

NBC Tourney to Start This Weekend

1977

Hawks, Lenoir Seen as Top Clubs

By RODNEY KEMP

THE STANTONSBURG Hawks and Lenoir County All-Stars stack up as the favorites in this weekend's 1977 North Carolina NBC Coastal Division Tournament at Swinson Park, Morehead City.

The Pollocksville Bears, Grifton Reds and the Seashore Baseball League leaders, the Eastern Blues, also appear to be in consideration for top honors in this semi-pro baseball tournament which will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the next three weeks.

THE COASTAL GREYS, Carteret Tides, Western Red Sox, Chicod Cowboys and Salter Path Braves round out the field in this 10-team, double-elimination affair and anyone of them is capable of taking all the marbles or at least having a say in who does.

The oldest team in this year's tournament as far as period of organization is Stantonburg. The Hawks have been competing for the past ten years and before that were called All-Stars and Colonels.

THE HAWKS HAVE used their major strength of overall great team

balance to gather a 16-4 win-loss mark for the season. Those wins include the championship of the 1977 Saratoga Invitational earlier in the summer.

The Lenoir County All-Stars bring a sparkling 25-5 record and a host of former professional and current college players into the tournament. Monte Little, head baseball coach at East Carolina University, is the team's shortstop and heads up a squad that is extremely strong in pitching and possesses lightning-like bats.

THE POLLOCKSVILLE Bears of Jones County display a 20-4 record at tournament time and feature powerful bats that are likely to open up the skies around Swinson Park. The Bears also can count on strong pitching as one of their major strengths.

The Grifton Reds are leading the P. H. Martin Semi-Pro Baseball League this season with a 12-3 record. No stranger to this area, the Reds have competed against the Blues and the Tides in the past few seasons.

THE CHICOD COWBOYS are second to the Reds in the P. H. Martin circuit. They hit well and get good

pitching from a corral of pitchers. Their team speed is not outstanding, but the reports say their hustle is.

The Blues, Tides and Braves are battling tough for the Seashore crown. The Greys and Red Sox, not particularly impressive record-wise, are known by fans to have the type of personnel to beat anyone at a given time.

THE BLUES FOR the last two years ventured to Roxboro to play in this same tournament. Blues mentor Wilson Davis, tournament director, was instrumental in bringing the action to the Carteret area.

The Blues' style of baseball has become the standard for the rest of the Seashore entries. Good pitching, patient hitting and sound defense and base running have kept the Blues on top.

The Tides and Braves, with the addition of legal out-of-county imports, have successfully copied this pattern and are anxious to display their wares in this showcase tournament.

NBC Tourney Pairings

Set; 10 Clubs Entered

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL Congress (NBC) Coastal Division Tournament will begin Friday, July 8, at Swinson Park, Morehead City, with 10 teams participating. That's fewer than tournament director Wilson Davis, Straits, had hoped for, but more than enough to offer spectators three weekends of exciting baseball.

Teams entered are the Pollocksville Bears, the Stantonburg Hawks, Chicod Cowboys, the Grifton Reds and the Lenoir County All-Stars, in addition to the five member teams of the Seashore Baseball League in this

county, the Eastern Blues, the Carteret Tides, the Coastal Greys, Western Red Sox and Salter Path Braves.

ADMISSION EACH DAY of the tournament will be \$1.50 for adults, 50 cents for boys and girls 12 and under. The Coastal Division tourney will be staged over the following three weekends, July 8-11, July 15-18 and July 22-24 (see pairings above). Afternoon and evening games are planned in the early going. Final rounds will be played entirely under the lights.

A concession stand will be in operation at Swinson Park throughout the tournament.

THE WINNER OF THE Coastal Division tourney will take on the winner of the Western Division (NBC) competition, which will be staged simultaneously in Roxboro, in a Tar Heel title fight July 29-31 at Roxboro. The state NBC champion will be decided in a best-two-of-three series. Winner of the state crown will advance to the NBC World Series the following month in Wichita, Kan.