

Smyrna Pines Forecast

Possible Home-Run Duel

SEASHORE PLAYOFF STANDINGS (Double Elimination)

	W	L
Eastern Blues	1	0
Newport Red Sox	1	0
Carteret Tides	0	1
Coastal Greys	0	1

GAMES SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.
 Sox at Blues (Smyrna School diamond).
 Greys at Tides (Salter Path Ball Park).

Oh, when I am safe in my sylvan home . . .
 And when I am stretched beneath the pines . . .
 I laugh at the lore and the pride of man.
 —Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

By STURGIS HEDRICK

NOT ONLY MR. Emerson, but the pines themselves must be whistling a mirthful tune as the winds sing through their boughs their own majestic song.

Because most ardent followers of Seashore League baseball may be weighing pitching statistics and batting averages in picking the winner of Sunday's pivotal playoff game in the double-elimination playoffs.

That involves the head-on collision between the Eastern Blues and the Newport Red Sox at 2 p.m. Sunday on the Smyrna School diamond. But, in very truth, the stately pines overlooking the scene may enjoy the last laugh and decide the outcome.

FOR GENERATIONS beyond the memory of the oldest living Downeasters, those pines have sheltered some mighty blasts of a baseball. The Blues and Sox, however, will unlimber Sunday some of the most explosive artillery to grace this noble Home of the Blues in . . . quite a while.

Practical managerial minds like those of Chief Blue Wilson Davis and Top Sock Donnie Aycock may not have been spending the week re-reading their Ralph Waldo. But they certainly have given plenty of thought to the beckoning Smyrna pines.

Eight home runs nestled into their friendly forest last Sunday when the regular-season leading Blues carved out a 20-2 victory over the Coastal Greys. Newport blasted 5 round-trippers in the shock the Sox dealt to the defending champion Carteret Tides, 10-1, in the Salter Path Ball Park.

WHO WILL PITCH for these two undefeated title contenders come Sunday?

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Tournament

(Continued from Pg. 2A)

"Well, Brad Piner looked just great last Sunday," said Manager Davis. "I would say he's just one year away from being a real prospect. But then I guess it depends on how Dallas Wayne (Arthur) says he's feeling this week."

Rusty Nelson, gigantic southpaw, hurled one of the season's masterpieces in quelling the Tides with just 6 hits and walking 2. He can fire that apple, but he also commands some wicked curves and knucklers.

With the same control he displayed last week, he may be Manager Aycock's man. But then again, Donnie has some alternates in right-handed Tommy Vincent and Don Zagorski and Lefty George Viereck who are mighty eager to get a crack at the Blues.

BUT THE TITLE STAKES soar just as high or higher this Sunday when the Carteret Tides entertain the Coastal Greys at 2 p.m. in Salter Path. For these two hungry competitors, there's no tomorrow.

The losers bow out of the double-elimination playoffs. The winners survive and remain very much in the running to fight and win the Seashore championship for 1976.

Tides' Manager Rodney Kemp has right-handers John Turnage, Fletcher Pouk and George Gilbert primed and ready to subdue those rebounding Greys. Coastal Skipper Ennis Stiles has his musclemen avid to do some heap big war-whooping themselves come Sunday.

And Mr. Stiles also has the deepest mound corps in the league ripe for their rivals. He has yet to decide among right-handers John Reels and Delbert Sutton and south-paws Charley Hardesty and William Steward.