

# As Champ Tides Stu

By STURGIS HEDRICK

THE COASTAL GRAYS set the stage yesterday afternoon for the most important single confrontation in the 3-year history of the Seashore Baseball League.

They did it yesterday afternoon by breaking the hearts of the Newport Red Sox, 9-7, in Swinson Park. That gave the Grays a 3-1 won-lost record and focused the center spotlight on



MIKE DUDLEY

next Sunday's game with the 4-0 Eastern Blues in Swinson.

The defending champion Carteret Tides did some heart-breaking of their own yesterday, quelling the vastly improved Braves in their magnificent Salter Path Ball Park, 5-4.

So now the Tides stand all-square at 500 with 2 victories and 2 defeats and the Sox hold an embarrassing 1-3 record. Meanwhile, the potentially great Salter Path Braves blir and fail to comprehend how they have managed to lose all 4 of their starts, each and every one a might-have-been triumph.

BOTH WINNERS YESTERDAY raced from behind and overcame what appeared to be insurmountable leads.

Manager Donnie Aycock's Red Sox jumped on Grays' starting pitcher Delbert Sutton for 4 runs in the first on Craig Weber's crashing double, Ronald Greene's single, a walk to Allen Garner, George Viereck's neatly stroked double and George Mettrick's sharp single.

Doubles by Greene and Garner made the Newport lead, 5-0, in the third and only an eye-opening double-play, James Stanley to Richard Collins to Alex Fox, saved Sutton in the fourth.

Enter Mike Dudley, Grays' fire-ball relief hurler in the fifth, and the Sox were fortunate to score a single run in the eighth on Garner's walk and Tom Mann's double. Dudley extinguished that fire by striking out two of the most dangerous Newport batters with the bases loaded. Jimbo Hodges doubled and scored on the only error by either team in the ninth.

MANAGER JOHN THOMPSON'S whoop-and-holler Grays came roaring back with 2 in the fourth, 2 in the fifth, 4 great big runs in the seventh and Charley Hardesty's line homer to right in the eighth.

Dudley fanned 7 and pitched 2-hit relief ball in