

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1972

## Comments & Observations

By GREG PHILLIPS



Sanford's bid for a state championship in the Little Tar Heel League was turned down by a man in blue last night. It's not my habit to criticize umpires, but the man behind the plate in last night's game let the pressure get to him. The bases were loaded, the score was tied, and there was a full count on the batter. Sanford pitcher Frankie Palmer came in with a curve ball, which split the plate. The umpire started his right hand in an upward motion to call the pitch a strike, quickly jerked it back down, and told the batter to take his base.

I hope you slept well last night, Mr. Ump, but I really don't see how you could have. You broke the hearts of sixteen eleven and twelve year old boys last night, just because you let the pressure get to you. Sure, Wilmington might have scored the winning run anyhow, but the situation would have been much better for all concerned if they had earned the winning run, rather than having it given to them.

Mr. Ump, have you ever watched an eleven or twelve year old boy crying, as if his heart was broken? Doesn't it tear you up? And there will always be that doubt in their minds as to whether they could have come back and won the game had you called that last pitch a strike (as you started to do). If I were you, Mr. Ump, I would take a long look at myself, and wonder if I really had the guts to be an umpire.

The Sanford Little Tar Heel League All-Stars have nothing to be ashamed of. They played like champions throughout the entire playoffs. They came from behind in a couple of their games. They came from behind last night to send the game into extra innings, and they could very easily have won the game. They showed themselves to be winners throughout the entire playoffs. They wouldn't stay when they were down, and they conducted themselves well, both on and off the field.

Coaches Doug Johnson and Mack Spivey did a fine job with the All-Stars this year, and they should be commended. There might be some second guessing of the coaches because of the intentional walk in the last inning last night. As far as I'm concerned, it was a good move. The batter who was walked had two hits, and the runner on third would have scored on a base hit anyway. The intentional walk set up a force play at the plate, and with a break, Sanford would still have been in the game. Congratulations on a fine season, Sanford All-Stars. You're still number one in my book.



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# Sanford All-Stars rip Lee County 12-1

The Sanford Little Tar Heel League All-Stars blasted Lee County by a score of 12-1 last night to move into the finals of the Area Tournament at Buchanan Park. Siler City edged Chatham County 6-4 in the first game to move into the finals against Sanford.

Sanford took advantage of a shaky Lee County defense in posting the win. Sanford collected nine hits for the game, and Lee County committed nine errors. Three of those errors came in Sanford's six run second inning. Sanford pitcher Frankie Palmer held the losers to only one hit, and the Sanford defense committed only two errors.

Sanford jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Lee County pitcher Jimbo Rattz retired the first two batters, but Frankie Palmer went all the way to third when his grounder got by the first baseman. Craig Ellis then walked, and Ricky Harrison singled up the middle to score Palmer.

Sanford exploded for six runs in the second inning, but Rattz should have been out of the inning without a run. With one out, Mark Winstead doubled. Greg Oldham flied to right field for the second out. Terry Eads flied to center field for what should have been the third out. However, the center fielder dropped the ball, and Winstead went to third on the play. Presley Wicker then singled to score Winstead. Frankie Palmer then hit a towering home run over the lights in left field. Craig Ellis reached base on an error by the left fielder, and Ricky Harrison walked. Both runs came in to score on an error by the second baseman. This made the score 7-0, and for all practical purposes the game was over.

Sanford made it 8-0 in the third. With one out, Greg Oldham reached base on a fielder's choice. He went to third on Terry Ead's single, and came in to score on an error by the right fielder.

Sanford tallied two more in the fourth to make it 10-0. With two outs, Joe Miller singled, Mark Winstead was safe on a fielder's

choice, and Greg Oldham walked to load the bases. Terry Eads then doubled to score Miller and Winstead.

Two more runs in the top of the fifth made the score 12-0. Frankie Palmer led off the inning with a single, and Craig Ellis was hit by the pitcher. Both runners moved up on a wild pitch. Dennis Vick then singled to score both runs.

Sanford pitcher Palmer began to tire in the fifth, and Lee County got to him for their only run. With one out, Rex Jeffries walked, Stan Champion reached base on an error, and Ken Whitfield walked to load the bases. Jeffries scored on a wild pitch. Palmer then retired the next two batters to end the game.

The game was called at the end of five innings because of the ten run lead rule. Sanford outhit the losers 9-1. Frankie Palmer had a homer and a single, and Terry Eads had a double and a single to lead the winners at the plate. Presley Wicker, Ricky Harrison, Joe Miller, Mark Winstead, and

Dennis Vick each added one hit to the attack. Jimbo Rattz had a first inning single for the only Lee County hit.

Palmer gave up one unearned run on one hit, struck out eight, and walked five. Rattz gave up twelve runs on nine hits, struck out four, and walked five. Only five of the Sanford runs were earned.

In the first game Siler City scored four runs in the fifth inning and added another in the sixth to take a 6-4 win over Chatham County.

Sanford and Siler City will meet for the Area Championship at Buchanan Park Friday night at 7:30. The winner of that game will represent the area in the district playoffs.

Sanford is seeking a sixth Little Tar Heel League state championship. They won the state title in 1959, 1962, 1968, 1969, and 1970. Last year's team made it to the semifinals of the state tournament.



SANFORD ALL-STARS — Pictured above is the Sanford All-Star team, which will meet Lee County tonight at Buchanan Park. On the front row, from left to right, are Joe Miller, Greg Oldham, Mark Winstead, Jay Holder, Terry Eads, Presley Wicker, Ricky Harrison, James Melver, Ken Ellis, and Charles Hooker. On the back row are coach Doug Johnson, Frankie Palmer, Craig Ellis, Butch Harden, Jamie McGuire, Dennis Vick, Ernie Calloway, Peter Mace, David Hunt, and coach Mack Spivey.

In seven innings

# Wilmington edges Sanford for title

A walk to Forrest Edens with the bases loaded in the seventh inning ended the dream of the Sanford Little Tar Heel League All-Star team. The walk forced in L. C. Holliday with the winning run, and Wilmington won the state championship by a score of 6-5.

Wilmington jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. With two outs, Sanford pitcher Frankie Palmer hit Dennis Capps. Capps moved to second on a passed ball, and came in to score on a double by Walter Simmons. Simmons then scored on a single by Eddie Rich.

Rich was out trying to go to second on a fine play by center fielder Mark Winstead. Sanford scored one run in the top of the third to make the score 2-1. Greg Oldham led off the inning with a walk. Terry Eads followed with another walk, but Presley Wicker and Frankie Palmer struck out. Craig Ellis walked to load the bases, and Ricky Harrison singled up the middle to score Oldham. Joe Miller then grounded out to the shortstop to end the inning. Wilmington came right back in the bottom of the inning to score

two more runs to take a 4-1 lead. With one out, Elkins singled. Edens hit into a fielder's choice, and Elkins was forced at second for the second out. Capps then walked to put runners on first and second. Simmons singled to score Edens. Rich then singled to score Capps. Simmons tried to score on the play, but was tagged at the plate for the third out.

Wilmington added another run in the bottom of the fifth to make the score 5-1. Elkins led off the inning with a double, went to third on a wild pitch, and came in to score when Edens grounded out to the second baseman.

Sanford came in for their last bat trailing by four runs, and they really had their backs to the wall. James Melver and Dennis Vick led off the inning with walks. Greg Oldham struck out for the first out, and Terry Eads grounded out for the second. Things looked pretty bleak for Sanford at the time. Presley Wicker worked the pitcher for a walk to load the bases. The Sanford hopes rested on the shoulders of Frankie Palmer. With a two ball, two strike count, Palmer hit a tremendous home

run to tie the score 5-5, and the crowd went wild. Jamie McGuire walked to keep things going, but Ricky Harrison grounded out to the shortstop for the third out.

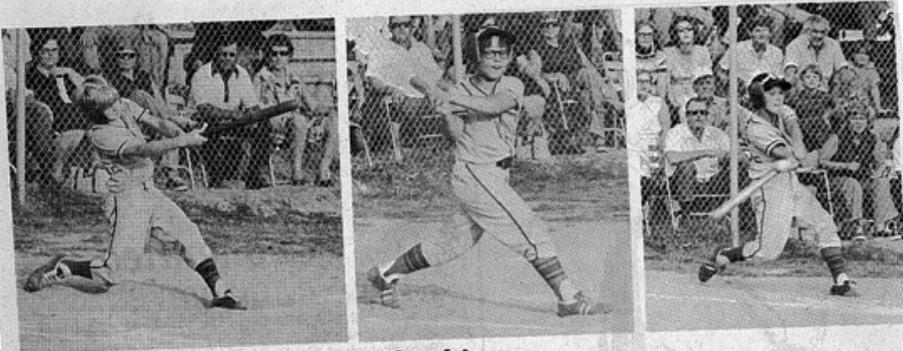
Palmer struck out the first three batters in the bottom of the sixth to send the game into extra innings. Dennis Capps came on in relief for Wilmington in the seventh. He got Joe Miller on strikes, threw James Melver out at first, and struck out Dennis Vick to retire the side.

Holliday led off the bottom of the seventh with a walk. He moved to third on two consecutive wild pitches. Belcher was walked to put runners on first and third. Elkins was then walked intentionally to load the bases, setting up the force play at home. Palmer went to a full count on the batter. He then came in with a curve ball, which the umpire called ball four, and the ball game was over.

Wilmington out hit Sanford 7-4. Elkins, Simmons, and Rich each had two hits, and Holliday added one for the winners. For Sanford, Frankie Palmer had a grand slam homer, and Terry Eads, Ricky Harrison, and Dennis Vick each had a single.

The Sanford All-Stars are to be commended on a fine season. Second place in the state is nothing to be ashamed of. The community should be proud of them. Members of the team are Terry Eads, Craig Ellis, Ken Ellis, Ernie Galloway, Ricky Harrison, Jay Holder, Charles Hooker, Peter Mace, Jamie McGuire, James Melver, Joe Miller, Greg Oldham, Frankie Palmer, Dennis Vick, Presley Wicker, and Mark Winstead. The alternates were David Hunt and Butch Hardin, and the coaches were Doug Johnson and Mack Spivey.

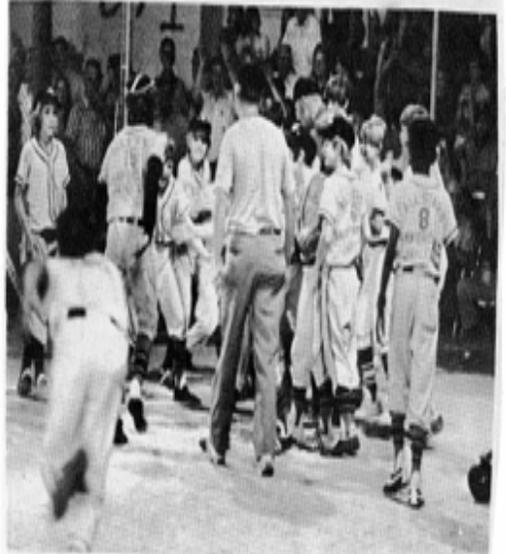
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**The hitters**



**The coaches**



**RECEPTION COMMITTEE** — Frankie Palmer heads for home plate after hitting a grand slam home run in the bottom of the sixth inning to tie the score 5-5. The joy of his teammates was short-lived however, as Wilmington pushed across a run in the bottom of the seventh to take a 6-5 win for the state championship. (Photo by Jimmy Haire)



**TALKING IT UP** — These Sanford players were talking it up on the bench, encouraging their teammates last night. Pictured from left to right are Ricky Harrison, Craig Ellis, Presley Wicker, Ernie Galloway, and Jamie McGuire. Sanford plays Wilmington tonight for the state championship. (Photo by Jimmy Haire)