

# Foes Still Sing Blues, But Sox Cling to Second

By STURGIS HEDRICK

HERE WE ARE at the half-way mark in Seashore League baseball competition and it's still the same old war cry. "You bettah than he are."

In other words, who can beat Manager Wilson Davis' Eastern Blues? Or one might even say, "Who has the audacity to try?"

Donnie Aycock's Newport Red Sox, that's who. They hung in there with a morale-boosting 7-1 conquest of the rough-tough Braves yesterday afternoon in that magnificent Salter Path Ball Park.

But the Sox still trail the Blues by 2 full games, because Wilson, that wondrous worker of wizardry, romped to a 23-6 victory over the Coastal Greys in Swinson Park.

BUT NEXT SUNDAY brings a head-on collision between the Blues and Sox at 2 p.m. in Swinson Park and Newport just could hand the Downeasters the shock of their young lives.

This season's spectacular race has the coffee-cup conversation boiling back to the good old days of the Tidewater League (1946-52), the Saltwater League (1953 to the early '60's) and then the Carolina Coastal League (1971-73).

These some-time amateur circuits and some-time semi-pro competitors qualified as worthy predecessors to the current Seashore League. But the philosophers with the long memories agreed unanimously on one point.

This year's Seashore contention has produced the best-balanced group of entries in the history of coastal baseball, even dating back to the days when the leagues

## SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS

	W	L	AVG.
Eastern Blues	8	2	.800
Newport Red Sox	6	4	.600
Coastal Greys	5	5	.500
Salter Path Braves	3	7	.300
Carteret Tides	2	6	.250

knew no boundaries and extended to New Bern, Kinston and elsewhere.

DONNIE AYCOCK KEEPS astounding his rivals with his ability to attract standout ballplayers, despite his casualties who drop by the wayside because of injuries, transfers or what have you.

A sweetheart of a right-hand pitcher named Tommy Vincent proved Donnie's latest find yesterday. He hurled a beautiful 6-hitter against the Braves, fanning 12 and walking just 2. That latter control figure counted perhaps more heavily than anything else.

Jimmy Davis, another gifted right-hander, turned in a dazzling performance of his own, striking out 14 and yielding 8 hits, but his 6 walks hurt.

TWO MIGHTY BOMBERS proved too much for Davis yesterday. Don Zagorski clouted a 2-run 1st-inning home run that cleared the 9-foot-high left-center-field wall by 30 feet. He added a double for 2 for 4. Bobby Shelton also went 2 for 4, including a 3-run homer in the 6th.

Both teams played big-league defensive ball with a single error apiece. The Sox clicked off one lightning double-play, Zagorski to Craig Weber to Ronnie Willis. Jimmy Davis, Benny Goldstein, Neal Smith and Johnny LaChance contributed brilliant fielding gems for the Braves.

Dangerous lightning, plus a tropical downpour, halted Friday night's Red Sox-Carteret Tide duel in a 4-7-inning tie in Swinson Park.

The Tides outhit Newport, 10-2, believe it or not. But Zagorski's home run and a circuit clout by George Viereck kept the Sox in the running.

THEN THE WEATHER took charge. John Turnage pitched masterful baseball for the Tides, until he just couldn't control the rain-soaked ball. He walked 4 in a row in the 7th and was charged with another run when Fletcher Pöulke gave a bases-loaded pass to Viereck.

Some times changes in managers help and some times they misfire. The Tides looked like an improved club under Rodney Kemp. Donald Leatherman has stepped down, but will continue in a playing and advisory capacity.

THE ENNIS Stiles-for-John Thompson managerial switch doesn't appear to have helped the Coastal Greys. Yet Manager Stiles can hardly be blamed for the 14-run barrage that killed the Greys in the last 2 innings.

Left-handed pitcher Charley Hardesty kept it a respectable game, with the Greys trailing, 7-6, through the 7th. Then the newly discovered home-run king of the league, Dale Lewis, unloaded the second of his home runs in the 8th with 2 mates aboard after a grand-slammer in the 2nd. Manley Gaskill also homered for the Blues in the 9th.

Alex Fox and William Steward hit Greys' home runs in the 5th and 6th, respectively, but with the bases empty. Brad Piner went the distance on the mound for those never-say-die Blues.

## Sports News

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From the left, Bobby Shelton, Tommy Vincent and Don Zagorski paced the Newport Red Sox in their 7-1 victory Sunday over the Braves of Salter Path.