

# Red Sox Rely on Maness To Halt Champion Blues

By STURGIS HEDRICK

BRUCE MANESS and the Newport Red Sox stand squarely in the path of the Eastern Blues as the defending champions' most dangerous roadblock of the Seashore League baseball season.

The Blues went undefeated in 14 games last year and will be seeking their eighth in a row this season. The champs have everything going for them, too, Sunday at 2 p.m. They'll have the advantage of their cozy home park in Smyrna and the biggest pack of loyal fans in the league.

LEFTY DALLAS Wayne Arthur gives the Blues another big plus with his hopping fast ball, mixed bag of breaking pitches and 13 straight league wins over two years without a defeat.

But Maness is the man Sunday who can booby-trap the Blues. He's something of a rarity in these days of the staggering baseball bonuses. He was a great pitcher in his undergraduate days at Eastern Carolina College. But he preferred to hit the books, sat out baseball and graduated with honors. He even carried his studies to the extreme of going on to graduate school at North Carolina State.

SO YOU can call Bruce the thinking man's pitcher. But he's also one of the best all-around ball players in our Seashore League. He really hums that fast ball and hits his corners with pin-point control. Red Sox Manager Donnie Aycock has worked him sparingly on the mound, so that Maness' good right arm should be in peak condition Sunday.

Meanwhile, Bruce has been playing where Aycock has needed him most. You might call Maness' batting record mighty manly. He's hitting a cool .500, with 2 doubles, a home run and 4 runs-batted-in. At age 25, he's every inch the athlete at 6 feet 2 and 195 pounds.

Sunday. This new athletic pride of the county can be reached by proceeding West on Route 70, turning right on Country Club Road, continuing on past West Carteret High School for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and, lo and



WADE BELL

behold, you'll see the clearly marked sign Swinson Park.

Twenty-six-year-old Steve Piner, a right-handed control artist, just might pitch his way into the Beaufort hearts by stopping the surging Tides. Andy Raynor, probably the best catcher in the Seashore League, now has become the Carteret mound ace. He'll make things tough for the Salty Sea Dogs sluggers.

IT'S A MATTER of pride for the Western Blues to strut their stuff against the always-tough Braves in Salter Path. The Blues showed to far from their best advantage last week and they'll go all out to improve that image on Sunday.

This up-and-coming Seashore League now has a new president and a dedicated baseball man in Wade Bell. Wade's interest in top-flight amateur and sometimes

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AND, PERHAPS, just maybe, Bruce Maness can show the Eastern Blues Sunday that a little learning never hurts.

It bears all the earmarks of the best game of the year. Six Sox and five Blues are hitting better than .400. Alex Fox, Newport's big first-baseman, is the toast of the league with 5 home runs and a fantastic 14 RBI's in 7 games.

Richard Collins, Sox second-baseman has an