

Thursday, Aug. 25, 1977

# Birds, Grays Will Clash Sunday For Eastern League Championship

By BUNKY KELLUM

THE BEAUFORT BIRDS AND Eastern Grays will clash at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Freedom Park, Beaufort, for the Eastern Baseball League championship.

The Grays got to the finals of the playoff by beating the Salter Path Reds two weeks ago. In the same weekend, the Birds only got in 3 innings of play before getting rained

out. But last week the game was finished and so were hopes of a championship for the Atlantic Pirates, as the Beaufort Birds blasted them 13-4.

THE GAME, like so many others involving the Birds, was controlled by pitcher Steve Dudley. He had a little control problem, but struck out 14 Pirates, walked 9 and gave up 3 hits. For the Pirates, Bob Berrera was the losing pitcher. He gave it a courageous try, but to no avail. He struck out 9, walked 7 and scattered 10 hits.

Doing the hitting for Beaufort were David Simpson, 2-3; Steve Dudley, 1-4, a home run; Bill Stanley, 2-4; Ricky Weires, 2-3; Danny Grant, 1-4. Getting the Pirates 3 hits were Bob Berrera, 2-4, and D. Watts, 1-4.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP game between the Grays and Birds should turn out to be a good one. Although there is no love lost between the two teams, the game will be played with high emotions.

Since the Birds won their two regular season games with the Grays, both by one run and one in an 11-inning struggle, the Grays will be out for revenge. The Birds, on the other hand, will be looking for a championship in their first year in the Eastern League

and a chance to stop the Grays from winning their second championship. Both teams will be up for the game more than any other this season.

I would not want to predict a winner. The Grays and Birds are well-matched. The Birds may have the edge in speed, and will probably be stealing a few bases if their speedsters get on. Hitting for both teams is good. They are also equal in defensive ability.

The stage is set for Sunday at Freedom Park, Beaufort. The Eastern League championship game, at 2:30 p.m., will be worth seeing.