

### Wilson Signs Three Promising Players

There'll be a big crop of "promising" players in the Coastal Plain league this year if all the players who are submitting contracts find their way to the ball parks in the eight club towns.

Wilson signed three new players this week, boosting the number of mound candidates to ten. Floyd "Lefty" Bledso, six feet tall and a 185-pound flinger, sent his contract to the Wilson club officials this week from his home in Laurinburg. Bledso is said to have established a unique record in semi-pro circles last season. Jacob Hubec, Jr., McKee's Rock, Pa., sent his contract in and will compete for a place on Wilson's mound. LeRoy Spell, Yadkinville, N. C., physical education director, has signed with the Tobs for the shortstop position. Spell cast a spell over the opposition in the western Carolina league last season.

W. A. Fleming, president of the Wilson club, said last evening that the day after Spell signed a contract, the young man agreed to play with Erwin in the Tobacco State league.

Wilson starts spring training activities Monday week.

Not so much has been heard from several of the other teams, but reports maintain that "Mule" Shirley is trying to work off some fat spots on his anatomy to serve the Goldsboro Bugs at first base in addition to his managerial activities.



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## League Officials Hold Meeting at Greenville

### "PAP" SIGNS

"Pap" Diem, that guy who produced a long beard and held a hot corner at third for the Martins season before last, will be coming back this year. Skipper O'Malley announced this morning.

Diem wired his acceptance yesterday and stated he will report here week after next. The Messrs. Lilley Brothers sent Pap a contract several weeks ago and it just caught up with him this week in a foreign country.

### Final Statistics On Martin Basketeers

Below is the individual performances of the Williamston Martins cage team for the season just closed. These statistics include games played in three tournaments, in addition to the regular scheduled games.

	GP	G	F	Tot.
Anderson, g	28	111	20	242
Wallace, f	27	103	22	228
Taylor, util.	26	71	14	156
Jefferson, c	23	62	19	143
Cobb, f	24	67	9	143
Edwards, f	16	64	8	136
Manning, g	29	53	5	111
A. Cooke, g	24	33	7	73
Mears, util.	19	25	9	59
Cone, util.	10	14	7	35
Rose, util.	22	12	8	32
Cowen, f	15	14	3	31
W. Cooke, util.	8	8	4	20
Watts, g	12	4	6	14
Totals	641	141	1423	

The Martin management wishes to thank all those who took enough interest in the team to help in transporting the players to out-of-town games in their cars, and also to the faithful few that helped make the season almost a financial success by attending the home games, despite the cold and damp weather that was usually prevalent. All the boys appreciate what everyone has done during the past campaign.

### Invite League Officials To Hold Meeting Here

Believing certain rules should be clarified before the baseball season opens, J. Eason Lilley, president of the local baseball club, extended an invitation to league officials to meet here at the call of the president.

### President Eure Will Rule On Eligibility Of League's Players

#### Leave Loophole For Big Arguments After Season Opens

Meeting in Greenville as guests of the club officials there, directors of the Coastal Plain league wrangled four hours in an effort to avoid future wrangles, the group leaving the host city doubtful of the success of the session that was packed with warm but friendly argument.

Business of the meeting was centered on pay for scorers, eligibility of players and records of players prior to the 1933 season.

The directors unanimously agreed to pay scorers \$1 for each home game and have them placed under the supervision of the league president and the statistician, Aubrey Shaeckel.

The task of determining eligibility of players was removed from the jurisdiction of the directors and dumped into the lap of President Eure, the group extending their best wishes. Eure's decisions, however, are subject to appeal by the clubs to Judge Bramham.

Charging each other with bones to pick, the various club representatives left a big loophole for squabbles during the coming season. Officially advised that complete records of player activities prior to the 1933 season are not available, a motion was made to disregard all records prior to that time and recognize players at the beginning of the 1933 season as rookies. That would let such men as Peahead Walker, Doc Smith and others, to be sure, in as Class D men, and create an opening for an additional class man. It is unfortunate that there are no records prior to 1933, but since there are not complete records in the official files, President Eure suggested that all records prior to 1933 be disregarded.

About six of the clubs, including Operator J. Eason Lilley of the local club, favored the plan, but the other two would have none of it, and the meeting adjourned about midnight with the point still unsettled. President Eure, it is believed, will call another meeting soon either in Goldsboro or Williamston in an effort to thrash out a matter that is certain to give trouble if it goes unaltered.

After the meeting was adjourned, Goldsboro's manager, E. R. Shirley, showed a letter from a player with the player's record. "We have no official record of the man prior to 1933," Judge Bramham's office wrote. However, it is understood that the player was active prior to 1933 possibly in an unlimited class. "What are you going to rule this man?" Mule Shirley wanted to know. There's no official record for the man prior to 1933, but if Goldsboro signs the guy, and it is later learned over the grapevine route or otherwise that he played class ball then Goldsboro is subject to lose every game that man played in. Several clubs lost games in that way last season, and it is apparent that unless the rules are changed there'll be more argument and hot argument too, as the season progresses.

President J. Eason Lilley and Manager Paul O'Malley represented the local club at the meeting.

### Doubtful If All Clubs Will Have Grounds Ready

There was some doubt expressed yesterday if all the clubs in the Coastal circuit will have their grounds ready by April 27. Temporary arrangements are underway, however, to carry on the schedule.

### Tarboro Club Now Training In South

Tarboro, March 23.—Manager Guy L. Shatzer training his 1939 Tarboro entry in the Coastal Plain league was frankly well satisfied with the first few days of spring training, and expressed himself as agreeably surprised at the possibilities of the men, now working out under sunny Florida skies, with the Portsmouth, Va., Cubs.

Shatzer said he wasn't sure what would be required in this league for a pennant winner, but he had aspirations of winning the hunting this year, and if the present crop of ball tossers came through as he expected, there seemed every chance of a winning combination.

The Tarboro team at the present time is composed of Hal Humbrecht and Eddie Whitfield at first base; Larry Marshburn at second; Hal Schultz at short, Art Lehman at third; Lloyd Russell, John Dezik and George Rimmer in the field.

His pitchers include Ray Clark, Arnold Heft, John Yent, Harry Galvin, Maurice Crutchfield and Walter Sieminski.

In addition Tarboro has ordered ten other men to report to Tarboro for spring practice, one of whom, Ed Black, of Fayetteville, rightfielder for last year, signed his contract a few days ago and says he is "out to win this berth."

Hal Humbrecht, the rookie, who came to the club after semi-pro ball is the boy that Believe It or Not Ripley featured last year who as a switch hitter, hit a homer first right handed and later left handed in the same ball game.

Schultz at short, played regular for Portsmouth last year as did Harry Galvin, who was a winning pitcher. These are class men who together with Shatzer make up the three.

This means that George Rimmer and Ed Black must make themselves more useful than either Galvin or Schultz to be sold or traded.

Tarboro and Portsmouth will stage exhibition games in West Palm Beach leaving there April 3rd for Tarboro where they will engage in two games here April 6th and 7th. One or both of the games will be

played under the new lights, if it is warm enough.

On the 8th, Tarboro will engage High Point College; it is expected, while Portsmouth goes home to play Williamsport two days. Williamsport starts training here Monday, March 27th.

On the 10th and 11th Tarboro plays Portsmouth at Portsmouth, 12 and 13th at Richmond, 14th and 15th at Danville, Va.

The club returns home on the 16th and during the next week will play exhibition games here and at Suffolk with Wilkes-Barre.

The league season will open at Williamston April 27th and the opening game in Tarboro will be the next day, April 28th, also with Williamston.

### J. Dawson Lilley Offers Comment

Recalling a few claims made by some of the other clubs in the Coastal Plain loop, J. Dawson Lilley, co-operator of the Martins here this season, offered a few encouraging remarks this week. "We had much rather beat a good team, so let them get all the good players they can," Mr. Lilley said after learning the Wilson Tobs had signed a promising pitcher, a promising shortstop and another good pitcher.

"We are coming along very well with our line-up, and we will see that the Martins are in the running this year," Mr. Lilley said.

Skipper O'Malley is doing a bit of scouting from the Martins' home base these days, and the foundation is being carefully laid by him and the club owner-operators for a hustling nine.

"Red" Swain, taking a turn at farm work in particular and any kind of work in general, is all set and ready to go. Swain is remembered as a mainstay on the mound for the Martins last season.

Oliver Starts Spring Training This Week

J. A. Oliver, recently signed as a member of the Martins pitching staff, has started spring "training" by accepting a job with the local postoffice construction contractor.

### Working On Martins' Playground This Week

Work is progressing rapidly on the Martins' playground here, the club operators having plowed the field and planted grass there.



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