

O V E R V I E W O F T E A M S

On Target

By Sturgis Hedrick



"Life don't consist in holdin' a good hand, but in playin' a pore hand well."

THIS POIGNANT philosophy, overheard last Sunday in a conversation between two Downeast sages, describes every Seashore League baseball manager's response to sporadic challenges far, far beyond the call of duty.

Take Wilson Davis, for example, and his re-organizational magic in keeping the crippled Eastern Blues 3 full games on top of the current white-hot league battle royal.

The defending champion Carteret Tides' Todney Kemp and Newport's Donnie Aycock have had their lean weeks, locating 9 healthy bodies to write onto their lineup cards. They've wrought wonders, when the prospects looked most bleak.

The Coastal Greys' new manager, Ennis Stiles, took over his reins in a mid-season change of command and has survived that always-demanding challenge.

BUT THAT LEADS to the current problems of Otis Pittman and his wizard-working efforts on behalf of the Salter Path Braves. HELP! S.O.S.!

Now hear this:

Otis needs ball players and he needs them right now. Fate works its wee whimsies in mystic ways.

This Sunday, of all times, the Seashore schedule sends the Braves right into the lion's mouth. They face those New Look Blues of Wilson Davis right in the latter's favorite lair, their 1974-1975 home, the Smyrna School diamond at 2 p.m.

So rally round the flag, boys. Come home. All is forgiven. Manager Pittman needs all you loyal Salter Pathers.

And just remember: Otis doesn't ask the impossible. You did it once and you can do it again. Just think back to that glorious June 13 when you tripped up the Blues, 6-5, and then celebrated the occasion in a wild war dance on the Pittman front lawn.

AS A MATTER of fact, a last-minute Seashore League meeting Tuesday night in the County Courthouse Annex may have opened the door for just the needed miracle. All four opposing team representatives agreed to waive the July 4 signing deadline and permit the Braves to sign some new players.

SEASHORE BASEBALL STANDINGS			
	W	L	AVG.
Eastern Blues	12	4	.750
Carteret Tides	8	6	.571
Newport Red Sox	8	6	.571
Coastal Greys	6	9	.400
Salter Path			
Braves	3	12	.200

TOMORROW'S GAME	
AT 8 P.M.	
Greys at Red Sox (Swinson Park).	

SATURDAY'S GAME	
AT 2 P.M.	
Tides at Salter Path.	

SUNDAY'S GAMES	
AT 2 P.M.	
Braves at Blues (Smyrna School diamond).	
Tides at Red Sox (Swinson Park).	

Private enterprise, which built the picturesque Salter Path Ball Park, came through once again. You can hardly find a more baseball-minded community anywhere.

And, with such well-informed fans, comes an army of coaching assistants, all-out loyalty and a Super Scout, Ronnie Smith, by name. He's a fiery go-getter and he got 'em.

WHOM DID Ronnie get? Well, here we cope with the secretive "mum's the word" cunning of the Salter Path board of strategy.

Not by any means Manager Otis, but attendance-minded Ronnie will permit just one feline to escape from his bag of additions. Then, following Pittman's passion for security, Super Scout Smith would no more than hint at the other newcomers.

Ronnie mentioned just one name, Bill Whitehurst, an outfielder-first baseman who worked out with the Braves yesterday evening. He hails from Atlantic Beach, where rumor hath it that he has been playing catch

as often as possible with a potentially fine pitcher with some 5 years experience in the Philadelphia Phillies' organization.

AT ANY RATE, the mystery will unveil itself come Saturday at 2 p.m. when the Tides visit Salter Path to test the Braves' newest additions in a makeup game.

The Greys open another critical weekend tomorrow at 8 p.m. in a make-or-break game for the host Red Sox in Swinson Park. Newport Manager Donnie Aycock hopes to stop the slugging Coastal entry with possibly southpaw Rusty Nelson or right-hander Georgie Willan.

Greys skipper Ennis Stiles has apparently found his reliable "stopper" in right-handed John Reels. But league's leading hitter Don Zagorski, hitting a cool .600 and tied for the home run lead at 6 with the Blues' Paul Damren, has created a serious problem for each and every Seashore pitcher.

DONNIE AYCOCK calls whip-wristed Don "the greatest hitter I've ever seen." Zag has, in fact, become the league's biggest gate attraction since Dallas Wayne Arthur and gigantic Damren started electrifying the fans.

George Mettrick, Newport outfielder and a buyer for Belk, remarked yesterday in his customary serious levity, "I think we had better put in a line of Don Zagorski T-shirts."

That's why East is East and West is West and whither goest thou on Sunday?

You face the choice of following the Braves to Smyrna or witness the shoot-it-out in the Swinson corral between Tides' ace John Turnage and the Sox Sultan of Swat, big Zag, both games at 2 p.m.

The Red Sea gets its color from the billions of tiny red plants that grow in it.