

★ The Morehead City high school baseball team will open its 1953 campaign when it meets the Camp Lejeune Devilpups at 3:15 this afternoon at Wade Brothers stadium.

Coaches Gannon Talbert and Charles Hester report that they do not yet know who will make up the team which will take the field today. The coaches say that they have 24 players, any one of whom might make the starting nine.

There are several veterans back from last year's squad, and they should be able to make the team. There are also, however, some freshmen who might force the veterans to fight for their places as starters.

The two coaches say that bad weather during recent weeks has made it impossible for them to find out just what any of the players can do. Although baseball practice began two weeks ago, the team has been able to practice outside on only one or two occasions. The coaches have been able to cut the squad down to its present size from the 40 candidates who turned out for the start of practice, but they will be able to do no further cutting until they have an opportunity to observe the boys in action.

Coach Talbert said that he has no idea how the team will show up against the Devilpups today. He said that he has not been able to find out how good the boys are and does not know how much they will be hampered by the lack of practice. The coach also said that he expects trouble with the Lejeune nine, made up largely of veterans from last year's team.

The 24 players from whom the coaches will select their starting nine are Walter Thomas, Gil Faber, Bobby Bass, Norman Larkee, Jerry Conner, Phillip Hewitt, Jimmy Willis, Earl Wade, Bobby Willis, Bradley McIntosh, Ronald Howland, Danny O'Neil, Jimmy Parker,

Timothy Jones, Horace Willis, Kemp Wickizer, Gene Smith, Billy Smith, Raymond Smith, Leroy Buck, Bill Robertson, David Small, Jerry Piner and Jerry Garner.

With positions on the starting team at stake, the 24 hopefuls will be out to make the best possible showing during the early games of the season. Their enthusiasm and desire to win starting berths could make up for the lack of practice and might cause trouble for their opponents.

Weather Delays Season Opener

Rainy weather has delayed the opening of the 1953 baseball season for the Beaufort Sea Dogs. The opening game of the season was to have been played Tuesday afternoon at Smyrna, but rain and wet grounds forced postponement. No plans have yet been made for making up the game.

Weather permitting, the Sea Dogs will open their season Tuesday afternoon when they meet Newport at Newport.

Like most of the teams in this section, the Sea Dogs have been hampered by bad weather ever since practice began two weeks ago. Coach T. H. McQuaid said that he has been able to hold only two or three outdoor practice sessions during that time.

Coach McQuaid said that his team this year will be made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores, most of them inexperienced. There are few holdovers from last year's squad. Experienced players who were mainstays of last year's team, B. G. O'Neal and Billy Eudy, will not be able to play this year.

Holdovers from last year's squad are Jimmy Modlin, James Holland, Gus Farlowe and Hugh Mason. One bright spot in the Beaufort picture is the return of Lewis Woodard to baseball action. Woodard played for the Sea Dogs two years ago, but he was out of action last year with a knee injury.

Coach McQuaid said that his big worry at this time is his mound staff. He says that as far as he can tell from the few practice sessions he has no pitchers. He hopes however, to be able to find one hurler before the season opens.

As is the case with Gannon Talbert in Morehead City, McQuaid is hesitant about making predictions about his team's success. He said that it is still too soon to tell just what kind of a team he will have this season.