

Blues Win

Ronnie Willis, Braves' shortstop, hit two tremendous home runs and missed a third by inches, but the Eastern Blues continued their undefeated march, 11-8, at Salter Path on Sunday. It was the Blues' 11th straight triumph with no defeats in the Seashore Baseball League.

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park. You had to see it to believe it, but Ronnie missed a third homer when Milton Scott bent the wire fence in the same centerfield spot to rob Willis in the ninth.

Jack Daughtrey needed an ancient Grecian chorus to sing an appropriate background to his shattering fate. He'd be smiling through his tears today, if he weren't all man and 2 and one-ninth yards tall. Thirty-eight years of living helps, too.

BUT THE Honorable Mr. Daughtrey outlasted five of the most costly Brave errors, he struck out ten Blues and held them to four earned runs. In earned runs, Daughtrey and Salter Path won the game, 8 to 4.

Let's face the facts, however. Any kind of old run that crosses the plate, no matter how tarnished, counts in the official score book. And the Blues won that score, 11-8.

OR DID they? The game was played under protest from the sixth inning on. Here are two conflicting versions:

Umpire Ron Eckert — "I ejected Craig Weber of the Braves for a flagrant act of unsportsmanship."

CRAIG WEBER — "I was trying to score from third. Blues' catcher, Ronnie Fulcher, was blocking the plate. I dove in for home plate and hit him with a shoulder block, because there was no way I could get to the plate with Fulcher in the way. Fulcher dropped the ball. When I tried to reach around Ronnie to tag the plate, the Blues' third-base coach rushed in and grabbed my arms. I tried to struggle loose and that's when Mr. Eckert threw me out of the game."

The most incredible part of this most heated moment of the season was that the Braves have an expert who takes motion-picture film of every game. It's just possible that the cameraman caught this action. If he did, the Braves have the best "PG-rated" hit of the year.

COUNT IN Weber with the Salter Path heroes. He went for that key sixth-inning run with the determination of an O. J. Simpson going for his 2001st NFL yard. He caught with a badly-lame throwing arm and yet picked a runner off third base, completed a double-play on a tag at home after a fine catch and throw by left-fielder Harold Anderson, chimed in with a timely single and stole his league-leading 20th base of the campaign.

Give Douglas Guthrie, Robert Salter and Bob McIntosh a star as assistant Brave heroes. They contributed 3, 2 and 2 hits apiece.

WHAT ABOUT the Eastern Blues' heroics? That's where the Down East myth comes in.

Week in and week out, they play like a team. Of heroes.

BUT, QUOTE Danny Lawrence, manager of the revitalized Beaufort Sea Dogs: "We're going to beat those Blues next week and at Smyrna, too."

The Dogs impressed their biggest home crowd of the season yesterday that they can do just that next Sunday, even though they bowed, 6-5, to the always tough Red Sox from Newport.