

Summer Ball Boosts Future

The baseball program at Hoke High is expected to reap the benefits of experience gained during this season by the Hoke County Senior Tar Heel team, according to coach Terry Grier.

The team, which has an 8-4 record for the season and is second in the league, is composed primarily of younger players from last year's junior varsity team, Grier said.

Among this season's wins are victories over the Sanford and Red Springs American Legion teams.

The Senior Tar Heels play next against Scotland County in Laurinburg at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Statistics:

	AB	H	Avg.	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	SB
Barnes, Tony	19	3	.157	3	2	2	0	0	5	10	5
Brown, Marcus	20	5	.250	4	2	0	0	0	2	9	1
Hendrix, Noah	16	6	.375	3	6	0	1	0	4	1	2
Kershaw, Mike	16	3	.187	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Kicklighter, F.	26	9	.346	8	6	3	0	0	3	6	1
McAllister, Ger	27	5	.185	4	3	0	1	0	6	8	3
McNeill, David	36	10	.277	8	5	2	0	0	3	5	3
McNeill, Dick	18	4	.222	3	0	1	0	0	6	8	3
Pecora, Ernie	36	9	.250	5	9	3	0	1	3	11	4
Pennell, Eddie	37	8	.216	4	6	1	0	0	3	9	5
Posay, Andy	19	3	.157	7	0	0	0	0	3	6	0
Ramsey, Eddie	12	4	.333	3	2	0	0	0	6	3	1
Ross, Timmy	18	8	.444	4	1	1	0	0	4	4	1

Youth Playoffs

Begin Monday

The youth softball league finished the last games of regular season play last week and tournament play begins Monday night.

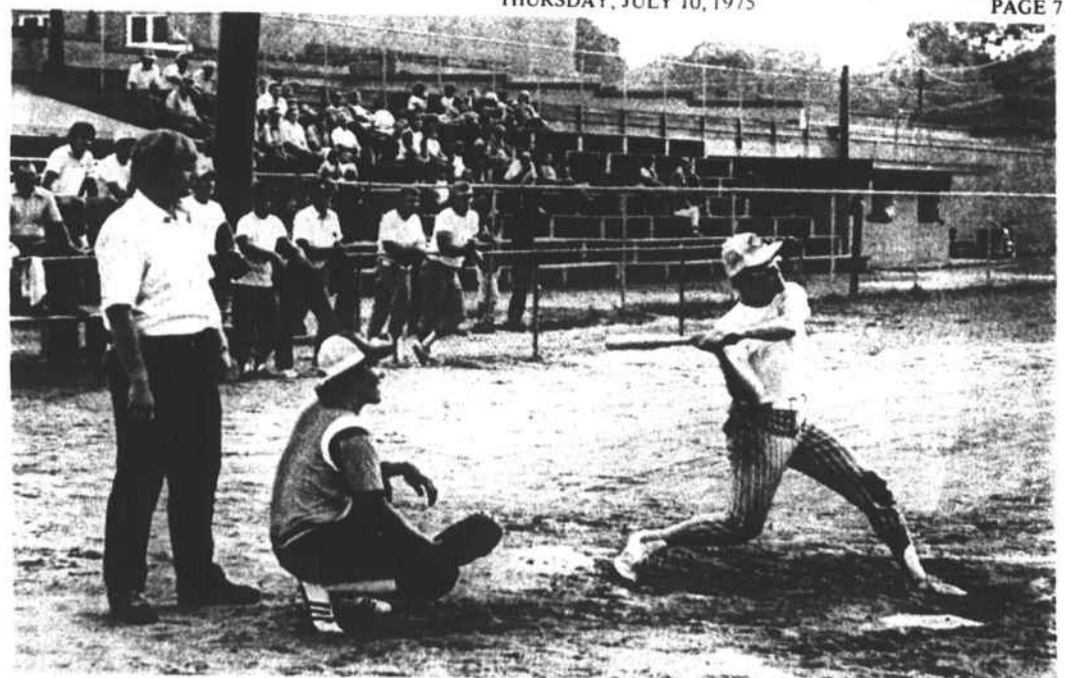
In thy final games, Kiwanis defeated VFW 9-5, and Sandhills downed WOW 8-4 to take over first place.

Preliminaries start at 7 P.M. Monday with VFW taking on Lions. The winner will play Sandhills at 9 P.M.

At 8 P.M., Kiwanis is pitted against WOW, with the winner playing the winner of the Sandhills game Tuesday night at 9 P.M.

Standings

	W	L
Sandhills Youth Center	7	3
Kiwanis	6	4
VFW	5	5
Lions	4	6
WOW	3	7



SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - The crowd at Armory Park was ready to see some action Monday night as playoffs got underway in the Mens' Softball League tournament.

Wildlife Afield

Despite all the recent changes and innovations in fishing tackle, some basic types of equipment have persisted over the years with only occasional refinements.

The revolving spoon bait-casting reel is a good example. It has survived - even prospered - despite threats from the more easily used spinning and spin-casting reels.

Until shortly after World War II, the bait-casting reel was the first choice of bass fishermen who did not care for fly fishing or pole fishing.

From about 1850 until the early 1900s, most bait-casting reels were quite small and the best ones were handmade in limited quantities. After about 1930, level wind mechanisms became increasingly popular.

About the same time, anti-backlash gizmos in all shapes and sizes were incorporated into the designs of many bait-casting reels. Some of these were truly ingenious, but without exception, all of them proved virtually worthless, and many were so bad that they made it almost impossible to cast a live bait or lure.

Because there are so many of these old anti-backlash reels around, it is fairly obvious that our grandfathers had their share of frustrating "birdnests."

From about 1945 to 1950, some experts felt that the bait-casting reel had more or less reached its peak of perfection. Such reels as the Pfeuger Supreme were excellent pieces of equipment (and still are). The level wind mechanisms were trustworthy and most of the crazy anti-backlash controls had been eliminated. Good bait-casters were learning that an "educated" thumb was the best medicine to prevent backlashes.

Then came the spinning reel, brought back from Europe by soldiers, and many anglers predicted that these easy to operate reels would soon replace the old revolving spool bait-casting reels.

To some extent, they did. During the 1950s and 60s, millions of spinning reels were sold, and when the push-button spin-cast reels appeared, they offered an even greater threat to the old bait-casting reel.

Indeed, the bait-casting reel might have become a relic had it not been for a couple of coincidences. For one thing, anglers who switched to open-faced spinning reels soon realized that these reels did not operate well with heavy lines, and lots of big fish were lost as a result. Also, the new closed face, spin-casting reels had notoriously poor drags (and many still do). For some strange reason, the technology, or willingness to put a good drag on a spin-casting reel was lacking.

Having recognized these limitations to spinning tackle, some bass fishermen returned to their old reliable bait-casting reels, although the inroads made by spinning tackle were still heavy. In fact, for many years, any angler who persisted in using an old bait-casting reel was considered something of an unreconstructed nut.

Over the past decade, however, the whole picture has changed again. Now, bait-casting reels are enjoying a revival that seemed highly unlikely only 15 years ago.

There are lots of reasons for this revival, but I think it's mainly because manufacturers were able to make some important improvements in bait-casting reels. First, they developed light-weight aluminum and alloy spools which helped eliminate backlash problems (the older heavy spools created such inertia when casting that they often overran the line and created a tangle). The new spools could also handle monofilament lines.

Also, a free-spool clutch was added to disengage the handles from the spool. That further eliminated the problems of inertia and saved wear and tear on the angler's knuckles. Good star drags soon followed, and the overall result was a bait-casting reel that is truly more versatile than a spinning reel.

Of course, you know what happened. Bass fishermen gobbled up the new bait-casting reels, bringing us

almost full circle back to the basic reel that started it all over a century ago. We've also recently revived the relatively short, stiff casting rods of 40 years ago.

It all reminds me of the old French proverb, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE

I know that lots of people believe the world is going to Hades in a handbasket, but I suspect that's nothing new. The human animal has always been an instinctively pessimistic critter. Cavemen probably thought the world was going to Hades in a handbasket too.

Anyway, I wonder if I might be forgiven for injecting a ray of hope into these otherwise dismal times.

This past week, I listened to a lot of knowledgeable folks discussing such matters as land management, National Park expansion, wilderness protection, nuclear power, energy conservation and all sorts of other things.

But out of all of this, the one line that rings in my mind like a bell is something conservation writer Michael Frome said.

"There is hope," said Frome. "There is always hope."

Then he proceeded to point out some of the changes that have not yet occurred in western North Carolina. He mentioned the notorious trans-mountain road from Bryson City to Townsend, Tennessee across the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A few years ago, this road seemed vital to a lot of people and it would surely have ruined the wilderness aspects of much of the nation's most popular National Park. Now such a road seems highly unlikely.

Then Frome mentioned the controversial Tellico Plains - Robbinsville road that would separate the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest from the wild reaches of Slickrock Creek drainage. Creeks, virgin timber and many wildlife considerations were in jeopardy, but it now appears that this area may be protected against any road by the Wilderness Act.

Frome then mentioned the 14 dams proposed on the French Broad watershed by the Tennessee Valley Authority before strong and united public opposition finally forced TVA to retract its plans.

As Frome pointed out, in each case, it seemed hopeless to resist these projects because they were planned by powerful forces, and their completion seemed almost inevitable. But enough people really cared about them to get in and fight. As Frome said, "there is always hope."

There are many other examples. The battle to save the New River in northwestern North Carolina is a

good case in point. It seems more and more likely that the river will be saved, but it has not been an easy battle.

The TVA plan to dam the Little Tennessee River below Chilhowee Dam in Tennessee is still in doubt despite the fact that TVA is working day and night to complete the project. What could hold it up? Biologists have discovered an endangered species (the snail darter) in the river, and Federal law says that no project can further threaten an endangered species. This dam may still be built, but not until the opposition exhausts all options.

Now you may not agree that all - or any - of these things were worth saving, but that's not really the point as I see it. The point is not how you feel about certain environmental matters (nuclear power, controversial roads and dams, oil exploration, ozone, flood plains and many others).

The significant thing is that these matters are now being openly considered and questioned IN TERMS OF THEIR EFFECT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT!

That is what the environmental fight has been all about for the past decade - to gain the objective of openly planning and evaluating proposals BEFORE they are carried out instead of waiting too late to find out what the results might be.

I personally find this cause for considerable hope. Depending upon your point of view, some battles will still be lost and others won, but at least we're beginning to look ahead to the future and that's long overdue.

Planning

Grant Given

Governor Jim Holshouser announced that the state has been awarded a grant of \$2,107,000 for state, regional and local comprehensive planning assistance for fiscal year 1975-76, of this, \$46,000 has been designated for the planning region that serves Hoke County.

The funds are made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for planning, management, and technical assistance services, and to help establish better methods of coordinating local programs. The funds are to be used to assist planning activities with emphasis on the improvement and strengthening of state and local governments, the development of local resources and services, and the implementation of policies and plans.

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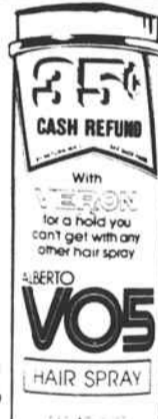
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