

Surveying the Scene

with Hal Shapiro

● Thursday afternoon we made a visit, with the Morehead City baseball team, to the sand dunes of Atlantic.

Rather we should say, as did Atlantic coach Henry Goodwin, that the infield of the baseball diamond at the Atlantic School would make a fine golf course with its many sand traps.

At first base, second and third, the sand was really deep and no infielder at any of these three positions could get too close to his respective base.

In spite of the sand, the boys of both teams fielded exceptionally well considering that it was the first game of the year for both teams. A total of only three errors was made by the fielders of both teams, with Atlantic making two and Morehead City one.

Jerry Garner, who pitched masterly ball for the Eagles during the five innings that he was on the mound, showed an awful lot of control for a high school hurler.

He was ahead of just about every man he faced and his fast ball was really zipping in there. His only lapse of control, coming in the third inning, cost him his shutout.

He struck out the first man to face him in the third and then walked two men. After getting the next out on another strikeout he was rapped for a basehit which scored Atlantic's only run.

On Thursday the Eagles played without the services of first-string catcher Bobby Willis, who is currently out with a fractured right hand.

Bradley McIntosh, switching from his shortstop position did a fine job behind the bat for the Eagles and Norm Larkee, switched from second to short, also turned in a fine exhibition at a strange position.

The hitting of Kemp Wickizer and Jimmy Willis, among others spells foreboding for hurlers in the conference this season. Both of them had long extra basehits and if they can keep hitting the apple as they did against Tom Salter of Atlantic they will give all the other clubs in the loop a run for their money.

Everybody in the starting lineup for Morehead City had at least one hit, with the exception of Jerry Connor, who just couldn't get himself untracked at the plate.

On Friday the Eagles will play their second game of the season against Beaufort at the Seadog diamond, seeking their second straight victory.

● Roy Styron notched his second straight victory hurling for Smyrna against Beaufort Tuesday and looks as though he is off to one of his better years on the hill for Coach Stew Daniels' crew.

It was a shame that Herb Mason hurt himself in the same game, but it would be advisable for all players in different sports to wear metal protectors.

Here's hoping that Herb will be in shape to play in the Morehead City-Beaufort game Friday at Beaufort.

● Baseball will take over the county and Morehead City in a big way this summer if current indications are any criterion.

The plans at present call for the County League to be in operation, the Little League and the Pony League in Morehead City, and a junior loop in Newport, with players from all over the county playing with the American Legion team at Havelock.

Tonight the County League is holding its initial meeting of the season at radio station WBMA at 7:30 with all league officials, managers, and team officials invited to attend.

The teams are hoping to get off to a fast start in mid-May and it is hoped that a full house will greet President Ray Cummins at the meeting tonight.