

Continued

Monday, June 16, 1975

Seashore League

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RONNIE FULCHER fired a triple to right-center to open the first for the Blues. He scored on a Brad Piner wild pitch. Then Frederick Nelson's 340-foot home run, Dallas Arthur's single and Fulcher's single — all with none out — tied it at 3-3 in the third.

The 18-year-old Piner hurled fine baseball against the defending Seashore champions in his official debut against the big boys. But his dad, Jim Piner, Carteret pitching coach, decided to rest Brad and call on Poulk. The latter, moving in from shortstop, fired three-hit ball starting in the fifth; but lost a shattering heartbreaker.

HERE'S THE tragic picture. Poulk retired the first two batters with the score tied at 3-3 in the bottom of the ninth. Then Milton Scott singles to left. Brad Piner, now playing third, bobbles a ground ball to put Randy Grady on first and move Scott to second.

Next, home-run hero Nelson appears at the plate to exchange clutch glances with Poulk. Fletcher works the count to 3-2, but can't put the big one past Cool Head Fred.

NELSON FOULS off six in a row and then slaps a single to left and that's your old ball game. Except for some mighty happy noise reaction by the Downeast fans that best resembled a college mob scene in the hero-worshipping movies of the 1930s.

Meanwhile, Beaufort Manager Joey Lawrence's cup runneth over after yesterday's 11-6 victory by his Sea Dogs over the Western Blues in Bogue. He outsmarted the losers with two successful squeeze plays. But, best of all, Joey has added two splendid pitchers in Charley Hardesty and Danny Brooks. Lawrence can't wait to send his Sea Dogs against the Red Sox next Sunday in Newport.

Skipper Donnie Aycock's Sox will welcome the invasion. They played to an excellent crowd and, trailing 4-3 in the seventh, stormed back to shock the Salter Path Braves, 6-4, in Newport. Rubber-arm Jay Garner, Donnie's 18-year-old prize pitcher, went the distance yesterday and overcame 12 Salter Path hits. Big Bruce Maness helped with a mighty big home run, his second of '75.