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Rising Tides Overwhelm Crippled Eastern Blues

By STURGIS HEDRICK

HURRICANE BELLE tossed just enough moisture our way yesterday afternoon to drench the Salter Path Ball Park and Swinson Park.

Those two Seashore League rain-outs frustrated the daylights out of the defending champion Carteret Tides, the Newport Red Sox and the Coastal Greys. The Tides-at Salter Path postponement may have proved a blessing in disguise for the Braves, who now have until Friday to regroup for their assault upon the rising Tides.

Let's call it a draw between the postponed Sox and Greys, both of whom fretted over the idle Sunday. The Eastern Blues weren't scheduled.

THE SUN BEAMED brightly yesterday afternoon, but too late to do more than focus on the dazzling pyrotechnics of Friday night when the Tides battered the ailing Blues, 16-6, in Swinson Park.

If you can overlook your partisan interests in either of these top teams, the game proved a Roman Holiday for those baseball fanatics who worship the home run.

BUT THE CARNAGE couldn't exactly be described as one-sided. Manley Gaskill clouted a double and home run for the Blues in his 2 for 4. Dale Lewis smashed his 3rd homer and hit safely 3 times in 5 trips. Joe-Boy Willis whacked his 1st 4-bagger of 1976 and Tony Hancock weighed in with 2 hits in 4 appearances.

You might say John Turnage coasted on the mound to his 10-hit victory. He worked with a 16-2 Tide lead until the Blues' 4-run 9th. Or perhaps he tired en route to his 4th win against a single defeat.

IN ANY EVENT, Manager Wilson Davis did his best with a badly-crippled team of Blues. Milton Scott played with a painful sprained right wrist. Dallas Arthur has a sore left pitching wing. Kenny Lewis toils hard as he recovers from his severe recent surgery on a spinal disc.

Ronnie Fulcher and Carroll Hill have literally gone fishing for the season. After all, even amateur ball players must work to eat and support their families.

Another discouraging incident involving inebriates marred Friday night's contest, but more about that in Thursday's On Target.

Perhaps you remember viewing a highly-distorted motion-picture Western in which a band of Indians on the war path rushed with tomahawks at the ready to wreak revenge upon some guilty settlers.

THAT'S THE VISION a goodly crowd carried away from Swinson Friday after the Tides' 5th, 6th, 7th and most particularly their 8th inning.

To an imaginative mind, they appeared to be wiping the blood off their bats as they strained at the leash to get in their turns at the plate. Shall we call the roll of happy hitters?

Dalmon Lawrence Jr., now batting .500 in adult baseball, hammered a bullet 3-run homer just inside the left-field foul pole. Fletcher Poulk included his 2nd circuit clout in his 3 for 5. John Turnage hammered a double and his 3rd home run in his 2 for 5, which keeps him hitting .404.

Donald Garner cracked a double and triple in his 2 for 4, Doug Landingham went 2 for 3 and Winston Arrington hit 2 for 4.