

## **Seashore League Issues Resolved**

(Continued from Pg. 2A)

league secretary, Neal Lewis, was directed at the start of the season to judge the residency requirement by voter registration. The Blues submitted affidavits showing that Red Sox performers Jimbo Hodges, Mike Burchette, Rusty Nelson, Don Zagorski and Tommy Vincent, all former Havelock High School baseball stars, do not meet that requirement.

"These five men, by the rules, are ineligible," Mr. Bell declared. But the protest was dropped by Blues' manager Davis after the point had been made.

INCIDENTALLY, Newport manager Aycock pointed out that the removal of five players from his 12-man roster would make it impossible for him to field a team. It takes at least nine men to play the game.

Tides' representative Donald Leatherman parried charges that indecisiveness on the part of the league president, or a lack of communication between the president and secretary compounded dissension. "It's just plain unfair to place the blame on Mr. Bell or Neal (Lewis). It has been up to us to make these decisions. It's the managers' fault: rules have been bent and broken all year long," he commented.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE agreed, expressing appreciation to league officials for the work they've done.

Mr. Bell announced at the start of the meeting that this would be his last year as league president. In fact, he said, "This meeting is it for me. I don't want hard feelings with anybody, not over a baseball game."

REVIEWING ARGUMENTS over player ineligibility, rule violations and other matters, Mr. Bell noted, "Everybody has done wrong and you all know it."

Most of those present voiced the opinion that Mr. Bell's decision to cancel the tournament was a wise one. As Chuck Lewis, player for the Tides, put it: "Everybody can go home half-way happy, come back next year and start fresh." Most also agreed that those issues causing dissension, including player eligibility, the designated hitter rule and ground rules for the tournament, should be spelled out in detail and made available to all teams prior to the start of the '77 season.