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Tides Topple Eastern Blues

(Continued from Pg. 3)

of the Red Sox, who now own a 9-9 mark.

"You want to play the Tides, Otis?" inquired Newport Manager Donnie Aycock. "OK, you play the Tides. We'll take the Blues."

THUS, unofficially, did Aycock concede third place to the Braves. The alternative would have been at least two more pre-playoff encounters between Salter Path and Newport.

Now, it's all neat and surgically clean. The first-place Eastern Blues will play the Red Sox next Sunday in Smyrna and the Braves will travel to Swinson

Park to challenge the Tides. Thus will open the 1975 Seashore playoffs for the league pennant.

NEAT AND surgically clean describes the anesthetized operation by the Tides on the Eastern Blues. The defending champions still had a breath of life with the potential fifth run on second base and just one out in the home ninth.

Milton Scott, always a tough hombre in the clutch, worked the count to 3 and 2 and then fouled off 7 straight pitches.

REPRESENTING the tying run at home plate, Milton finally jumped on the

pitch he liked. He laced a bullet line drive between third and second. Carteret shortstop Fletcher Poulk raced, then dove to his right and snared the liner. He threw to second for the double-play and there you had the Tides' 16th win against 3 defeats, all previous losses to the Blues.

That marked High Tide for Rodney Kemp, who once again proved the Peerless Leader of the runners-up. He led off the Carteret batting order and slashed 2 hits to score 3 runs.

THE unquenchable Poulk went 3 for 5, one-man-gang Wayne Mobley smacked 2 base hits in 4 trips and Chuck

Lewis drove home 3 runs with his 1-for-3 afternoon.

That fine all-around athlete, George Gilbert, pitched 6 excellent innings for the Tides, yielding 6 hits and 3 runs. He then suffered an injured elbow in a strange bit of acrobatics at first base. Here Chuck Lewis moved to the mound from first base and handcuffed the Blues with just 1 hit.

THAT LONE bingle was a rifle-shot home run by catcher Randy Grady, the drive that proved that not every one of the Blues' fans had suffered a permanent silencing of their vocal chords.