

## Seashore Tourney Will Start Sunday

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just like everybody else?" That's the gist of the question the fans have been worrying themselves with ever since last week.

Now the moment of decision has arrived. The Down East fans will find the answer to their doubts come Sunday. They'll watch with an appraising eye as Red Sox Manager Donnie Aycock sends his 19-year-old right-hand pitching ace, Jay Garner, out to face the Blues' 18-year-old pride and joy, Brad Piner, himself a right-hand mound prodigy.

AND, AS ALWAYS, Blues Manager Wilson Davis manages to inject a controversial note into the pre-playoff speculation. He made a formal request to League President Wade Bell to restore Dallas Wayne Arthur to the Blues' eligible roster.

Dallas Wayne had a won-lost pitching record of 14-0 in Seashore League contention for the Blues, before he signed a professional baseball contract with the New York Mets' Marion, Va., farm club in the Appalachian League.

DALLAS WAYNE Arthur, a brilliant left-hand pitching prospect, will sit in as a Smyrna spectator on Sunday. But there's no way, he'll be eligible to play with his former Blues' teammates.

President Wade Bell made this crystal clear when he ruled on Wilson Davis' formal request:

"I CALL YOUR attention to Rule 21 of the league by-laws," announced Mr. Bell. "The best interest of the Seashore League would not be served by re-instating Player Dallas Arthur, because such action would jeopardize the future of the amateurs."

Rule 21 reads:

"THE SEASHORE League is strictly amateur and will not affect the amateur standing of any player. The exchange of money will not be permitted for travel or services."

Manager Davis even tossed in the ingredients for a mild brouhaha when he declined to be photographed. "Let the

other managers and players in the league be photographed. The fans can see what they want to see of me on the first-base coaching line," stated the rugged individualist, Skipper Wilson.

MANAGER DAVIS' unusual request about Dallas Arthur focuses the spotlight on one glaring weakness in the Blues' playoff hopes. They have far more depth than any of their three playoff rivals. But they do not have the overpowering pitching supremacy that was theirs when Lefty Arthur toed the mound.

Dallas' cousin, right-handed fireballer Richard Arthur, still suffers from an ailing right elbow. So the Blues must rely on young Brad Piner, George Zurenko, Kenny Lewis or Manley Gaskill, right-handers all and good ones. But Dallas Arthur has that something extra that puts him in a league apart.

ACTUALLY, the fiercest battle of the playoffs Sunday may very well focus on the Carteret Tides and Salter Path Braves in Swinson Park.

Both the Tides and Braves have well-rounded depth and strong-armed control pitchers ready to square off in an all-out bid to reach the best-2-of-3 championship finals. Tide Manager Rodney Kemp probably will rely on right-hander George Gilbert to toe the mound against Lefty George Viereck for Skipper Otis Pittman's Braves.

BUT — AND THIS "but" may well rank as the decisive factor in these chips-down playoffs — never forget the ladies.

It's the mothers, wives, sweethearts and daughters of the players who have their own feminine ways of inspring their men on to victory.

Here's to the ladies, God bless 'em.



Mrs. Donnie Aycock and their daughter, April, are the secret weapons of Manager Donnie Aycock and his Newport Red Sox Sunday at 2 p.m. The fourth-place Sox will challenge the defending champion eastern Blues in the opening playoff round for the 1975 Seashore League baseball championship.