

Beaufort Gets Forfeit Win over Salter Path

By Shelly Smoyer

Beaufort took a 9-0 forfeit victory over Salter Path Sunday to gain the County Baseball League playoff finals which begin Aug. 22.

Beaufort was awarded the game on a forfeit when Salter Path quit in the top of the eighth with the score tied 13-13. Salter Path left the field at the command of Manager Ty Frost after a lengthy rhubarb over an umpire's decision.

Salter Path had the bases loaded and two out with Harold Diebert at the plate carrying two strikes.

Willis Steals Home

Wade Willis, on third, received the signal to steal home and took off with Jim Parkins' delivery. The plate umpire called Willis safe, but as Willis was coming in, Diebert switched from the normal batting stance to bunt position as the ball crossed the plate.

The base umpire went up to the plate umpire and wanted to know what the pitch was called. The plate umpire said it was a strike, called Diebert out, and nullified the run.

Diebert and Frost stoutly maintained that no attempt was made to hit the ball, only a shift occurred. The plate umpire said that Diebert shifted his feet and pushed out his bat at the ball.

After arguing about 10 minutes, Frost called his players together, saying, "Let's go home, I can't take any more of this. If I stay here any longer I'll kill somebody or somebody'll kill me."

Frost and the umpires had engaged in minor rhubarbs all during the game, with the climax coming on the umpire's final decision.

In four innings Salter Path had fashioned a 10-0 lead with Walt Thomas pitching one-hit ball. Salter Path blew up in the bottom of the fourth, committing four errors, and playing poor baseball.

Beaufort took the opportunity to club Thomas for four hits and when the inning was over Beaufort had scored seven runs. Prior to this inning Salter Path had executed three straight double plays.

In the fifth Salter Path recovered and scored three more runs on three singles, a walk, and a fielder's choice. Beaufort bounced back with two scores of its own, capped by Carl Sadle's double.

Two tallies in the sixth for Beaufort, before being erased by Salter Path's fourth DP of the game, gave the home team a two-run deficit, 11-13.

A home run by Lewis Woodard with Jim Holland on base tied the game 13-13 at the end of seven frames. Woodard poked a low hanging drive along the rightfield line that curved into the woods and was lost.

Rhubarb Develops

A rhubarb developed at this point with Salter Path claiming the ball was foul, but the umpire ruled it fair and okayed the homer and the resulting scores.

A fielder's choice, a walk, and a hit batsman loaded the bases for Salter Path in the eighth. George Lewis was a victim of a force out and Jerry Pittman fanned, bringing Diebert to the plate.

Parkins, who had replaced Clyde Owens at the start of the sixth, got two strikes on Diebert before Willis, on third, started his dash for home. When he did, it broke up the game.