

Monday, May 17, 1976

Morehead City-Beaufort, N. C.

Blues Go 10 Innings Again to Top Tides Hardesty Hurls One-Hitter in Grays' Win

By STURGIS HEDRICK

BASEBALL-MAD Carteret County has a well-nigh insoluble problem in logistics.

How can a fan or a scorekeeper witness, appraise and just plain enjoy two Seashore League games in the same afternoon? Especially when one is played in Swinson Park (about one mile from West Carteret High, off Country Club Road) and t'other takes place 'way Down East in Eastern Park, Smyrna.

This fan saw one whale of a ball game in which the Coastal Grays won their second in three starts, 8-2, at Swinson.

But I just may have missed the better of yesterday's two contests, a 10-inning affair in which the regular-season winners of last year, the Eastern Blues, squeaked by the defending champion Carteret Tides, 6-5, in Smyrna.

ONE THING YOU can take for Gospel. Mark this year's title chase as the most wide-open race anyone could imagine.

The Salter Path Braves proved one week ago that the Blues are, after all, mere mortals. The Braves lost that one, 7-6, in 10 innings, but the decision could have gone either way.

Then yesterday the Tides carried the Blues 10 innings, before the champs went down like the good sports they are. Let Blues' Manager Wilson Davis tell it like it was yesterday: "We lucked out again in 10 innings."

SO, LET'S TAKE it from the top. The now third-place Tides jumped away to a 5-0 lead with 2 runs in the 1st, 2 in the 2nd and then their final tally in the 4th on Wayne Mobley's home run.

Those relentless Blues pecked away, starting in the 6th. Dale Lewis opened with a bunt single and then Mighty Monster Paul Damren exploded the most astonishing home run in the history of the Seashore League.

Now hear this: The 6-foot-4 230-pound Blues' first-baseman boomed a John Turnage fast ball over High-

way 70-East, that rings the Eastern Park left and center field.

THAT INCREDIBLE clout puts Power-Packed Paul in the Babe Ruth-Mickey Mantle class. Try your tape measure on it some day and you'll find it goes a good 500 feet or farther.

Attention Cincinnati Reds: How did you ever let this 23-year-old Superman escape your farm system? Sure he suffered an injury in an auto accident. But send some scout down this-away to take another look. Big Paul is Some Kind of a Something Else.

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doubled home Braxton Piner with the tying run in the 8th. Piner, who had walked, made it a 5-5 ball game.

Then Braxton won the

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