

Coach Edwards Looks For Better Showing

Newport will open Carteret county baseball Wednesday with a trip to Swansboro. The Hawks' coach, Eugene Edwards, believes he has a better team than last year's 3-3 squad.

The first unit is back, along with four other veterans. In all, 32 boys were out for the first day of practice last

week. "I've got competition for positions this year," coach Edwards says, "so they'll have to work."

He'll be trying to patch up weak spots by shifting players, but adds, "They are looking pretty good." Newport has scheduled 12 games so far, but hopes to add a few more. (See schedule, this page.)

In Swansboro, coach Jim Parkin greeted 30 boys on the playing field when practice opened. Six first stringers from last year's 7-7 team returned.

"We've got weaknesses all over the place," he says, "although every boy we've got played ball last year, either JV or varsity." He will start only two seniors. Coach Parkin believes his defense will be better this year, because he'll field some "pretty fast boys."

Swansboro's starting lineup will be Randy Lebond, catcher; Mike Booth, first base; Curtis Smith, second base; Joe Ellington, third base; Jeff Dudley or Mike Lesem, shortstop; Ken Jones, left field; Ben Licko, center field; Ed Ellington, right field; and Cliff Waters Jr., Mike Lesem or Sam McCullough on the mound.

To date, the Pirates have scheduled only ten games. Coach Parkin says he is trying to work another five or six. (See schedule, this page.)

Inspector Recuperates

John A. Baker, county building inspector, is reportedly in fair condition at Baptist hospital, Winston-Salem. He was moved to Winston-Salem from Wayne Memorial hospital, Goldsboro, last week, following lung surgery. He was suffering from paralysis in his legs and lower part of his body.