

# Time is Ripe for Tides To Deflate East Blues

By STURGIS HEDRICK

SOMETIMES YOU can't help but wonder.

Can they mere mortals be, these Eastern Blues who keep winning everything in sight in Seashore League baseball?

THEY WON it all last year: Ten straight in the regular season and four more without a loss in the playoffs. Now they've even outwinked superstition and own a 13-0 won-lost ledger for 1975.

When does it end? That Down-East balloon that keeps soaring out of sight. When does it descend?

WELL, THE hour has struck and the stage is set for 2 p.m. Sunday in Swinson Park. The Carteret Tides are rising in righteous wrath. They're lurking in eager ambush to ensnare the tired travelers from Down East.

COZY SWINSON Park, home of the Tides, holds the key. You can always count on the Eastern Blues' leather-lunged loyalists to keep the air in an uproar. But this time the second-place Tides have mustered Carteret supporters from just about everywhere west of Beaufort.

Sunday's friendly skirmish should rank as a rare Bicentennial extra.

TALKING JUST plain baseball and ignoring the "Luck of the Blues," Carteret looks rested and ready. Manager Rodney Kemp says his right-handed all-around star, Fletcher Poulk, will pitch Sunday.

The Blues edged the Tides, 4-3, in their last meeting June 15. But that was in Smyrna with Dallas Wayne Arthur, now graduated to the New York Mets' organization, hurling for the home team.

## SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Eastern Blues	13	0	Salter Path Braves	5	8
Carteret Tides	11	2	Beaufort Sea Dogs	2	11
Newport Red Sox	6	6	Western Blues	1	11

## GAMES SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

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

COMING ON in relief, Poulk proved every bit as effective as the great Dallas Wayne, even though Fletcher was tagged with the defeat.

Poulk pitched five full innings, yielding three hits and no earned runs. He lost in the last of the ninth on a lamentable error.

A NEIGHBORHOOD rivalry that could produce Sunday's tensest action takes the Newport Red Sox

to Salter Path to battle the Braves. Manager Donnie Aycock has right-handers Bruce Maness and Jay Garner both ready to pitch against Salter Path's starboard mound ace, Jack Daughtrey.

The playoff championship that now looms just seven weeks away provides no margin for a loss by either the Red Sox or Braves.

You might call Salter Path the team of celebrities, with former Washington and Lee great Daughtrey and radio personality Craig Weber both wearing the proud pin-stripes of the Braves.

BUT THEIR manager, Otis Pittmen, stands out as the most dignified of all the team celebrities. He carries himself with a certain aplomb that sets him apart in a crowd. And now television recognizes this by featuring Otis and his Salter Path Methodist Church choir-mates from 6:35 to 8 o'clock tomorrow morning (Channel 9).

It could be anybody's ball game Sunday when the Western Blues travel to Beaufort to challenge the Sea Dogs. It's almost a "must" win for either club to stay in serious playoff contention.