

Blues Can Do No Wrong In 12-4 Win Over Tides

By STURGIS HEDRICK

DESTINY'S Darlings — those magnificent, blinkety-blank Eastern Blues — did it again yesterday afternoon.

And — in the doing — they ignited a torrent of "moans, groans, hurrahs, oh-boys, you're supermen" crowd reactions from the Seashore League baseball loyalists.

TALK ABOUT polarization. You're for 'em or you're against 'em. But the just-about-100 per cent fair-minded legions of Carteret County fans had to admire the undefeated league champions yesterday as they swamped the Carteret Tides, 12-4, in the latter's home base, Swinson Park.

It's hard to estimate just how many witnesses turned up for the bitter pill the Blues forced the Tides to gulp. One unofficial police estimate placed the crowd at around 800. But, as you can see from the accompanying picture, the spectators swarmed all over the field and almost

literally hung from the rafters.

SO NOW IT'S 14 victories and 0 defeats for the Blues and 11 and 3 in the won-lost column for the second-place Tides.

But perhaps the most important lesson of the weekend administered by and to the Blues was the old elevator slice of real life. What goes up, most generally comes down.

YOU CAN PLAY like a team of heroes on a Sunday and go all out and still look like something less than heroes on a Saturday. That proved the fate of the Blues over the weekend.

And that's baseball and that's life. The Eastern Blues made a round trip of just about 500 miles to Roxboro Saturday and gave it their very best shot, but still lost to the Elon Colonels, 5-4. That finished the Down Easters in the double-elimination for the North Carolina Eastern Regional National Baseball Congress championship.

"THERE WASN'T a team in that tournament that five teams in our Seashore League couldn't have beaten," summarized Manager Wilson Davis of the Blues. "But it was just one of those days. Everything went wrong."

Most important of all, however, the Blues came up with a grim smile for their showdown battle with the Carteret Tides yesterday and it paid off. The Blues' best proved quite good enough in the more important (to them) Seashore League test.

SO, THIS TIME the Tides had to grin and bear a most unpleasant defeat. Three savage line drives that were nabbed by the Blues' brilliant third-baseman Milton Scott spelled the big difference in the 12-4 Tides' setback.

Magnificent fielding by shortstop Dale Lewis and second-baseman Ronnie Fulcher also turned the Tides. The Blues reeled off three bing-bang double-plays

and Lewis was in on all of them. Dale also stung the ball for 3 hits in 6 at-bats and stole a base.

ANALYZING THE play, as yesterday's game unfolded, you couldn't spot that much difference between the top teams.

The Blues hammered out 13 hits, but the Tides drew no less than 8 walks to go with the 8 Carteret hits.

BOTH TEAMS had their big bombers at bat. Chuck Lewis crashed two tremendous home runs over the center-field fence, added a single in 5 appearances for 2 runs-batted-in and a .424 average for the season. The circuit clouts were his

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