The pitchers

The crowd
STATE TOURNEY — All of the above action took place in the Little League State Tourney at Faggs last night at the semifinals. Sanford, between Jay Hollier, Terry Deha and Bobby Harrison take on the ball in the upper right photo. Sanford coaches Doug Johnson and Mark Redden ponders the next move in the middle left shot. Washington pitcher Mike Mitchell and Sanford batter Prindle Palmer draf the other players. And in the bottom left photo, the crowd won't get approval as Sanford sales a 5-4 win to advance to the semifinals of the tournament. (All photos by Jimmy Herring.)
Sanford All-Stars advance to state semifinals

The Sanford Little League All-Stars rode the strong right arm of Frankie Palmer to a 4-0 win over Washington last night in the opening round of the state tournament at Pupapay. Palmer struck out thirteen batters and didn't allow a Washington runner to reach third base. He was in control all the way. He permitted Washington only six base runners during the game. He gave up one hit, walked one hit, and two runners reached base on errors.

Washington only hit was a fly ball single by Moose in the top third inning. That was the only hit allowed by Palmer until the sixth inning of the game. That was when Washington got out of the infiel at right. Palmer mixed a blazing fast ball with a sharp breaking curve to keep the Washington batters off stride. He pitched through six innings and was taken out of the game in the seventh.

The Sanford offense was built around the singles hitting of Newt Waddell and the triples hitting of Andy Blevins. Waddell led off the seventh inning with a single and scored on a triple by Blevins. The rally was capped by a solo home run by Billy Mathews.

Palmer, who was the game's outstanding pitcher, was the only pitcher to allow fewer than four earned runs. He struck out twelve and allowed only two hits.

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The Sanford Little Tar Heel League All-Stars used a last inning home run by Ricky Harrison to take a 3-2 win over Southern Durham for the District championship last night at Dalrymple Park.

Sanford now advances to the state tournament, which will be played at Piquay next week. Sanford will play Tuesady night at 6:00. Their opponent is not yet known.

Last night marked the sixth straight year that Sanford has won the district championship. They won the state title in 1959, 1962, 1964, 1966, and 1970.

Last night's game was a pitching duel between Sanford's Frankie Palmer and Southern Durham's Mike Michael. Both teams also played tough defense. Sanford did commit an error, and Southern Durham was guilty of only one miscue.

Southern Durham jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Leadoff batter Stuart Hill reached base on an infield single, and went to second on a passed ball. He came in to score on a double by Richard Reynolds. Palmer then retired the next three batters on a pop up and two strike outs.

Neither team could score in the second inning. Jay Holder singled and went to second on a passed ball for Sanford in the top of the inning. He died there as Mark Winstead went down on strikes. Palmer struck out the side in the bottom of the inning.

Greg Oldham grounded out for the first out in the top of the third. Terry Eades then singled up the middle, but he was forced at second on Presley Wicker's grounder. Frankie Palmer then unloaded a towering homer to right center to give Sanford a 3-1 lead.

Southern Durham bounced right back to tie the score in the bottom of the inning. With two outs, Richard Reynolds doubled. He moved to third on a passed ball and came in on a single by Dave Meader.

First baseman Jay Holder for the first out. Palmer then took over and got the last two batters on strikes to end the game.

Southern Durham outhit Sanford 6-5. Chalmer was responsible for all three Sanford runs—Palmer getting two runs batted in with his blast in the first inning, and Harrison accounting for the other with his game-winning hit in the sixth. Terry Eades, Presley Wicker, and Jay Holder each added a single to the winning attack. Richard Reynolds was a hero in Sanford's side all night. He had three hits in three times at bat, knocked in the first Sanford run, and scored the second. Stuart Hill, Mike Michael, and Jeff Reynolds had the other hits.

Frankie Palmer pitched a fine game. He mixed up his pitches well, and pitched his way out of a couple of tight spots. The big right-hander struck out twelve, and didn't walk a batter. Michael struck out seven and walked two.

Sanford coaches Doug Johnson and Mark Spivey said that they felt it was a team victory, all the way, and that each member of the team contributed to the win.

The members of the team are Terry Eades, Craig Ellis, Ken Ellis, Ernie Galloway, Ricky Harrison, Jay Holder, Charles Hooker, Peter Mae, Jamie McGuire, James McFar, Joe Miller, Greg Oldham, Frankie Palmer, Dennis Vick, Presley Wicker, and Mark Winstead.

Sanford went down in order in the fourth, but Southern Durham threatened to score in the bottom of the inning. Jeff Reynolds led off the inning with a double. Rick Ackrey then grounded to second baseman Ricky Harrison. Harrison made a perfect throw to Terry Eades at third to get Reynolds. Eades forced the last out and Palmer then got the next two batters on strikes to end the inning.

Neither team could score in the fifth inning. In the top of the inning, Presley Wicker beat out an infield single, but Mike Michael got the next two Sanford hitters on strikes to end the inning.

Southern Durham threatened once again in the bottom of the inning. With one out, Hill was hit by a pitch and Reynolds singled to put runners on first and second. Shortstop Greg Oldham went in the hole and Michael's grounder forced Hill at third. Palmer then got Pate on strikes for the third out.

The game went into the sixth inning with the score tied 2-2, but it didn't stay that way long. Ricky Harrison led off the inning with a double, and Presley Wicker's sacrifice fly put Sanford ahead 3-2. Mike Michael got the side out without any more damage.

Sanford needed three outs for their sixth straight district championship and didn't take