

- SPORTSCOPE -

By Charlie Markey

Like tide and the times, community chatter and the increasing interest in the Havelock Tidewater League baseball entry kept rolling along this week. The Sermon-coached boys had their first real taste of diamond warfare, the results of which seems to have rocketed the local baseball spirit to a new high.

It's readily observed that baseball has moved into the top-notch position here, insofar as sports topics go, hence, let's give a little thought to our outfit's No. 1 asset, a most competent manager and active athlete.

In Oscar Sermon, Havelock has acquired the services of a baseball veteran from the old school. He's been playing around with the horsehide covered ball since the days when he still sported knee-pants. That was back in the early 1900's.

Although handicapped by age (he's nearing 44), Sermon can still keep in stride with some of the best diamond warriors of his class in the land. Only last Saturday,

he exhibited one of the most stellar mound chores we've ever witnessed—that is coming from a man who has already passed his 43rd milestone.

A pitcher since way back when, Sermon has not lost his know-how when it comes to twirling a bang-up game. In fact, if what we saw last Saturday is a good omen of what to expect in the Tidewater race this year, he may be destined to be one of the pitching rulers of the circuit, let alone his responsibility of managing the nine from the mound.

Asked about the game he enjoyed most, the Havelock manager smiling obliged by mentioning it was the one he flung against the once famous Philadelphia Bloomingdale all-girl team in Baltimore in 1923. "It was a tough game," he recalled, "I won by only one run."

'Round about 1924, our subject almost became an idle bystander in the ranks or organized ball. But, true to his love for the game, he always managed to get into a bit of action