

FIRE-BALLING SOUTHPAW Likely Brave-Tide Foes

July 31, 1975

By STURGIS HEDRICK

WAVES MAY foam and wild winds sweep that scenic pasture known as Burnett's Field in Salter Path Sunday at 2 p.m.

Because, all weather considerations aside, the Seashore League baseball spotlight very well could focus on a battle of left-hand pitchers when the Braves play host to the generally genteel Carteret Tides.

THERE ARE left-handers and there are left-handers. Southpaw ace Jerry Koozman of the New York Mets

SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Eastern Blues	17	0	Salter Path Braves	7	8
Carteret Tides	12	3	Beaufort Sea Dogs	4	12
Newport Red Sox	9	6	Western Blues	1	19

GAMES SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

Eastern Blues at Beaufort Sea Dogs.
Carteret Tides at Salter Path Braves.

comes to mind, right off. Like Preacher Roe of the legendary Brooklyn Dodgers, Koozman enjoys convincing the rival batters he has lost his fast ball.

Then — whammo! — that too-trusting hitting opponent watches Jerry sneak a bolt of lightning past the batter. You might call that breed of portside hurler the sneaky cunny-thumb artist.

BUT SUNDAY'S possible protagonists defy that description. As of NEWS-TIMES press time, it appeared that Brave Manager Otis Pittman may start Lefty Bob McIntosh and Tide Experimentalist Rodney Kemp might very well counter with southpaw Phil Moran.

This match-up could indeed blow wilder than the weather. Both McIntosh and Moran can wing flaming smoke at the startled batters. Both Bobby and Phil prefer the outfield by trade and hit with awesome power.

BOBBY RANKS with the hottest bats in this widely-respected amateur league right now. He clouted two home runs against the Eastern Blues last week to hoist his plate average to .426. His slugging percentage (based on total bases) stands at a spectacular .596.

Moran has two homers himself, is hitting .313, but has a slugging percentage of .594.

Bobby and Phil both take pride in their strength and accuracy in throwing from the outfield. Both delight in pitching batting practice.

BUT LET them toe that mound and — oh, my. They don't mean to be wild. They're nice guys. Not mean. Honest.

Try batting against them, though. It's downright discouraging to those hitters who like to dig in and take a toehold. Every once in awhile, that noise the batter hears whistling past his chin and then exploding in the catcher's mit is (or was) a McIntosh or Moran fast ball.

YOU CAN NOW envision, perhaps, the excitement likely to erupt in Burnett's Field Sunday.

In any case, the fur seems destined to fly. Manager Kemp predicts a wild-and-wooly run-scoring rampage, something like 15 to 10. He admits the Tides are hurting for pitchers.

JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES George Gilbert ignited Rodney's first pitching thought. But then Mr. Nice Guy Kemp permitted himself an impish smirk.

"What about that pleasingly-wild left-hander, Phillip Moran? Wouldn't that prove interesting?" Rodney even gave voice to his thoughts amid the diligent energy-pool of his associates in the County Recreation Department.

"WE'LL SEE what we shall see Sunday," quoth the talented Tide tutor.

McIntosh has ideas of his own on the subject. You see, Bobby started the season with Carteret and he thinks he knows something about the Tides' batting likes and dislikes.

ARCH-CONSERVATIVE Otis Pittman has pitching depth, all right, but he has two walking wounded in his critical catching corps.

Craig Weber continues to suffer stabbing rib pains after his all-out slide to break up a double-play against the Eastern Blues last Sunday.

WHAT MUST RILE Craig as much as his physical pain is the knowledge that Richard Collins of the Newport Red Sox stole 4 bases last Sunday to tie Weber for the league lead at 20.

Pittman's other casualty, Otis' brother Jerry, donned the weighty catching pads in last week's emergency. With Weber out, someone had to catch. Jerry grimly stepped into the breach and did his best.

IN RETROSPECT, Jerry Pittman emerges as perhaps the big hero of that discouraging loss to the Blues. At age 38, did you ever try catching eight innings in 90-degree heat?

Sure, he permitted nine stolen bases. But, even there, in all levels of baseball, have you noticed the vast increase in base thefts? Even your most experienced receivers can't pluck the ball out of those deep-pocketed pillows fast enough to make a quick throw.

SO, WHO'S GOING to catch for the Braves this Sunday? Manager Otis and his big burly receiver, Bub Paulson, had a disagreement early in the season.

Come on, boys, this critical game with the Tides is bigger than both of you. Let's shake hands and call it a misunderstanding. Salter Path needs you, Bub.

MANAGER WILSON Davis' Eastern Blues have their Victory Cake all baked and are just about to cut into it and celebrate. It's a comfortable feeling to rest on top of the league, four full games in front of your closest rival.

But, you know what? A club like the Beaufort Sea Dogs just might be the Chosen Team to accomplish the upset of the season. Those Blues are ripe to be taken. And Sunday's home-field advantage in Beaufort could play a big factor.

If you notice an adjustment in the Seashore standings, it's because the Western Blues appear to have quit. Thus today's standings give a more realistic view of the league playoff picture, due for its gala unveiling Aug. 31.