

Braves Do a War Dance, But Blues Win Wampum

By STURGIS HEDRICK

SURE, THE Eastern Blues can be beaten.

But yesterday wasn't the day. The Salter Path Braves mishandled the Blues like they haven't been mistreated this season. And yet, when the sand dust had cleared and the crowd had subsided, the Downeasters had done it again.

They mesmerized Salter Path, 11-8, before the largest crowd ever in Burnetts Field, the Home of the Braves.

SURE, THE Eastern Blues can be beaten. All you have to do is:

1 — Outplay an accomplished and deep roster of talented baseball players.

2 — Catch them on an off-day away from that Pandora's Box they call "Home of the Eastern Blues" in Smyrna.

3 — Pick a day when Dallas Wayne Arthur has a weary left pitching wing from hurling ten tense innings the day before.

4 — Get them when power hitters like Joe-Boy Willis and Crawford Pigott are out of the lineup, when No. 2 pitcher Richard Arthur has a hurling right arm too sore to throw and when the Blues' No. 1 hitter, Kenny Lewis, has to turn pitcher and bat and field with a broken left hand.

5 — Outpitch them with one of the most poised and stylish athletes in the Seashore League, Big Jack

Daughtrey, 6-4, 200 pounds, Washington and Lee immortal, Class of 1959.

MANAGER Otis Pittman's Braves did all this yesterday before close to 500 dumbfounded fans. How do they do it, these undefeated, defending champion Blues? After all, the Braves did everything but win.

But what Pittman's fire-eaters didn't do is conquer the mystic Downeast myth. That, without a doubt, ranks as Skipper Wilson Davis' great bonus weapon. His rivals want so badly to beat the Blues that they wind up beating themselves.

A GUY FEELS sort of strange, calling yesterday's drama (right out of David Belasco) the fiercest game of the year. We can only suggest you ask somebody who saw it happen. Or better yet, see for yourself.

Heroes? Yesterday's was a game of heroes, with maybe a goat or two thrown in. But the goats got that way only because they were trying too hard. The Blues have a way of goading that lack of cool into the opposition.

LET'S TAKE Brave shortstop Ronnie Willis as tragic Hero No. 1. He drove in four runs with two home runs out of the straight-away center-field deepest fence in the ball

(See BLUES WIN Pg. 3)