

Tides to Go With Piner In Big Pitch for Lead

By STURGIS HEDRICK

BASEBALL philosophers stand well-nigh unanimous that superlative pitching can dominate the game.

"Pitching is 90 per cent of winning." So said Connie Mack, Hall of Fame immortal who managed the Philadelphia Athletics for 50 years. The Tall Tactician started his career on the professional diamond in 1886 and ascended to Valhalla 70 years later at the age of 94.

CONNIE'S impact on managerial thinking at all levels has endured through the years. Students of the game have never disagreed with The Master.

Anyone who knows Wilson Davis will admit that he's an astute pupil. He's so canny, in fact, that he understands that it's never too late to learn a few more tricks of managerial magic.

WILSON, the Boy Wonder of the Tidewater League in 1946, now unloads his experience on his rivals as Resident Mastermind of the Eastern Blues. All the Downeasters have done in the Seashore League, successor to the great Tidewater days, is win 23 in a row.

Undefeated champions last year, the Blues go for No. 24 and their tenth straight this season Sunday at 2 p.m.

SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Eastern Blues	9	0	Salter Path Braves	4	5
Carteret Tides	8	1	Western Blues	1	8
Newport Red Sox	4	5	Beaufort Sea Dogs	1	8

GAMES SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

Beaufort Sea Dogs at Western Blues
Carteret Tides at Eastern Blues
Salter Path Braves at Newport Red Sox

against the second-place Carteret Tides in Smyrna.

IT'LL BE THE "make-or-break" game of the first half of the 20-week campaign and could prove the turning point of a mighty interesting year. The Tides want, oh so badly, to lasso the Blues' stampede.

That's where pitching and managerial strategy spice the action behind the scenes. Rodney Kemp handles the reins of the Carteret contenders with devil-may-care imagination. He welcomes the joust with Davis, but remains wary of the latter's legendary legerdemain.

BOTH AGREE, naturally, with the age-old philosophy of Connie Mack. Great pitching can most always beat great hitting.

Rodney planned. He plotted. He took to the Heavens for hurling inspiration. He day-dreamed about Nolan Ryan, strikeout and no-hit king of the majors, walking into Morehead for a tryout. It turned out that Nolan had a date with the California Angels.

THEN, PRESTO, a minor miracle struck the Tides. Eighteen-year-old Brad Piner, just graduated from East Carteret High School, signed with Manager Kemp. 'Twas only natural, because Jim Piner, Brad's dad, serves as managerial assistant to the Tides. As coach of the Havelock High champions, Jim acts as senior statesman of Kemp's dugout.

And so it'll be young Brad Piner nominated to fire his hopping fast ball and crackling curve at the Eastern Blues Sunday. A trim 5-10 175-pounder, Brad rates as a great prospect. He'll take his pitching prowess and academic hopes to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this Fall.

WILSON DAVIS has his own problem in hurling depth. When you have a Catfish Hunter, Gaylord and Jim Perry on your staff, whom do you start in the big game? The Blues have their Seashore League counterparts in Dallas

(See SEASHORE Pg. 4-A)