

# On Target

By Sturgis Hedrick



WHAT A DIFFERENCE a few years make. It seemed like only yesterday that Craig Weber held the fascinated attention of a major-league baseball scout.

This promising young newcomer impressed his big-league observer with his rare poise, outstanding desire, clean-living habits and natural ability.

But the scout faulted Weber on just one count, his size. Craig stands 5- 8" and weighs 160 and the so-called talent expert was looking for a catcher. The scout's concept of a catcher weighed 200 pounds and stood at least 6 feet.

Actually, the appraiser erred in the most important aspect of his job. He failed to ask the key question, "Can this young Weber play any other position?"

BECAUSE CRAIG HAS looked even better this year as an outfielder, second-baseman and some-time shortstop than he has as a catcher.

He set the Seashore League afire last year with his .397 batting average for the Salter Path Braves and his 27 stolen bases, tops in the circuit. Playing as a non-complaining cripple this season for the Newport Red Sox, he hit .328 and stands second in base-thefts with 9.

He wound up his Seashore season last Sunday in the flashy style that used to incite his fans into their drawn-out cheer, "C-R-A-A-A-I-G W-E-B-E-R-R-R!" He cracked 3 hits in 4 trips, scored 4 runs and drove in 4 more.

LET'S FACE THE SAD truth. Craig may have played his last game in Carteret County. He checked into Duke Medical Center, Durham, on Wednesday to undergo major foot surgery. That will keep him in full leg casts for perhaps 6 months and will put him in a wheel chair for another 2 months.

The only organized fan club in the Morehead City radio listening audience, "The Weberettes," will take this news as a particular shock. Because he has reigned for more than 5 years as the leading Top 40 disc jockey in Eastern Carolina.

His broadcasts sang their swan song last Monday. Craig's station plans to become fully automated (no more personality chatter) in early October.

So our firebrand ball player and breezy DJ finds himself facing far from the brightest of futures. With 5 mouths to feed, Craig will tour the circuit, knocking on doors from his wheelchair mount, seeking employment.

HIS OWN WORDS best summarize the Weber philosophy:

On radio — "I want people to share their troubles, their frustrations and their happy moments with me. I like to make people feel they're alive. Then I know I've done my job."

On sports — "You play any game with the utmost of your ability. And then, sometimes, in a real clutch situation, you find you possess some special inner strength. Whenever you can give more effort than you thought you owned, you land in an area I call 'desire' or just plain 'guts.'"

Craig Weber has proven time and time again that he has a rare talent for "making people feel they're alive"



CRAIG WEBER

and coming up with "some special inner strength."

And, because he believes in a bright tomorrow, he can even light up the cloudiest day with his smile.

SURELY THE MOST vital doubleheader in many a moon of Downeast baseball highlights the schedule on Saturday.

The site of the action: The erstwhile Home of the Blues, the picturesque piney palisade, across the highway from the Smyrna School.

The protagonists: The Carteret Tides tangling in the first game at 1 p.m., with the Eastern Blues and the Eastern Grays facing the Beaufort Nets in the finale.

The stakes: The winner of the Tides-Blues confrontation will reign as the rain-postponed champion of the Eastern Invitational Tournament and will make important strides toward the Seashore title. The Grays-Nets contest winds up the Eastern League season.

BOTH MANAGERS, Wilson Davis of the Seashore-leading Blues and Rodney Kemp of the defending champ Tides, believe in living dangerously. The Blues face another tough foe

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SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS			
	W	L	AVG.
Eastern Blues	11	4	.733
Newport Red Sox	8	5	.615
Carteret Tides	7	6	.538
Coastal Greys	6	8	.429
Salter Path Braves	3	12	.200

### TOMORROW'S GAME AT 8 P.M.

Braves at Greys (Swinson Park).

### SATURDAY'S GAME AT 1 P.M.

Tides at Blues (Blues' old park, across the highway from Smyrna School).

### SUNDAY'S GAMES AT 2 P.M.

Red Sox at Blues (Eastern Park, Smyrna).  
Tides at Greys (Swinson Park).