

#55 1955 High School Baseball -- "Morehead vs. Atlantic

An excerpt from Sideline Chants A True Life Story, by Norman L. Clark

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"In the spring of the year a young man's fancy turns to love, but at Morehead City High the young man's fancy turned to baseball. I was to coach the 1955 edition of the Morehead City Eagles baseball team. This was right down my alley because I probably knew more about baseball than any other sports activity.

Gannon Talbert related the previous happenings of last years baseball game with Atlantic High School The game was a non-conference game and Atlantic had selected umpires from their hometown. Morehead City High was leading 3-2, and they were in the last inning. Atlantic had a man on second base, with two outs. An Atlantic player hit a line drive between the two Morehead City High outfielders. The Atlantic runner on second base missed touching third base and came on home and scored a run. The Morehead City third baseman called for the ball and tagged third base because practically everyone saw the Atlantic runner miss third base. The base umpire called the runner safe. Talbert charged onto the field to dispute the umpire's decision. The base umpire calmly reached in his pocket and pulled out a knife and pointed it at Coach Talbert and said, "We play kicking sand on the bases down here and the runner is safe." Talbert seeing the knife glisten in the sun said, "Mr. base umpire, you are exactly right, the runner is safe." That wound up the sports programs between Atlantic High and Morehead City High. Talbert didn't care for the Atlantic rule of kicking sand on the bases!

Our 1955 baseball season was highly successful and we won the Seashore Conference Championship. The baseball team was anchored by such stalwarts as Jerry Pittman, Bobby Willis, Bradley McIntosh, Jimmy Parker, Jimmy Willis, Kemp Wickizer, Kent Brown, Norman Larkee, and Jerry Garner.

We won the regional and district championship but lost to Williamston High School in the Eastern Championship finals. Gaylord and Jim Perry, who later pitched in the major leagues beat us 5-0 and 2-0. Gaylord Perry has been selected to baseball's Hall¹ of Fame in Coopers-town, New York. I was elated with our season, and every member of our team played up to their capabilities...