

Coastal Plain Baseball Loop Ready for Opening Thursday

Martins To Meet Old Rivals Here 4 P. M.

Business Firms To Close At 3 o'Clock For League Opener

Jack Butler and High School Band To Lead Parade To The Ball Park

Starting off on what have been described as fairly equal terms, eight baseball clubs — Goldsboro, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, New Bern, Greenville, Kinston and Williamston—open the 1941 season on Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, weather permitting. Army draft calls and urgent calls from clubs enjoying a higher rating have had their effect on most of the league rosters, but there'll be changes from time to time, and the loop is getting ready for what promises to be a successful season.

Williamston is ushering in the season with Tarboro, an old rival, furnishing the competition here next Thursday afternoon at the set hour. No formal program is being planned other than by the Williamston High School band, Club President L. T. Fowden announcing today that there would be no speeches or amateurish events prior to the call of "play ball" promptly at 4 o'clock.

The band under the direction of Professor Butler will form a parade at the Central Filling Station, corner of Washington and Main Streets at 3 o'clock and lead the way to the park. Ball players from the two towns, Boy and Girl Scouts and possibly others will follow. The band program will consist of several selections and difficult drills. The clubs will then hold their practices and be ready to start the season at the appointed hour.

All business houses will close their doors promptly at 3 o'clock, and join what has the promise of being a record throng to the ball field. Club President Pete Fowden points out that the ball club is now owned and operated by the town, as a whole, that he is depending upon every person to contribute his part both by liberal donations and by his pres-

CLUB PRESIDENT



Taking a job no one else would have and one he did not cherish, Pete Fowden, as club president, has done much work in getting the 1941 edition of the Martins ready for action in the opener against Tarboro here Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

ence at the games. If the people support the club, win, lose or draw, baseball will continue in Williamston. A divided or weak support will ring the curtain down on baseball in Williamston. These facts are mentioned here and now in the hope that the public will get behind the club and support it from the start and on through the season.

Definite arrangements have not been completed as yet, but if the weather is warm and favorable, the Martins will start playing night ball here next Saturday night at the set hour of 8 o'clock.

Skipper Frank Rodgers is holding final workouts during the day and under the lights to accustom his men with night baseball. He has announced that Bertie Ted Miller will be on the mound Thursday afternoon in the opening game against Tarboro's Cubs.

Outlook For Martins Considered "Very Gloomy"

Wilson Gains Win Over Martins In Slugfest Saturday

Chilly Weather Causes Exhibition To Become a Batters' Duel

Playing an exhibition game here Saturday afternoon before a small crowd of chilled fans, the Williamston Martins and Wilson Tobs engaged in a slugfest, with Wilson coming out on the big end of a 14-13 score.

The Martins started off strong, scoring three runs in the first inning on four singles and an error. They counted four more in the second frame on Taylor's double, two walks and two singles. In the seventh, the locals made four more runs to build up a 11-5 margin.

But the tide turned in the first half of the eighth when Wilson turned on a rally which netted five runs to tie the score. The Tobs scored three more runs in the ninth on four singles and a homer by Jones. Williamston's rally fell short as two runners crossed the plate in the ninth on a walk and Tuckey's triple and an outfield fly.

Gardner started the game for Williamston and allowed four hits during his inning stay on the mound. Slim fanned four batters, Kunis, finishing the contest, was touched for 14 hits.

Chuck Taylor was best at the plate for the locals getting a double and three singles for five trips, while "Ken" Tuckey was next with a triple and two singles for four times. Jones with three for three, led the Tobs.

Wilson	Ab	R	H	PO	A	E
Dickens, 2b	6	2	3	0	2	0
Stuart, ss	6	2	3	0	2	0
Lentz, cf	3	0	2	0	0	0
Jones, cf	3	3	3	0	0	0
Carnahan, lf	4	2	3	2	1	1
Bauer, 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0
Forziat, 3b	3	2	2	1	1	1
Murphy, c	1	0	0	6	0	0
Brooks, c	3	1	2	2	0	0
Morris, 1b	3	0	0	7	0	0
Fuller, 1b	3	1	1	3	0	0
Hoyle, rf	6	1	2	2	0	0
Green, p	0	0	0	0	3	1
Hawley, p	1	0	0	0	3	0
Farley, p	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	44	14	18	27	11	3

Williamston	Ab	R	H	PO	A	E
Byrum, lf	6	2	2	0	0	0
Stotler, ss	4	2	1	2	4	1
Taylor, rf	5	3	4	1	0	0
Sparr, 1b	4	1	1	9	0	0
Rodgers, cf	2	2	0	3	0	0
Tuckey, 2b	4	2	3	5	2	1
Slakis, 3b	3	0	0	1	1	0
Gainer, c	2	0	0	4	0	0
Pettus, c	2	0	0	2	0	1
Gardner, p	1	1	0	0	2	0
Kunis, p	3	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	36	13	11	27	11	4

Score by innings: Wilson 120 000 263-14; Williamston 340 000 402-13. Runs batted in: Dickens, Stuart, Jones 3, Carnahan, Forziat, Brooks, Fuller, Hoyle 2, Taylor 2, Sparr 2, Tuckey 3, Slakis. Two base hits: Carnahan, Brooks, Jones, Hoyle, Taylor. Three base hits: Stuart, Dickens, Carnahan, Tuckey. Home run: Jones. Stolen bases: Lentz, Jones, Sparr. Sacrifices: Green, Rodgers. Double plays: Stuart, Dickens and Morris; Dickens and Fuller. Left on bases: Wilson 12, Williamston 6. Base on balls: off Green 4, Hawley 1, Farley 4, Gardner 4, Kunis 1. Struck out by: Green 5, Hawley 2, Farley 1, Gardner 4, Kunis 2. Hits: off Green 7 in 2 innings; Hawley 0 in 4; Farley 4 in 3; Gardner 4 in 4; Kunis 14 in 5. Wild pitches: Farley 2, Gardner 3. Winning pitcher: Farley. Losing pitcher: Kunis. Umpires: Cavender, Miller and Webb. Time of game, 2:45.

Sally Rand Is Name Of Registered Guernsey Cow

Sally Rand is the name of a registered Guernsey cow recently purchased from the Quail Roost Farm by James Tilley, a 4-H club member of Durham County, reports Assistant Farm Agent J. A. Sutton.

THE SKIPPER



Skipper Frank Rodgers is all set for the opening with Tarboro Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. While he isn't altogether satisfied with his present lineup, Manager Frank is promising local fans a hustling team.

Rodgersmen Take 12-7 Decision From Durham Sunday

Both Teams Featured Ragged Play; Byrum and Rodgers Hit Homers

The Williamston Martins defeated Durham here last Sunday afternoon 12-7, in the final exhibition game of the training period. Play was ragged with 13 errors marked against both sides.

The Martins had their big inning in the fifth when they combined three hits, including a homer by Johnny Byrum and an error to count five runs. Manager Frank Rodgers drove one on top of the gym in the ninth for a circuit clout to send in Taylor ahead of him.

Big Ted Miller pitched four innings and was touched for three runs and four hits. Ken Rymer finished the game giving up three hits and four runs. Rymer struck out five and walked four.

Al Slakis, hard-working third baseman, was hurt sliding into third base, and was forced to leave the game. He had a perfect day at bat getting a double and single for two attempts. Skipper Rodgers hit safely three out of four, and Byrum got three for five. Sharpe, with two for four, was the leading hitter for Durham.

Durham	Ab	R	H	PO	A	E
Reilly, cf	2	0	0	2	0	0
Munn, ss	3	1	1	3	6	0
Wilkie, 1b	5	2	2	10	0	1
Walters, lf	5	0	0	1	0	0
McArthur, c	1	1	0	3	1	1
Addison, c	2	0	1	2	0	0
Levy, 3b	5	2	0	2	1	0
Sharpe, 2b	4	1	2	0	2	0
xWard	1	0	0	0	0	0
Parker, rf	4	0	0	1	1	1
Allen, p	3	0	1	0	3	1
Totals	33	7	7	24	14	4

Williamston	Ab	R	H	PO	A	E
Byrum, lf	5	2	3	0	0	0
Stotler, ss	4	0	1	5	3	1
Taylor, rf	4	1	1	1	0	0
Tuckey, 2b-3b	4	1	1	3	0	1
Rodgers, cf	4	2	3	1	0	0
Sparr, 1b	2	1	0	7	0	0
Ford, 1b	2	0	1	2	0	0
Slakis, 3b	2	2	2	0	1	1
Magee, 2b	1	1	0	0	2	0
Pettus, c	2	0	1	2	0	0
Gainer, c	1	0	0	3	0	3
Miller, p	2	0	0	1	2	0
Rymer, p	2	2	0	2	1	3
Totals	35	12	13	27	8	9

Score by innings: Durham 000 300 400-7; Williamston 010 202 52x-12. Runs batted in: Sharpe 3, Byrum 3, Stotler, Rodgers 2, Pettus. Two base hits: Slakis, Byrum. Three base hit: Pettus. Home runs: Byrum, Rodgers. Stolen bases: Reilly, Sharpe, Taylor 2. Sacrifices: Mann, Pettus. Double plays: Parker and

Manager Rodgers Praises His Mound Staff: Hitting Poor

Fielding of Club Is Expected To Be Erratic and Unsteady

Despite the fact that most managers usually call from the crying towel before the season gets underway, Skipper Frank Rodgers holds that the outlook of the 1941 edition of the Williamston Martins is "very gloomy" with the only bright spot lying in his mound staff. "My pitchers are in good shape, but I need a catcher and first baseman. The hitting power of the Martins is weak, and it looks as though the fielding will be erratic and unsteady," said the Skipper, "but you can bet those boys will be out there hustling all the time."

On the pitching staff, Rodgers has three veterans and three rookies who look very promising. Ted Miller and Slim Gardner have returned from last season and look like they will have better seasons, while Pete Kunis is still his fast ball and he should be a consistent winner. Of the rookies, Ken Rymer has satisfied the fans with his work in exhibition contests, while Marty Matzua and Haris Hinton both seem to be good prospects. "Slim" Lewis arrived Sunday and he will be given a trial on the mound. Dick Cherry and Nathan Edmondson have been released.

The receiving department is woefully weak, with Clyde Pettus and Jim Gainer battling it out, Pettus holding a slight edge. Both lack the necessary experience and are weak hitters.

The Martin infield at present is unsettled. With Al Slakis out with a sprained ankle, Skipper Rodgers will probably shift Clarence Tuckey to third base and insert "Fibber" Magee at second base. Tuckey has shown much power at the plate and has performed well in the field. Magee lacks experience but he is a hustler. Bert Stotler, carryover from last season, is settled at shortstop, his dependable play and experience making him the key man in the infield.

First base is another weak spot. McArthur, Sharpe, Mann and Wilkie 2; Miller and Sparr; Stotler unassisted. Left on bases: Durham 9, Williamston 7. Base on balls: off Allen 6, Miller 2, Rymer 4. Struck out by Allen 4, Rymer 5. Hits, off Miller 4 in 4 innings; Rymer 3 in 5. Hit by pitcher: by Allen (Stotler); by Rymer (Reilly). Wild pitch: Allen. Passed ball: Pettus. Winning pitcher: Rymer. Umpires: Cavender and Kunis. Time: 1:55.

The fans are showing more interest in the way the team is doing and the spirit shown by the players, and are delighted with the way the team is being managed, feeling sure that Frank Rodgers will do everything within his power to give us a winning ball club.

Mrs. "Chuck" Taylor arrived here Sunday for the summer.

LEAGUE PREXY



"The Coastal Plain is ready for the premier on Thursday of this week," R. H. Goodmon, league president, said today. Holding tight to a neutral position, the league head is showing much interest in a successful season for all the clubs.

Chester Sparr being weak both in fielding and batting. He seems to be trying hard and may finally make the grade. Keith Ford, the other first baseman, has been released.

The outfield looks as though it is set, for the time being at least. Johnny Byrum is holding down left field and doing a good job. He is fast and a good baserunner. Byrum has been hitting well during the training period and if he can hit Coastal Plain pitching he has his berth enched in center field. "The old man himself" Skipper Rodgers seems to think he can make the grade one more season anyhow. Chuck Taylor, also returning from last season, is in right field. He looks as though he is there to stay if he can continue his work.

"I need a good power hitter who can knock in the runs and at present I don't seem to have him," stated the Skipper, "but maybe one of the boys will develop within the near future."

Commenting on the Martins, President Pete Fowden says, "The fans are showing more interest in the way the team is doing and the spirit shown by the players, and are delighted with the way the team is being managed, feeling sure that Frank Rodgers will do everything within his power to give us a winning ball club."

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President Goodmon Says Coastal Plain League Ready To Go

Believes Booster Tickets Will Increase Interest And Attendance

President Ray H. Goodmon stated that despite the uncertain situation caused by the war in Europe the Coastal Plain League was ready to open its 1941 season on Thursday afternoon, and predicts a better season for every club in the loop.

"With the installation of the Booster Club ticket this season, I think every town will have increased attendance and that the added interest will cause fans to follow their club to other towns in greater numbers," said the prexy.

"The umpiring staff shows promise of being one of the best in the past several years, listing seven men who have had experience in organized baseball and two who are listed as rookies."

With the addition of Rocky Mount to the circuit he believes that it will help all clubs and predicts that the race this season will be tighter than usual.

Al Slakis Will Be Out Of Action Two Weeks With Sprain

Al Slakis, hustling youngster who is slated to play third base for the Williamston Martins, will be out of action for two weeks as a result of a sprained ankle received in the exhibition game here last Sunday with the Durham Lookouts.

Al was attempting to slide into third base in the sixth inning of the game, when his spikes caught, causing his ankle to twist. He had to leave the ball game, but his injury was not thought to be bad and that he would be able to start the season on Thursday. However, after an examination by a physician, Slakis was told to lay off for at least two weeks.

Alabama has become the first state in the union to have every acre of farm land in soil conservation districts, legally authorized farmer cooperatives for conservation.

A nationwide drive to produce every possible egg from present laying flocks this spring and summer has been announced by Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture.

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