

Thursday, August 7, 1975

Seashore League

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the-middle along the Seashore. That's when they're at their best.

THE BLUES MAY or may not be on Sunday. Shortstop Dale Lewis suffered an injury to his right throwing thumb. That's not going to help. Catcher Randy Grady will definitely sit out the Sox game with a badly-bruised leg, damaged last Sunday by a flying bat.

Thus Skipper Wilson Davis may be forced to go with Manley Gaskill behind the plate. Gaskill, the best of the Blues at second base, will be difficult to replace at his normal position.

PROBABLE Eastern pitcher George Zurenko, with 4 wins and 0 defeats, ranks like most of the Blues as a complete ball player. He has fierce desire and fielding skill. Joe-Boy Willis in center field has weak knees, but you'd never know it.

He reminds you of a mini-bulldozer as he roars across the velvety Smyrna outfield. And, when he winds himself into a corkscrew at the plate, those knavish knees stand up to the contortion. Joe-Boy led the league in all batting categories in 1974 and wound up hitting at a fabulous .529. He's slowly working back to the top in 1975.

THE DOWN EAST fans add up to the Blues' biggest asset. They expect the impossible from their heroes and inevitably seem to get it. But just remember, ye Downeasters, even the 1906 Chicago Cubs won only 116 en route to their .763 National League pennant pace. Even those gallant warriors of Frank Chance had to grin and bear 36 defeats.

PERHAPS the most intriguing of all angles to Sunday's don't-miss-it showdown brings the offensive leaders in every category but one to Smyrna.

Alex (The Mighty) Fox showed the Down East fans something to remember in a previous Sox-Blues' encounter. He lambasted 2 ferocious home runs on that memorable occasion. This Sunday, the 6-3 195-pound first-baseman symbolizes the awesome power of the Red Sox.

HE LED the Seashore League in circuit clouts last year with 6 and already has hammered 7 in 1975. He also ranks tops in runs-batted-in with 23 and has a fabulous slugging per cent of .759.

The One-and-Only Kenny Lewis, who's ready to play anywhere and everywhere for the Blues, paces all Seashore regulars with his .465 batting average and his seven doubles. Kenny has hit more doubles than he has singles (6) and owns a frightening .721 power pace.

Rabbit-footed Richard Collins of the Sox leads all Seashore batters with 3 triples and shares the stolen-base dominance with bounce-back-in-a-hurry Craig Weber of the Salter Path Braves. They both have 20.

GUESS WHO has scored the most runs? None other than third-baseman Milton Scott of the Blues with 26. In a typical commentary on the hard-to-beat Down East thinking: "Milton is our lead-off man. It's his job to score runs. Naturally, he's No. 1."

First-baseman Chuck Lewis of the Carteret Tides owns the most hits, 27. He's the only batting leader who won't square off Sunday in that Smyrna arena.

Chuck and the rest of the second-place Tides will have their hands full subduing a belligerent team of spoilers from Beaufort. The latter Sea Dogs, ably piloted by Sterling Hancock, will go against Manager Rodney Kemp's Carteret combo in the Tides' home Swinson Park Sunday at 2 p.m.



West Wins Doub

The Western All-Stars, men's and women's team pitch softball league all-star double-header Saturday Morehead City. Here, Western coach Sturgis Hec his players.

