

Seashore League Teams Will Play

Aug 21, 1975 (Continued from Pg. 2-A)

list the Braves in fourth place with 9 wins and 10 defeats. Such a loss by the Sox would still place Newport third with 9 and 9.

BUT NEVER underestimate the mathematical genius of Manager Pittman and his drawing board. He figured and he figured and he noted that the Red Sox owe him a July 30 rain-out replay in Salter Path.

Should the Braves win that one, presumably scheduled for Aug. 31, the Pittman warriors then would rest in third place with a 10-10 mark. The Sox would trail in fourth at 9-won 10-lost.

BUT, WAIT. The Sox would retain a trump card all their own. They themselves have a rain-out replay due them from July 13 with Carteret Tides in the Broad Creek home of the Red Sox.

A Newport victory in that one would bind the Sox and Braves in an ironclad deadlock for the disputed third place. The date then would extend well into September and the snow might fly, before the Seashore championships ever would commence.

SEE THE turbulence one determined manager and his imaginative drafting board can concoct?

Otis Pittman might even have to choreograph another war dance that would take him out of the enraged reach of the defending champion Eastern Blues, who theoretically would have been sitting by, idle, all this time.

So, let's forget the flippant figures and zero in on baseball, a game that's played by men on a diamond, not something cranked into a computer.

AND THE BARE facts disclose that the really critical game thus far in the 1975 Seashore season will unfold Sunday at 2 p.m. when the Braves challenge the Red Sox at Broad Creek.

Actually, that should be anybody's wide-open toss-up to win or lose. Manager Pittman has the greater pitching depth, with Jack Daughtrey and Bobby McIntosh to back up Brave starter, Lefty George Viereck. Skipper Donnie

Aycock will go with fire-balling Jay Garner and may have Bruce Maness ready in reserve.

SUNDAY'S anticipated battle royal has one spotlighted main sideshow and a good many equally fascinating side-features for league supremacy.

Craig Weber of the Braves and Richard Collins of the Sox have been staging a thrilling duel all season for the base-stealing title. Both are suffering from multifold injuries, but Craig holds the current edge in thefts at 23 to 22.

BIG ALEX Fox of the Red Sox hopes to add to his league-leading home-run total of 7. And both Jay Garner of the Sox and George Viereck of the Braves are aching to take over the No. 1 pitching spot, vacated by Dallas Wayne Arthur when he signed with the New York Mets. And, of course, Bruce Maness of the Sox not only figures in that mound lead, but also paces all regular Seashore hitters with his .487 average.

Thus, what once loomed as the crucial game of the regular season — the Carteret Tides' visit to try, try again Sunday against the Eastern Blues in Smyrna — now holds its place in the sun as a playoff preview.

AND, IF ANY of you Downeasters doubt that the balance of baseball interest hereabouts is shifting to Bogue Banks, just drop in for a bite of seafood or cup of coffee anywhere from Pine Knoll Shores to Cape Carteret.

But try Salter Path in particular and the area around the Rescue Squad Command Post.

DOWN THAT dirt road and to the rear rests the site of the exciting new \$12,000 Salter Path baseball diamond of 1976. It will contain concession stands, sanitary facilities, a public-address system and chain-link fences reaching 8 feet in height and measuring 320 feet at the foul lines and 350-foot-in-straightaway center.

Its financing? That's the best part of all. It's a completely enthusiastic community project, to be constructed by volunteer labor and machinery and financed by the merchants and citizens of Salter Path.

IT MIGHT even jar the Down East denizens loose, for one quick look next April. Just out of curiosity, you know.