blues	9	4	4	1	1	0	0	5	.444
Ronnie Willis, Braves	19	1	8	1	0	0	0	2	.421
Ronnie Fulcher, E. Blues	17	4	7	1	0	0	5	4	.412
Kenny Lewis, E. Blues	17	3	7	4	0	1	0	4	.412
George Viereck, Braves	17	3	7	0	0	0	0	4	.412
Bruce Maness, Red Sox	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	.400
Dallas Arthur, E. Blues	13	2	5	0	0	1	0	7	.385
Harold Anderson, Braves	13	1	5	1	1	0	0	2	.385
Ted Willis, Braves	13	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	.385
Manley Gaskill, E. Blues	16	7	6	3	1	1	1	4	.375
Andy Raynor, Tides	14	5	5	1	0	0	2	4	.357
Richard Collins, Red Sox	14	5	5	0	0	0	4	1	.357
Chuck Lewis, Tides	17	4	6	1	0	0	0	4	.353
Neal Smith, Braves	20	1	7	0	1	1	1	2	.350
George Gilbert, Tides	18	4	6	2	0	0	1	2	.333
Allen Garner, Red Sox	15	2	5	1	0	0	0	2	.333
Joe Willis, E. Blues	9	4	3	0	0	1	1	3	.333
Dale Vogler, Red Sox	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Wayne Mobley, Tides	19	6	6	2	1	0	2	1	.315
Alex Fox, Red Sox	17	5	5	1	0	2	3	4	.294
Donald Leatherman, Tides	14	3	4	0	0	0	0	2	.284
John Reel, W. Blues	7	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	.284
Rodney Kemp, Tides	15	3	4	0	0	0	5	3	.267
Milton Scott, E. Blues	12	7	3	0	0	0	4	0	.250
Durwood Vinston, Red Sox	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Craig Weber, Braves	22	0	5	0	0	0	4	1	.227
John Turnage, Tides	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	.200
George Toofie, W. Blues	16	1	3	0	0	1	1	4	.188
Spencer Smith, Braves	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.182
Tom Mann, Red Sox	16	4	3	2	0	0	0	2	.181
Jeff Stamps, Red Sox	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	.181
Randy Grady, E. Blues	18	8	3	0	0	1	4	2	.167
George Zurenko, E. Blues	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	.143
Jay Garner, Red Sox	16	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	.125
Kerry Williams, Red Sox	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Artie Frost, Braves	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	.111
George Mettrick, Red Sox	19	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	.105
Dale Lewis, E. Blues	23	6	2	0	0	0	2	0	.087
Douglas Guthrie, Braves	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083