

# On Target

By Sturgis



George Zurenko, Little Boy Blue, will wear confederate gray from now on.

**TAKE HEART ALL YE** ball players in The Old North State.

Baseball players live longer than Mr. Average guy. What's more — even in retirement — former ball players show lower death rates than all others in the same age group.

Believe it or not, this qualifies as statistical fact, not fiction. No less an authority than the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. tells it like it is, after studying the lives of 10,079 major-league baseball players.

**EVEN BETTER**, team members in the last 40 years show a much better life expectancy than those of the 1880s.

But, and this adds up to a great big but, managers don't live nearly as long as just plain old ball players. Metropolitan Life attributes this variance as "possibly due to severe pressure to win."

And so, Wilson Davis, Donald Leatherman, Rodney Kemp, John Thompson, Donnie Aycock and Otis Pittman — Seashore Baseball League pilots, all — don't say you haven't been warned. Personally, however, I think you're cool cats who will outlive Methuselah.

**BUT, OH, THOSE** bases on balls. Rogers Hornsby once told me they'll cause the speedy death of any manager.