By GREG PHILLIPS

Ricky Harrison slapped a home run over the right field fence with two out in the bottom of the sixth inning to give Sanford a 3-2 win over Concord in a tension filled semifinal game in the state Little Tar Heel League Tournament last night. Sanford will play Wilmington, who beat Massey Hill 10-2 in the other semifinal game, tonight at 7:30 for the state championship.

Last night's game was a real thriller all the way. Concord jumped on Sanford pitcher Greg Oldham for two runs in the first inning, but that was the last time that they crossed the plate.

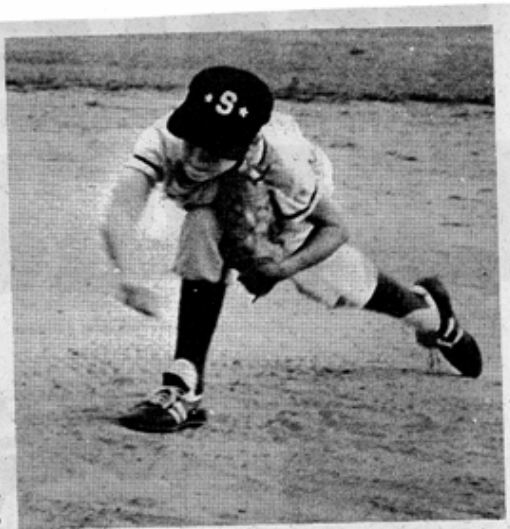
Oldham struck out the leadoff man, but Kenneth Clay singled up the middle. Clay stole second, but Oldham got the next batter on strikes for the second out. Ernest Benjamin then knocked the next pitch over the fence in center field to give Concord a 2-0 lead.

Sanford leadoff batter Terry Eads rapped losing pitcher Shelton Hames's first pitch over the center field fence to make the score 2-1. Hames then retired the side to make the score 2-1 at the end of one inning.

Tommy Furr led off the second with a single for Concord. Oldham then took over. The little right hander threw Cruse out at first on a grounder, and set Clay and Hames down on strikes to retire the side. For Sanford, Joe Miller grounded out to the shortstop, and James McIver and Mark Winstead struck out. The score was still 2-1 at the end of two innings.

Concord went down in order in the top of the third. Clay grounded out to the third baseman, Starne lined out to the shortstop, and Benjamin struck out. Sanford tied the score in the bottom of the inning. Greg Oldham led off the inning with a walk. Terry Eads then singled to left field to put runners on first and third with no outs. Presley Wicker popped up to the second baseman for the first out. Eads stole second, and Frankie Palmer was walked intentionally to load the bases. Pinch hitter Jay Holder grounded to the pitcher, who forced Oldham at the plate. The catcher tried to get Eads at third, and when his throw got by the third baseman, Eads came in to score the tying run.

Neither team threatened in the fourth or fifth. Concord looked as if they might get on the board in the top of the sixth. Benjamin grounded to the pitcher for the first out, but Cannon was hit by a pitch. Smith flied out to right for the second out. Furr singled to left field, and Cruse lined one off Oldham's leg to load the bases. The gritty little pitcher then bowed his neck, and got Clay on strikes to end the inning.



WINNING FORM — Sanford pitcher Greg Oldham shows the form that he used in pitching Sanford to a 3-2 win over Concord last night. The little righthander pitched his way out of several tight spots last night, including a bases loaded situation in the last inning. (Photo by Jimmy Haire)

In the bottom of the inning, Frankie Palmer went down swinging and Jay Holder was called out, and it looked like extra innings. Ricky Harrison then hit Hames's last pitch the same place that Terry Eads had hit the first one — out of the park. And that was the ball game.

Concord outhit Sanford 8-3. Furr led the losers at the plate with three singles in three times at bat. Hames, Clay, Benjamin, Cannon, and Cruse each added one hit to the attack. Terry Eads had a single and a homer and Ricky Harrison had a homer to account for Sanford's hits.

Winning pitcher Greg Oldham struck out seven, and didn't walk a man. Hames struck out seven, and walked three. Sanford's defense was air tight, as they didn't commit an error. Concord was guilty of only one miscue.

Sanford will be after their sixth state championship tonight. They have won the state championship in 1959, 1962, 1968, 1969, and 1970.

Big Frankie Palmer will be on the mound for Sanford tonight. It will be his fourth appearance in tournament play. He beat Lee County 12-1 on a one-hitter in the first round of the Area Tournament. He then came back to beat Southern Durham 3-2 on a six-hitter. In his last outing, he pitched a one-hit shutout, as Sanford blanked Washington 6-0 in the first round of the state tournament.

In three games, Palmer has given up three runs on eight hits. He has struck out a total of thirty-three batters and walked a total of six. He has looked a little sharper each time out.

The rest of the Sanford Lineup will see Presley Wicker behind the plate, Jay Holder on first, Ricky Harrison on second, Greg Oldham on short, Terry Eads at third, Joe Miller in left, Mark Winstead in center, and Craig Ellis in right. Dennis Vick and James McIver could see a lot of action. Other members of the team are Ken Ellis, Jamie McGuire, Peter Mace, Charles Hooker, and Ernie Galloway. The coaches are Doug Johnson and Mack Spivey.

Wilmington will field a strong team tonight. Sanford will have to play their best to win. Let's all go to Fuquay and help Sanford bring home another state championship!

LIST REDUCED

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (UPI)— The New York Jets of the American Football Conference reduced their camp list to 55 men Wednesday by placing linebackers Ralph Baker and Bill Zapalac on the injured waiver list and releasing guard Louis Age and defensive back Paul Johnson.

GETTING READY — Terry Eads is really determined to hit this pitch. He did just that. It was the first pitch thrown by the Concord pitcher, and Eads hit it out of the park for a home run. Sanford won the game 3-2 on a sixth inning homer by Ricky Harrison. (Photo by Jimmy Haire)

Play Wilmington tonight

Sanford edges Concord 3-2 on Harrison homer to reach finals

FINAL OUT — Sanford catcher Presley Wicker, Lee County runner Stan Champion, and umpire John Womack all look toward first base, as the final out of Tuesday night's game is being made. A 12-1 win moved Sanford into tonight's finals against Siler City. The game will be played at Buchanan Park, and is slated to get underway at 7:30. (Photo by Tim Reid)

Sanford, Lee County teams meet tonight

The Area Little Tar Heel League tournament gets underway at Buchanan Park tonight. There will be a dedication ceremony for the ball park beginning at 6:30. Fans will be welcomed to the park, and an invocation will be given. County Commissioners and members of the Recreation Commission will be recognized. The chairman of the Recreation Commission will officially accept the ball park from P. K. Buchanan and family.

The first game is slated to get underway at 7:00. That game will pit Chatham County against Siler City. The second game is slated to get underway at approximately 8:30. That is the game of interest to area Little League fans. It will pit Lee County and Sanford against each other.

This game will be a real good one. Both clubs have fielded strong teams this year. It will probably be Jimbo Rattz on the mound for the county and Frankie Palmer on the mound for Sanford. Coaches Doug Johnson and Mack Spivey of Sanford and Jimmy Gaines and Travis Phillips of Lee County are optimistic. All expect a real good game.

Rain has shortened practice times of both teams, but they both have gotten in some good practices. Pitching looks to be the problem for the city. The hurlers have been inconsistent. They have several boys who are capable of pitching a good game, but only time will tell.

Defense and hitting should be strong points for the Sanford team. They are strong up the middle with Presley Wicker behind the plate, Ricky Harrison on second, Greg Oldham at short, and Mark Winstead in center. Terry Eads is good with the glove at third base. Jay Holder will hold down first base. Joe Miller will be in left, and Craig Ellis will play right.

Offensively, Frankie Palmer, Craig Ellis, and Ricky Harrison will present a problem for the County. All have good power and are home run threats. Hitting should be Sanford's forte. It will probably be a question of how good the county's pitching is.

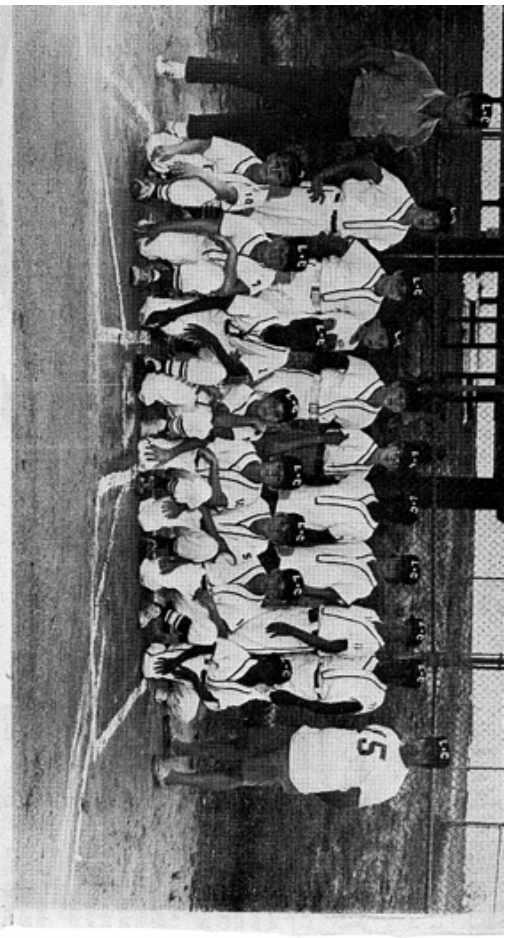
The county will put a good pitcher on the mound in Jimbo Rattz. If he is right, he is capable of silencing the Sanford bats. Coach Jimmy Gaines feels that defense could be a sore spot for the county. Shortstop is a position which could tell on the county.

The lineup will be set except for shorstop. Greg Kelly does a good job behind the plate, as do Tim Smith on first, Sherman Cox on second, and Randy Lanier at third. It will be either Romero Holmes or Doug Bullard on short. Frank Rugh, Sidney Jeffries, and Rex Jeffries will present a formidable outfield.

Rattz is probably the best hitter on the team. However, Gaines feels that they will have good hitting throughout the lineup. It looks as if it will all depend on which team's pitcher is right.

The winners of tonight's games will play for the area championship Friday night at Buchanan Park. The winner of the area tournament will host Durham for the district championship. Tonight's probable lineups are as follows:

SANFORD		LEE COUNTY
Frankie Palmer	P	Jimbo Rattz
Presley Wicker	C	Greg Kelly
Jay Holder	1B	Tim Smith
Ricky Harrison	2B	Sherman Cox
Greg Oldham	SS	Doug Bullard
		Romero Holmes
Terry Eads	3B	Randy Lanier
Joe Miller	LF	Frank Rugh
Mark Winstead	CF	Sidney Jeffries
Craig Ellis	RF	Rex Jeffries



EE COUNTY ALL-STARS — Pictured above are the e County All-Stars, who will meet Sanford tonight. e game will get underway at approximately 8:30. the front row, from left to right, are Ronnie hnson, Ray Riddle, Rex Jeffries, Greg Kelly, andy Lanier, Chris Holt, Tim Bryant, and Sherman Cox. On the back row are coach Travis Phillips, Doug Bullard, Tim Smith, Tim Rosser, Jimbo Rattz, Stan Champion, Romero Holmes, Ken Whitfield, Frank Rugh, Sidney Jeffries, and coach Jimmy Gaines. Not pictured is Danny Rosser. (Photo by Tim Reid)

Blank Washington 6-0

Sanford All-Stars advance to state semifinals

The Sanford Little Tar Heel Leage All-Stars rode the strong right arm of Frankie Palmer to a 6-0 win over Washington last night in the opening round of the state tournament at Fuquay.

Palmer pitched a one-hitter, struck out thirteen batters, and didn't allow a Washington runner to reach third base. Palmer was in complete control all the way. He permitted Washington only six base runners during the game. He gave up one hit, walked one, hit two batters, and two runners reached base on errors.

Washington's only hit was a wrong field single by Moore in the fourth inning. That was the only ball that Washington got out of the infield all night. Palmer mixed a blazing fast ball with a sharp breaking curve to keep the Washington batters off-stride.

For the first two innings, it looked as if Palmer and Washington pitcher Mitchell were going to trade strikeouts all night. Each pitcher had five strikeouts in the first two innings. Mitchell threw harder than anyone Sanford has faced this year. He was a mighty big little leaguer. He looked as if he could start at halfback for most high school teams in the state.

Sanford got to the big right hander for two runs in the third inning. Greg Oldham led off the inning with a walk. Terry Eads went down swinging for the first out, but Presley Wicker followed with a walk to put runners on first and second. Frankie Palmer then drilled a single to right field to score both runs. Mitchell then got Craig Ellis and Ricky Harrison on strikes to retire the sides.

The way Palmer was pitching, Sanford had enough runs, but they added four more in the fourth. Joe Miller led off the inning with a line drive single up the middle. Jay Holder followed with another single, to put runners on first and second. Mark Winstead drew a base on balls to load the bases with no outs. Greg Oldham went down on strikes for the first out.

Terry Eads then singled up the middle to score Miller and Holder, making the score 4-0. Presley Wicker followed with a walk to reload the bases. Mitchell then got Palmer on a swinging third strike, and a sigh of relief was heard from the Washington fans. Dennis Vick pinch hit for Craig Ellis, and lined one off the top of the left center field fence for a double to score Winstead and Eads, amaking the score 6-0.

Sanford outhit the losers 5-1. Frankie Palmer had a single and two runs batted in, Terry Eads knocked in two more with a single, and Dennis Vick accounted for the last two with a double. Joe Miller and Jay Holder each added a single to the attack.

Sanford plays in the semifinals tonight. They play Concord at 6:00. In the second game tonight, Wilmington will meet Massey Hill. In other first round action, Massey Hill edged Fuquay 4-3, Concord topped White Oaks 6-3, and Wilmington beat Greensboro 6-2.

Sanford coaches Doug Johnson and Mack Spivey said they were very pleased with the play of the Sanford team last night. They have seen Concord play, and feel that they have a good team. Greg Oldham will start on the mound for Sanford tonight. The rest of the lineup will see Presley Wicker behind the plate, Frankie Palmer on first, Ricky Harrison at second, Terry Eads on short, James McIver at third, Joe Miller in left, Mark Winstead in center, and Craig Ellis in right. The other members of the team are Dennis Vick, Jay Holder, Jamie McGuire, Ken Ellis, Peter Mace, Ernie Galloway, and Charles Hooker.

Sanford has proved themselves to be one of the top four little league teams in the state. Come on out to the game at Fuquay tonight. Let's help them to prove that they're number one.

One local team wins

Eli Whitney, Southern Alamance, and the Sanford All-Stars took wins in the second round of the Teen Girls Invitational Softball Tournament last night at the Optimist Park.

In the first game, the Sanford American Legion blew an 8-0 lead and lost to Eli Whitney by a score of 12-11. After two innings of play, the Legion led 8-0 and the game looked like a runaway. Eli Whitney caught fire, and scored three runs in the third, two in the fifth, four in the sixth, and three in the seventh. The Legion added one run each in the fourth, sixth, and seventh innings. The Legion outhit the winners 22-14, but were plagued by errors all night.

Riley led Eli Whitney with four singles, and Small added three. James had a double and single, and Braxton and Murray each added two singles. Pat McCauley and Lyn Brown each had a double and three singles to pace the Legion. Dawn Nicholson and B. J. Gaster each had three singles, and Karen Key, Pam Bain, and Sue Mason each added two hits. Brooks and Chester each added one hit. James was the winning pitcher, and Mason took the loss.

Southern Alamance beat Massey Hill 14-8 in the second game. Southern Alamance pounded out twenty-one hits to take the win. Lashley led the way with four, and Matthews and Hodgins each added three. Perry, Wicker, Cummings, Morin, and Blalock each added two. Pat Livingston led Massey Hill with a double and a towering home run. Lee, Bolton, Degalis, and Person each added two hits.

The Sanford All-Stars bounced back from a Monday night defeat to top Saxapahaw 20-11 last night in the nightcap. Sanford outhit the losers 30-15. Linda Maddox swung the big bat for the winners, as she collected five singles. Susan Spivey had four singles, and Martha Wilkie had a triple and three singles. Tandy Wilkie had a home run, a triple, and a single, and Christie McNeill, Roxy Symes, and Connie Hall each added three hits. Trudy Sherman had two hits, and Sharon Seagroves, Kitty Windham, and Theresa Morris each added one hit to round out the attack. Boggs led Saxapahaw with four hits, and Stafford added three. Foust and Reich each added two hits to the attack.