

# Blues' Mighty Artillery Routs All-Stars, 22-11

By STURGIS HEDRICK

A RUN-AWAY LOCOMOTIVE makes a terrifying sight.

And that proved the spectacle that awed better than 5,000 fans Saturday night in Swinson Park. Chief Engineer Wilson Davis opened the Eastern Blue Express full throttle and his mighty machine ran roughshod over the Seashore League baseball All-Stars, 22-11.

In the stampede, the Blues routed the elite pitchers of the All-Stars, Jimmy Davis, Rusty Nelson and Mike Dudley. And Manager Davis even rested his own mound ace, Lefty Dallas Wayne Arthur, who has won 23 and lost 1 in his 3 Seashore seasons.

MY GRACIOUS, how those league-leading Blues poured it on. They scored 9 runs in the 2nd, 4 in the 3rd, 5 in the 4th. Then, leading 20-3, they tapered off with a mere 2 in the 5th and 2 in the 6th.

Brad Piner started on the mound and scattered his 6 hits to permit 3 runs over his 4 innings. Then Richard Arthur took over and joined in the Independence Day spirit of batting practice. The All-Stars touched Richard for 8 runs in his 3 innings in the game called by a post-midnight curfew after 7 frames.

SATURDAY'S PYROTECHNICS merely confirmed what baseball sages have long been saying about the

Blues. Sure, Dallas Wayne Arthur ranks as perhaps the best pitcher in the league. But the Blues, as a team, can beat most anybody in the state, no matter who toes their mound.

They'll probe this matter further on Thursday, when they journey to Roxboro to open play in the National Baseball Congress Regionals, which ultimately lead to the NBC World Series in Wichita, Kansas.

The Blues bristled power throughout their batting order. Ronnie Fulcher went 4 for 6 with a double, "Bad Back" Kenny Lewis banged away with 3 for 5 and Dale Lewis demonstrated his latent power with a double and home run.

Another Mr. Lewis, that amazing Chuck, maintained his phenomenal hitting pace for the All-Stars with 2 for 3. Fletcher Poulk, Chuck's teammate on the Carteret Tides, chimed in with 2 more rattling base hits, as did Neal Smith and Donald Willis of the Salter Path Braves and Alex Fox of the Coastal Greys.

BUT NOW IT'S BACK to Seashore League championship competition, with this week spelling a make-or-break opportunity for the Newport Red Sox.

Manager Donnie Aycock hopes to have his gigantic left-handed ace, Rusty Nelson, ready for the defending champ Carteret Tides at 8 p.m. Friday in Swinson Park. Then the Sox must challenge the Braves and right-handed Jimmy Davis right in that jack-in-the-box Salter Path Ball Park.

Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Blues face the Greys in Sunday's other league test at Swinson. Both teams will be playing under severe handicaps. Dallas Arthur, almost sure to pitch in Roxboro, may not be ready again on Sunday. Then, too, the rampaging Blues just might show signs of travel-weariness.

BUT THE MOST significant turn in league fortunes this season may drastically alter the fate of the Coastal Greys. Manager John Thompson welded together a championship contender from a group of some 50 individual temperaments in this, their first season.

A palace revolution unseated this born leader and thus Saturday's defeat signified his unfortunate Swan Song. Mr. Thompson could have shot down his opposition from within with a pop gun.

But he wears the pride and class of a gentleman far above such petty shenanigans. He smiled, shrugged and remarked: "My wife and family come first. Now maybe I'll have a chance to enjoy the good life."