

## #2A-1 Paul Damren ECHS (1966-1970)



Paul Damren Batting - Eastern Blues 1977

- ❖ He was a Member of the 1970 Co-Championship ECHS Team and won “All Conference Honors”.
- ❖ Paul had all of the abilities of defense, hitting, running, and throwing to play in the Majors:
  - He was the best first baseman in the North Eastern Conference. Joel Hancock, our catcher, said “That he was never afraid to through the ball to first with a runner on, he knew Paul would stop it.”
  - Batted .475 his 1969-1970 his Senior Year.
    - 1968-1969 Baseball MVP.
    - He was known for his Power Hitting and Ability to Hit Good Pitching. The better the pitcher, the better he hit it.
      - ✚ Pittsburgh Scout measured a ball that was hit in dead center field that was over 505 feet.

- Next to Joel Hancock, Paul was the fastest man we had on the team.
- ❖ I had the chance to take him to Gastonia for a scheduled tryout (at night) with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who had followed him throughout high school.
  - They pitched their top three (3) pitchers, starting with their 3<sup>rd</sup> rated against him that night, the only difference was that Paul was knocking 340-foot line drives either off the wall in Left, 400+-foot line drives off of the Center or Right field walls, or he was hitting them over the wall. The Pittsburgh Coach said, “It was the best exhibition of hitting he has seen in a long time.” Pittsburgh liked him, but Cincinnati beat them in the Draft.
- ❖ Signed in the 11<sup>th</sup> Round with Cincinnati Reds out of High School.
- ❖ He Led the League in Doubles his first year with Cincinnati. He was hurt in accident during the off season and never got back to full strength, even though they paid him while working through his rehab for two more years.

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### Seashore League (Eastern Blues Power Hitter)

- ❖ He played for the Eastern Blues in 1976-1977 and he Batted 2<sup>nd</sup> in the powerful Seashore Semi-Pro League at .443 and .426 respectively.
- ❖ He hit some of the longest and hardest hit balls in the Seashore League. He hit one during a game that was played at Eastern Park that went across the road and was measured at more than 520 feet.

After documenting the history for Baseball in Carteret County from the 1930s, Paul Damren ranks as one of the best natural hitters that have come through the County. The better the pitching, the harder he hit it. Most hitters had certain pitches they could hit – with Paul, he could hit an off speed pitch as well as he could a fast ball.

By: Joe (Boy) Willis

- 1969 ECHS Assistant Baseball Coach
- 1970 and 1971 ECHS Baseball Coach  
(1970 Co-Championship Team)
- An organizers and players of the Eastern Blues (194-1977) of the Seashore League
- County Local Historian for Sports Documentation  
(Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center)