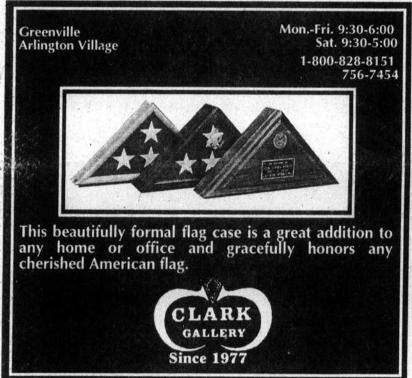
SPORTS/schools, recreation dept.



CATCH OF THE DAY

J.W. Smith shows of his 7.4-pound largemouth bass that he caught in the Chowan Riverduring the July 4th bass fishing tournament Saturday. Smith teamed up with his father, Rodney, to capture the team title for the tournament. The father and son duo caught 10 bass for a total of more than 22 pounds to out-distance the competition. J.W.'s bass was also the largest catch of the day. Overall, seven teams competed in the event sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation & Parks Department. The winning team took home a \$200 purse for their efforts, while J.W. pocketed \$70 for his lunker.(Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

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Edenton

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Post 40 defeats Rocky Mount in playoffs

BY SEAN JACKSON Staff Writer

Edenton Post 40's American

Legion baseball team saved some of its best baseball of the season for its playoff match-up with Rocky Mount, taking the best 2-out-of-3 series with a 9-5 come-from-behind victory at Rocky Mount Monday night.

After losing the opening game of the series, Post 40 rebounded with a pair of wins. Edenton faces Spring Hope in the American Conference finals in another best-of-3 series.

(Results of Tuesday night's game were not available by press time.)

Game 2 of that series will be played tonight (Wednesday) at Hicks Field, with first pitch set for 7:30 p.m. Game 3, if necessary, will be played at Hicks

Field Thursday night. In Game 3 of the Rocky Mount series, Edenton fell behind 2-0 through five innings. A threerun sixth gave Post 40 starter Chris Noble a one-run cushion

Noble was rocked for three runs in the seventh and gave way to Perquimans County's all-state pitcher Paul Hunter. Hunter settled down Rocky

and Edenton put five runs on the scoreboard in the top of the eighth to stretch the lead to three (8-5).

"We had a real good rally in the eighth inning," said Post 40 coach Lin Jordan. After Whitley Benson led off the inning with a triple, Brent Potichko and Mike Kopp both singled. A sacrifice and a Rocky Mount error were followed by hits by Carson Stallings and Hunter.

Post 40 added a run in the ninth and Hunter closed the door on Rocky Mount in the bottom of the inning to push Edenton into the title series with Spring Hope.

Hunter got the win by striking out seven and giving up only one hit and three walks in three innings of work. Noble struck out seven, gave up eight hits and walked three in six innings of work.

Hunter went 3-for-4 at the plate with two RBIs, while Kopp and Benson each went 2-for-5. Cliff Stallings went 1-for-5 with three RBIs, Carson Stallings went 2-for-3, while Potichko went 2-for-5 with two runs scored and an inside-the-park

Mount's batters in the seventh, Post 40 dropped visiting Rocky Mount 14-6 in Game 2. Rocky Mount swept the regular season series 3-0.

After jumping out to an early

lead, Edenton committed a pair of miscues in the eighth inning to allow Rocky Mount to draw within two (7-5).

"The game was much closer than the score indicated," said Post 40 coach Lin Jordan, noting that one Edenton error allowed a pair of Rocky Mount runs to score in the eighth. "That one error hurt."

In order to ease the pain for local fans, Post 40 paraded seven runs across the plate to put the game out of reach.

Whitley Benson picked up the win. In eight innings of work, Benson surrendered 10 hits, but struck out 13 while walking one, with one hit batter. Paul Hunter pitched the ninth for Edenton.

"Benson had to pitch out of some jams and a lot of that wasn't his fault," Jordan said of the former Plymouth High School standout.

The difference in Game 1 and Game 2, Jordan said, was simply a matter of where his team hit the ball.

"We hit the ball well in the ·Sunday night at Hicks Field, first game, but we just hit it

right at people," he said. "Last night (Sunday), we put hits together."

Leading Post 40's hit parade Sunday was Carson Stallings who went 3-for-5, including a home run, with five RBIs, two runs scored and a double. Chris Perry went 3-for-3 with two doubles and two runs scored. Andrae Butts went 2-for-3 while scoring two runs. Toby Lewis added two hits in four at-bats, while Cliff Stallings added two hits and two RBIs and Mike Kopp went 2-for-5 with two RBIs and a pair of doubles. Hunter and Jared Miller had one hit apiece for Edenton.

Post 40 lost the series opener Saturday night to host Rocky Mount 7-3. Jared Miller was saddled with the loss. In nine innings, Miller yielded nine hits, four walks and struck out

Chris Perry collected two hits in four trips to the plate, including a triple, while scoring two runs. Andrae Butts scored Edenton's other run while going 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Carson Stalling knocked in one run while going 2-for-4. Whitley Benson, Mike Kopp and Cliff Stallings each added one hit for

