

# Whew! Blues Win Again, But Almost Quake in Sox

By STURGIS HEDRICK

RICHARD reigned as King Arthur yesterday afternoon to save the abdicated Dallas Wayne.

And that's how the Eastern Blues squeaked to their 22nd straight victory without a single loss in the Seashore Baseball League.

The defending champion Downeasters nipped the Newport Red Sox, 9-7, before more than 1000 fans in Smyrna, largest crowd ever in the history of the league. The Blues now are 8-won 0-lost for the season.

But Manager Donnie Aycock's scrappy Red Sox gave the champs their best game of the year and a drive down the right-field line by Jay Garner spelled the difference. It went foul by inches. Had it stayed fair, the two neatly-matched rivals might well have been playing ball into the sunset.

BRUCE MANESS was straining at third and George Mettrick was ready on first with no outs and the Red Sox trailing by just 2 runs in the top of the ninth.

That's when Blues Manager Wilson Davis decided the top left-hand pitcher in the league, Dallas Wayne Arthur, had had enough. Wilson handed Dallas' cousin, right-handed Richard Arthur, the ball and Richard did the rest. He struck out three Red Sox in a row. The ferocious foul to right by Jay Garner proved the only dissenting vote.

THE SOX JUMPED on Dallas Wayne for 2 runs in the first inning with Richard Collins weighing in with the key single. The Blues struck back with 3 in the third after Maness had retired the first two-batters. Singles by Fulcher, Crawford Pigott and Kenny Lewis, with the

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Richard Arthur, left, and Joe Willis look like a couple of mighty tired Eastern Blues. The 9-7 triumph by the defending champions over the Newport Red Sox left these two key Blues almost without that sweet smile that spells victory.

# Seashore League

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latter stealing second and third, accounted for the runs.

Never-say-die Newport tied the game at 3-3 in the fourth on Maness' single and a leg double by Dale Vogler. But then Bruce Maness developed a painful blister on the ball of his pivot foot and his pitching showed the difference.

RANDY GRADY greeted Bruce with a double to left-center in the home half of the fourth. Dallas Arthur followed with a sharp single. Milt Scott made first on a costly error at third base. Grady scored on Fulcher's long sacrifice-fly to center.

And then mighty Joe Willis broke the ball game wide open with a 360-foot circuit clout into the left-field pines. The red Sox kept pecking away and gave Dallas Arthur his roughest afternoon in many a day. But Joey's home run spelled the difference at game's end.

LAST YEAR'S statistics (or lack of same) fail to reveal the record for consecutive base hits, but Kenny Lewis must be there or thereabouts with 7 for 7 in his last two games.

He smashed 3 straight singles and stole 2 bases yesterday before he put himself out of action with a possible broken left hand. He went all-out with a Pete Reiser-style dive for Maness' triple in the fifth.

Hitting heroics and stand-out fielding abounded in this taut thriller, witnessed by the new president of the Seashore League, Wade Bell.

FOR THE SOX, speedboy Collins had 2 for 5, Alec Fox did the same and Maness had 3 for 5 and pitched a strong game until that untimely blister called in Jay Garner in effective but tardy relief.

For the Blues, Joe Willis went 2 for 3, including his second home run of the season, Fulcher had 2 for 4, Crawford Pigott enjoyed a 3 for 4 afternoon and Randy Grady contributed a timely double in his 2 for 4.

GIVE THE Western Blues and "A" for effort as they snapped back like the prideful ball club they are. But the Gung-Ho Braves nosed them out, 4-3, when Craig Weber stole home with the winning run in the home half of the ninth at Salter Path.

Lefty George Viereck pitched a 4-hitter for the Braves and struck out 15. Spencer Smith led the Salter Path attack in a frustrating afternoon against Delbert Sutton. Spence rapped 3 hit in 4 appearances.

John Turnage hurled the Carteret Tides to an 11-2 win over the Beaufort Sea Dogs in the first league game in Swinson Park. George Gilbert and Andy Raynor hammered 2-run and 3-run circuit clouts for the Tides and Fletcher Poulk went 3 for 5 and stole 2 bases.