

'76 Seashore League Tournament Hits Snag

By JEFF JONES

SEASHORE Baseball League involved in the current playoff have come to a parting of the ways, it seems.

The Eastern Blues, regular season champions with a 16-4 record, defeated the Coastal Greys 20-2 Saturday afternoon, at Smyrna, in a contest protested by the Greys. So that one is still up in the air.

THE BLUES, representing the losers' bracket of the double-elimination tournament, were scheduled to meet the Newport Red Sox, winners' bracket representatives, in the first of a two-game series to decide the tournament crown. Where they were to meet is the basis for another controversy.

The Blues claim that the four teams involved in the playoff agreed prior to

the tournament to play all games on the home fields of the top teams by regular season standings. That would make Smyrna the site for the two-game series between the Blues and Newport.

BUT NEWPORT takes the position that the winners' bracket representative should have the option of choosing the site. The Red Sox chose Salter Path. The Sox went there Sunday, while the Blues stayed at Smyrna. Is there a forfeit, either way? No one seems to know for sure.

In the meantime, the Blues played the Eastern Grays in an exhibition game Sunday, winning 14-3, while the Red Sox played the Coastal Greys in an exhibition contest, winning that one 18-6.

NEAL LEWIS, league secretary, said this morning that he was under

the impression that a compromise had been reached. Newport was to host the first game on Sunday, at Salter Path, and the Blues, had they won, would have hosted the final game of the series at Smyrna. That didn't come to pass, however.

At this point, Mr. Lewis, and league president Wade Bell, say they are fed up with the bickering. Mr. Bell has called a meeting of the four playoff teams for 7:30 Tuesday night in the district courtroom, Beaufort, "to settle this mess once and for all."

Stay tuned. We may know something definite by Thursday.

WHEN IT COMES TO.....
FIRE
.....DONT PLAY AROUND!