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Photo by Jeff Jones

Left-hander Dallas Author is pictured in his heyday with the Eastern Blues. Dallas was virtually unbeatable during his days with the Blues and was known throughout Eastern North Carolina for his blazing fastball.

Down east southpaw remembered

By EDDIE HILL

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For a young boy growing up in Carteret County, local heroes were few and far between. You could see plenty of them on television, but "real-life" heroes just did not abound in this coastal rural area.

On Wednesday, Jan 14, a genuine Carteret County hero was buried. Dallas Wayne Arthur, 34, died Jan 11 of injuries sustained in a tree-cutting accident on Jan 2. In his playing days, he was a left-handed pitching whiz known as the "Down East

Darling" of the Eastern Blues, a men's team. He was every small boy's idol.

Dallas starred at East Carteret High School. He was the ace of the Mariner pitching staff on what was arguably one of the best baseball teams East Carteret ever produced.

In his senior year, Dallas was the leading pitcher in the tough North Eastern conference, and from East he went on to star at Albemarle College and later at Atlantic Christian College. It was in the Seashore League that he really made his mark.

Dallas did it all. He struck out 24 batters in one game to set a league record, and was unbeatable in three years of play. After pitching his Blues to a 7-6 victory at the opening of the Salter Path ballpark, Dallas requested that his picture not appear in the paper because he believed the tremendous spirit of sportsmanship and community togetherness far outshaded individual accolades.

Through the Seashore League, Dallas won his ticket to the big leagues, signing with the Mets in June, 1975. Every person marches to

his own beat and Dallas, even though he was progressing as expected in the Mets' farm system, decided he wanted to come home. So he did, and continued to demonstrate to eastern North Carolina what a pitcher he was. During his Blues days, Dallas accomplished such feats as pitching a one-hitter against the best team Lenior County had to offer and three-hitting a Beaufort County All-Star team.

There is not enough time to list all of Dallas' achievements, nor is it necessary. Dallas will always be remembered by baseball enthusiasts in the county as an outstanding southpaw, but more importantly as an outstanding person. Dallas was in every sense of the word the "Down East Darling," and to many of us young Carteret County boys, he will always be remembered as our personal hero.