

Blues Clinch First Place

You'll find it difficult, anywhere but Down East, to convince followers of the Seashore League that the Eastern Blues qualify, too, as Nice Guys.

THEY REFUSE to finish last.

And they poured it on the Sea Dogs, 10-2, in Beaufort. George Zurenko, right-handed former Boatswain's Mate, pitched 6 innings of shutout ball for the win. His Coast Guard crewman, Randy Grady, helped with two doubles in 3 trips.

BUT RANDY also wound up in Carteret General Hospital, rushed there by Rescue Squad, when he caught a flying bat on a badly-bruised leg.

Dale Lewis, brilliant Blue shortstop, continued his climb in the batting averages with 3 for 5, including a roaring triple. League-leading hitting star Kenny Lewis drove in 5 runs with a double and single.

EVERY ONE Down East will tell you the Eastern Blues qualify as the Nicest of Nice Guys, the Prince of Pals.

But will the fans love the Blues in September as they did in May?

AND THOSE modest Downeasters just happened to have their victory table all set for the occasion.

"How sweet it is," quoth Blues' Manager Wilson Davis after the defending champions' 18th league triumph against 0 defeats.

A LITTLE matter of the title playoffs remains. But, right now, Wilson is preening for the Blues' two remaining games in the regular season.

The still-undefeated smashers from Smyrna want to repeat last year's sweep of everything. The Blues entertain Manager Donnie Aycock's rarin'-to-go Red Sox next Sunday and then play host to the Carteret Tides Aug. 24.

