

Tides Outlast Red Sox In Odd Two-Part Drama

By STURGIS HEDRICK

SWINSON PARK set the scene yesterday afternoon for a split-screen spectacle in Seashore League baseball.

Rodney Kemp and Donald Leatherman coached the second-place Carteret Tides to a 17-6 victory over the Newport Red Sox in the game that counted and lifted the Tides to a 15-3 won-lost record. That one was played in weather that crackled the atmosphere with dangerous lightning bolts. It went the regulation nine innings.

WHAT YOU MIGHT call the bright preview of better things to come lasted just three innings in glorious sunshine. The Red Sox led, 3-0, at that stage behind superlative pitching by 19-year-old Jay Garner.

But that's where the dividing mark occurred and, symbolically, the ominous black thunderclouds rolled in over Mill Creek.

THE SCOREBOARD best tells the story:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Red Sox	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	6
Tides	0	0	0	4	1	4	2	6		17

One pitch by Carteret ace John Turnage made the difference. He fired a hopping fast ball that jumped in on right-hand hitter Jay Garner and cracked the Sox hurler on the wrist of his right pitching arm.

JAY TRIED to shake off the pain and gave the challenge his best shot on the mound for seven full innings. The arm gradually stiffened further as the game

progressed. The pain shot up into his upper arm and shoulder and that's when Manager Donnie Aycock had to summon Tom Mann, a fine shortstop and outfielder but no pitcher, to hurl the eighth.

It added up to one more snake-bit afternoon for the Red Sox. But they still showed they have the talent, fire and courage to win the playoffs when these begin Aug. 31. What the Sox do lack is depth and that never showed to more telling effect than yesterday.

NORMALLY, Bruce Maness, the league's leading hitter and one of the circuit's best pitchers, would have been on hand, ready to relieve Garner. But Bruce is a newlywed, busy in the process of moving his belongings to Raleigh, and could hardly foresee this disaster that struck the Sox.

Jay never looked better than he did in the first three innings. He faced just ten batsmen, yielded one hit and nary a walk. He had a live fast ball that crackled like the later lightning bolts and a snapping curve that looked like it was dropping — kerplunk — off a table.

HIS HURLING inspired the Sox to give him a 3-0 lead. His own single, singles by Richard Collins and Alex Fox, sandwiched around Ronald Greene's double, put Newport in front.

But that's when the weather turned in favor of the Tides and they paraded a batting barrage all their own.

FLETCHER POULK hammered a double and two singles in six at-bats. Chuck Lewis drove in three runs with two doubles in three appearances. George Gilbert and Philip Moran blasted home runs and Donald Leatherman contributed a double and single in two trips.

Catcher Ronald Greene paced the Red Sox with a double, two singles and three runs-batted-in in his five plate tries. Tom Mann weighed in with some neat fielding plays at shortstop and blasted a home run.

EVERY WEEK produces its fielding Spectaculars, (cq) so it taxes the memory of comparison to judge what we saw yesterday with a thriller we saw April 13.

But the best eye-opener that we cherish right now is the memory of Wayne Mobley's clutch grab in the second yesterday off Cecil Hardesty. The Sox right-fielder hit the hottest liner of the afternoon.

THE HUSTLING Mobley, who seems to play wherever he's needed in that brilliant Carteret defense, rose and soared to the occasion. Wayne must have leaped a good 9 feet into the air to glove that stinging bullet to third base.

Craig Weber paced the Salter Path Braves to a 17-9 conquest of the Sea Dogs yesterday in Beaufort. Playing with a 101-degree fever, the jack-of-all-trades hit 4 for 5, collected a double and a triple and stole 3 bases to boost his batting average to .397. He now leads the Seashore League in stolen bases with 23.