

# Eastern Blues Will Test Big Fireworks in Roxboro

By STURGIS HEDRICK

ROCKETING glistening white baseballs into outer space, the Eastern Blues hope to celebrate the Fourth of July by making their rival Roxboro Blues see red.

"Don't fire until you see the white of his eyes," Chief Tactician Wilson Davis instructed his fired-up Downeast Minutemen. "Then shock their pitcher with the Shot Heard 'Round the World."

BLUE IS beautiful. But it's a sight to make strong men weep when they sing the Blues. That, alas, will be the situation sometime tomorrow night.

Because our Carteret County Eastern Blues will square off against the Person County Roxboro Blues at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in the opening round of the National Baseball Congress Eastern North Carolina Regionals.

THE UNDEFEATED defending champions of the Seashore League could hardly have drawn a tougher opponent for the first round of this double-elimination tournament.

After all, the Roxboro

Blues will be playing before their home fans and they've been known to make themselves heard... with authority. Roxboro is not only the birthplace of the legendary Enos (Country) Slaughter, now baseball coach of Duke University. But the perennial Country Boy also hand-picked these Roxboro Blues and managed them in person until a year or so back.

THESE STATE Regionals differ from the Seashore League in qualifications. The Seashore requires residence in Carteret County for eligibility. The Regionals do not. Some entries doubtless will present all-star rosters, recruited from several counties. Many teams "load up" for this championship, which can take the winner to the World Series of amateur baseball in Wichita, Kan.

Hats off to Manager Wilson Davis and the Eastern Blues. They are firm believers in themselves and will go with the team that has swept through to 26 straight victories in their undefeated march to the 1974 pennant and the 1975 lead in the two-year history of the Seashore.

DAVIS IS making one concession to necessity, rather than to preference. He felt his Blues needed some pitching, because of the sudden departure of his left-handed ace, Dallas Wayne Arthur, to professional baseball and because of the lingering elbow ailment of his right-handed star, Richard Arthur.

So Wilson scored a ten-strike in signing up Jack Daughtrey, the bread-and-butter ace of the Salter Path Braves. Jack required no persuasion. He thrives on the stiffest competition he can find. And he has been there before. The roar of the crowd is no stranger to big Jack Daughtrey, 38-year-old Washington and Lee immortal.

PLEASE understand the niceties of this situation. Daughtrey is merely on loan from the Braves for the National Baseball Congress

duration. Courtesy of Salter Path Manager Otis Pittman, Jack can play with the Blues as far as they go in the tourney.

But Daughtrey's first allegiance belongs to the Braves and that's the uniform he'll be wearing, come Sunday at 2 p.m. when Salter Path travels to Bogue to tackle the Western Blues. Pittman has left-hander George Viereck and right-hander Neal Smith ready to face Delbert Sutton of the Western Blues.

THE CARTERET Tides will have their hands full when they invade Beaufort Sunday to test the renovated Sea Dogs. Tide Manager Rodney Kemp will start his all-around ace, Fletcher Poulk, against southpaw Charley Hardesty, for Beaufort.

Sea Dog Skipper Joey Lawrence passes along a warning to the Tides: "Two weeks ago, Charley Hardesty told me, 'Nobody in any league, anywhere, is gonna get a hit off'n me when I'm ready.' Two weeks have passed and Charley is ready."

AND, OH, the irony of it all. The Eastern Blues just might win the big one in Roxboro tomorrow evening and then lose to Donnie Aycock's Newport contenders at the Home of the Red Sox in Broad Creek Sunday.

The Sox are overdue and primed for this one, with Bruce Maness and Jay Garner, both ready for the mound. Win, lose or draw in Roxboro the Eastern Blues should draw a huge crowd for the Red Sox.