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the baby bay of 60-100-foot pines by 20 feet. Will the adventurous explorer that finds that baseball be kind enough to measure its distance from home plate and report its statistic to The NEWS-TIMES?

If rates an asterisk, at least.

BRUCE MANESS did indeed pitch his heart out for the Red Sox. In fact, he carried a 4-2 lead into the bottom of the fifth. Then Scott and Kenny Lewis lowered the boom.

But, let's face it, boys and girls; this team of Blues can hit. The winners also can field. And run. And play ball.

DALE LEWIS beat out a single to third to open the scoring in the first. He stole second and tallied on Joe Willis' single. Ronnie Fulcher opened the second with a slicing double to left and counted on George Zurenko's hard single down the middle.

Their own base-running killed the Sox, even while they were scoring their first run in the fourth. Alex Fox opened with a blistering single. Maness hammered a mighty double to left and Fox crossed home plate. But Alex failed to touch second base in his travels and very properly was called "out" by Umpires Mike Jakubek and Bill Simmons after the Blues' appeal.

TOM MANN drove in Maness with his bullet single to left. The Sox counted just one run, however, on those three beautiful hits.

Newport paraded no less than eight runners to the plate in the top of the fifth. Manager-catcher Donnie Aycock opened with a single over short. Allen Garner singled to center. George Mettrick did likewise. Fox and Maness each singled to left and Cecil Hardesty walked with the bases loaded.

THAT FINISHED Blues' starting pitcher George Zurenko. Yet with all those sniper shots, 5 hits in all counted just 3 runs before 18-year-old Brad Finer came in to quell the carnage on

wound up as the Sox Six-Star Special. He contributed two singles and a double in his four appearances at the plate.

Just for the record, yesterday's contest turned in the finest fielding performance of the year. Each team committed one very-marginal error. The fans saw an exciting 2-hour-and-24-minute playoff preview.

MANAGER Rodney Kemp's Carteret Tides, now 14-3 in the won-lost columns, could have used a tape-measure themselves yesterday. They battered the Sea Dogs of Beaufort, 20-5, in Swinson Park.

And, yeow, what a bombardment.

JOHN TURNAGE proved nothing short of a one-man gang. He hit a double and towering home run to straight-away center-field. And this baseball, believe it or not, has yet to be found and there are no pine trees screening it in wide-open Swinson Park.

Turnage also coasted to 7 innings on the mound, before retiring to the outfield, in favor of George Gilbert. John gave up just 4 hits; three of them (2 doubles and a home run) by Tony Hancock of the Salty Dogs.

Also chalk up five runs-batted-in for Turnage. Tide first-baseman Chuck Lewis chased home three runs with a double and his fourth homer of the season. Brilliant Carteret shortstop Kenny Randolph went to bat seven times and rifled 4 hits.

NEXT SUNDAY another playoff preview in Swinson Park: Donnie Aycock's Red Sox will train their guns on Rodney Kemp's Carteret Tides.

And Manager Wilson Davis will have his hands full in Smyrna, pitting his Blues against the Grays in an (exhibition) mini-War Between the States. The Grays? They're the 40-and-over age-group Blues of the future.

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