

Don Willis, Star Athlete, Drowns Off

Immediate Efforts to Find Body Unsuccessful

Don Willis, 20, Atlantic, well-known county sports star, drowned Monday off the New Jersey coast when he was knocked from a menhaden boat. Willis's body had not been recovered as of yesterday.

He was the stellar pitcher for the Atlantic baseball team. He won the county championship for his team Sunday

when he pitched against Salter Path in the league playoff. Atlantic won every game Willis pitched, except one, this season.

A graduate of Atlantic High School, he was also an outstanding player on Atlantic's basketball team during his high school career.

Seven Miles Offshore

According to reports received here, Willis was knocked from the boat as fish were being baled into the hold. The accident occurred seven miles offshore. His father, Grover Willis, also of Atlantic was aboard at the time.

A hook off a whip line evidently hit Willis on the head. He fell into the water and immediate efforts to locate him failed. It is believed that he was knocked unconscious and then drowned.

Left Here Sunday

Mr. Willis and his son left this county following the game Sunday. They had been fishing off the Jersey coast weekdays all summer and were aboard the Thomas C. McNeill, a Harvey Smith boat.

The accident happened between 4 and 5 p.m. Monday, with the boat heavily laden with fish.

Mr. Willis returned to his home at Atlantic Tuesday morning. Survivors, in addition to the parents, are a brother, Myron Wade, and a sister, Linda.

