



**EVERYBODY FROM FANS TO GROUND CREW CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR**

## Durham Bulls' First Half Pennant

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.  
When the Durham Bulls pounded out a 13-4 triumph over the Lynchburg Mets in Lynchburg, Va. on June 15, they won the Carolina League's Southern Division championship.

But the title was really won in Durham earlier that week when the fast charging Bulls snatched three of four games from the hardhitting Peninsula Pilots.

The Bulls/Pilots showdown showed baseball at its best, the kind of series that leaves fans buzzing for a while.

"I would have to say that the Durham-Penninsula Series is the best class-A series that I've ever seen and I've been associated with minor league baseball off and on for fifteen years."  
—Bulls' Manager Bobby Dews

But more than just a series of hard-fought, tightly played games between two proud and proficient teams, these games clearly demonstrated just how much of a team effort successful baseball is, because everyone "got into the game" this time. The Bulls can thank not only their fans, but also the grounds crew at Durham Athletic Park, because they all played a role.

First, let's set the stage. When the Bulls met the Pilots at Durham Athletic Park beginning on Friday, June 11, it seemed as if the Durham team was ready to fall like a reeling fighter and the Pilots who, like a Virginia "Blue Wave", were more than ready to charge by Durham (who had held first place since April 23) and take the pennant back to Hampton, Va.

The Pilots in the preceding weeks had roared from deep in the standings, propelled by a 12-game winning streak. They charged past the then second place Kinston Blue Jays by taking a five game set. They, then, took four straight from Northern division leader Alexandria, the team that has the best win-loss record in the Carolina League. At the time, Alexandria already had the Northern title sewed up.

When the Bulls went to Hampton, the Pilots won three of four to deadlock the now tight pennant race. They also won three of four from Winston-Salem, while the Bulls swept Kinston to take a half-game lead. Then on June 11 the Pilots came to Durham.

The Pilots a confident team while the Bulls were seething. Durham players complained about not getting any breaks on the disastrous road trip. Injuries were also keeping several Bulls' players out of the year's biggest series.

One local sports writer, watching the Pilots warm up before the game, said: "Just look at how well prepared they are. They don't even drop balls in practice!"

The series was so important that two sports writers from the Tidewater area of Virginia came to cover it, along with virtually all of the Triangle media.

The first game of the set was a marvelous affair as both teams played virtually perfect ball marred only by a mental error by the Pilots when the Bulls Rick Siriano reached first after the Pilots' catcher dropped a third strike pitch.



**First Place High Game Scratch**  
James S. Harrington ' Ms. Barbara Harrington



**First Place High Average - Women**  
Jimmy Harrington makes presentation to Ms. Erma Reid

In the fourth inning, Miguel Sosa, the popular Dominican who speaks little English; but raps loudly with his bat lately doubled to score him. The Bulls hung on to win 2-1, with Durham pitcher Dave Clay tossing a three hitter as more than 3,000 fans roared their approval.

The next night another 3,000-plus crowd was more than ready for action. In the left field bleachers a fan waved a Bulls' pennant, complete with attached horns. Anytime Pilots' Manager Bill Dancy strode to the pitchers' mound, Durham fans counted a "hut two three four!" cadence in time with his steps. Even Dancy smiled.

The game was another nail-biter. But with the Bulls trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the sixth, Tommy Thompson blasted a 2-run homer to give Durham a 4-3 lead. In the same inning, Rick Siriano slugged a 4-bagger and Miguel Sosa almost turned a "hat trick" when his long fly bounced off the wall. Later in the game, both Sosa and Keith Hagman slammed homers.

With Durham leading 6-3 in the top of the ninth the Pilots got runners as far as second and third before they fell to defeat.

When asked if he thought that this game would give Durham the momentum to win the flag, Bulls manager Bobby Dews, said: "I'm not thinking about anything but that game which begins at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow."

The next night came following what seemed to be an endless series of rainstorms that pelted Durham with a soft, but threatening shower. But the DAP ground crew, headed by Bill Miller, did an A-1 job of getting the field ready for play.

The game started late, but the ground crew and Bulls' management, remembering that rain outs kept the Bulls from a championship in 1981, said collectively that this series was so important that all games would be played.

The game, played before 1,410 Bulls' zealots, was another classic.

The Pilots seemed to have this well played affair in hand. Though they led only by 3-2, their defense seemed to completely smother any

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## Hazel Plummer Bowling League Awards Trophies

The Hazel B. Plummer League closed the season for the Fall-Winter session and awarded trophies and plaques to the top winners in the league.

Presiding over the occasion were Davesene Spellman and Delores Plummer. Program participants were: James S. Harrington, Barbara Harrington, Nancy Rowland, Linwood Taylor, Jimmy Harrington, Gwen Davis, Alyce Little, Priscilla Malloy and G. Booth Smith.

The following awards and trophies were given:  
Teams  
•First place - Lots of Luck Express: Priscilla Malloy, Adolphus Caviness, Clifton Parker, Florence Robertson.  
•Second place - Rovers: Illa Hill, Joseph Garner.

Anne Reed, Eric "T-Bird" Roberson.  
•Third place - Pacers: Barbara Harrington, Ronald Miller, William Miller, Jimmy Harrington.

Individual Awards  
•High Averages  
First place-Charles Parker, Erma Reid; second place-Eric Roberson, Flo Roberson; third place-Jim Dyer, Bernice Snipes.

•High Series Scratch First place-George Thorne, Nancy Rowland; second place-Ronald Miller, Walterene Parrish; third place-Jamin Peddy, Priscilla Malloy.  
•High Game Scratch First place-James Harrington, Barbara Harrington; second place-Joseph Garner, Delores Plummer; third place-Clifton Parker, Rosalyn Leslie.

•High Series Handicap First place-Robert Medlyn, Bonnie Edwards; second place-

Norman Johnson, Georgetta Parker; third place-Howard Fitts, Sandra Shuler.

•High Game Handicap First place-Robert Curtis, Gaynelle Curtis; second place-Adolphus Caviness, Missouri Morris; third place-Linwood Taylor, Anne Reed.

Memorial Award was presented to Priscilla Malloy by John and Delores Plummer. Special guests of the League were Mrs. Doss Massenburg and John.

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## Gus Thompson In First Car Race

Augustus "Gus" Thompson, Jr., participated in the Washington, D.C. Region, SCCA MARRS 11 and The Showroom Stock Challenge at Summit Point Raceway, Summit Point, West Virginia on June 5-6. This was his first car race.

Thompson is a 1967 graduate of Hillside High School; received his B.S. degree from N.C. State University in Aerospace Design in 1971; and a master's degree from Case Western Reserve in 1976

in Systems Design and Engineering. He is currently employed with Advance Technology in Washington, D.C., as a systems analyst.

Thompson took classes in driving cars in Summit Point, W.Va., and Nelson Ledges, Ohio. He is a novice to car racing but reportedly impressed his instructors by finishing 7 out of 16 in his class. He was driving a 1981 Datsun 200EX in Showroom Stock Class C (SSC), No. 23.

He is scheduled to drive in a race on July 4 at Summit Point, W.Va.

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Paid for by the Durham Center Campaign Committee Judge Willis P. Whichard, Chairman

# VOTE TUESDAY, JUNE 29

To Re-elect

## BILL ALLEN

Sheriff

of

## Durham County

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**"Thank you for your support the past four and one half years. And I look forward to your continued support in the June 29th primary"**

Paid for by Committee to Re-elect Bill Allen Sheriff, Jimmy L. Pulley, Treasurer, P. O. Box 389

