

## Rhubarb at Salter Path Drops Atlantic Behind in Series

—♦ A rhubarb between Atlantic's baseball manager, John Hamilton, and umpires Weldon Davis and Randolph Mason ended Sunday's play-off game at Salter Path between Salter Path and Atlantic. The game was the first of a best two-of-three for the play-off championship.

The score was tied at 4-4 when Wade Willis came to bat for Salter Path in the last of the eighth with two on and none out. He popped up between first and home. Atlantic pitcher Joe Willis tried for the ball and missed, but the ball hit him and rolled foul.

Hamilton claimed the batter should be called out under the infield fly rule which states that a runner is automatically out if he pops up to the infield with runners on base who are in a position to be forced out.

### Umpire Rules

Umpire Davis ruled that the ball wasn't an infield fly because there was doubt that Willis ever had a chance to field the ball. Hamilton then said that the ball was foul before Willis ever touched it. The umpire ruled that it was a fair ball and called the runners safe at all three bases.

Since the game was played on the Salter Path diamond there was little sympathy with Hamilton's stand among spectators. The umpires, both from the eastern part

of the county, warned Hamilton to continue the ball game.

League rules have no provision for protesting a game because of an umpire's call, so Atlantic left the field and forfeited the game to Salter Path. One victory by Salter Path or two by Atlantic will be necessary to name the play-off champions.

### Adcox Starts

Mel Adcox opened on the mound for Salter Path, and Atlantic scored twice in the first inning and twice in the second before he was relieved by Jerry Pittman, who held the Atlantic batters to one hit for the rest of the distance.

Thomas Salter started for Atlantic and allowed one run in the third inning. He weakened in the seventh and allowed three runs before Joe Willis came in to put out the fire.

Wade Willis, whose infield hit started all the trouble, was batting star of the game with two for two and two runs scored.

The two teams will meet at Atlantic Sunday in a doubleheader to decide the title. Game time is 1:30 o'clock.