

# Tides Win Title Opener;

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By STURGIS HEDRICK

"HE'D RATHER play ball for fun than practice any other trade for a fortune."

One of the Eastern Blues' star players made the remark about Wayne Mobley of the Carteret Tides yesterday afternoon. But the words fitted the members of both playoff finalists, as the Tides edged out the Newport Red Sox, 10-8, in the series opener in Swinson Park.

THE CARTERET cartel can clinch the championship monopoly next Sunday at 2 p.m. in the second of the 2-out-3 series for the Seashore League baseball title. All games will be played in Swinson Park.

Yesterday's crowd numbered perhaps 300, but it represented possibly the most baseball-savvy gathering of the season. And when this Eastern Blue (who had a passion for anonymity) paid out that paean to Mobley, he very well could have been describing most any player in the league.

TWO FINE ball clubs fought it out right down to the final wire and the Tides won, because they were the better team yesterday. The rivals appeared so extremely well matched that next week's winner could just as well be the Sox.

Carteret's brilliant catcher Andy Raynor and the Tides' smooth infield combination of Fletcher Poulk at shortstop and Doug Landingham at second placed the winners at bat. Raynor hammered three singles and a tremendous triple to left center in 5 trips. Poulk and Landingham each went 3 for 5.

THIRD-BASEMAN Mobley and right-fielder Donald

Leatherman came through with equally telling contributions in what stood out, above all, as a team triumph.

Mobley made one eye-opening nab in front of shortstop and rifle throw to first to retire perhaps the fastest man in the league, Richard Collins. Wayne also smacked a booming triple to right and a sharp single. Leatherman stroked a whistling double to left and a hot single to right.

The Tides collected a total of 19 hits, batted 9 men around in the 4th and 6th innings, but most important of all committed just 2 errors.

THAT MADE the difference. Four errors cost the Red Sox dearly.

Alex Fox, the big man who can hit the Babe Ruthian home runs, gave the crowd its biggest thrill of an exciting afternoon.

He singled in the second, stole second and scored on Cecil Hardesty's single to left. He walked in the third, stole second and died there.

FOXIE WARMED up to his power display in the fifth and hit a long-gone line shot far, far over the left-field fence. In the top of the ninth, with Newport fighting to stay alive, Alex exploded his ninth circuit clout of the season, a



Newport's Alex Fox tees off for the first of two home Tides. Both shots cleared the left field fence, 300 feet a