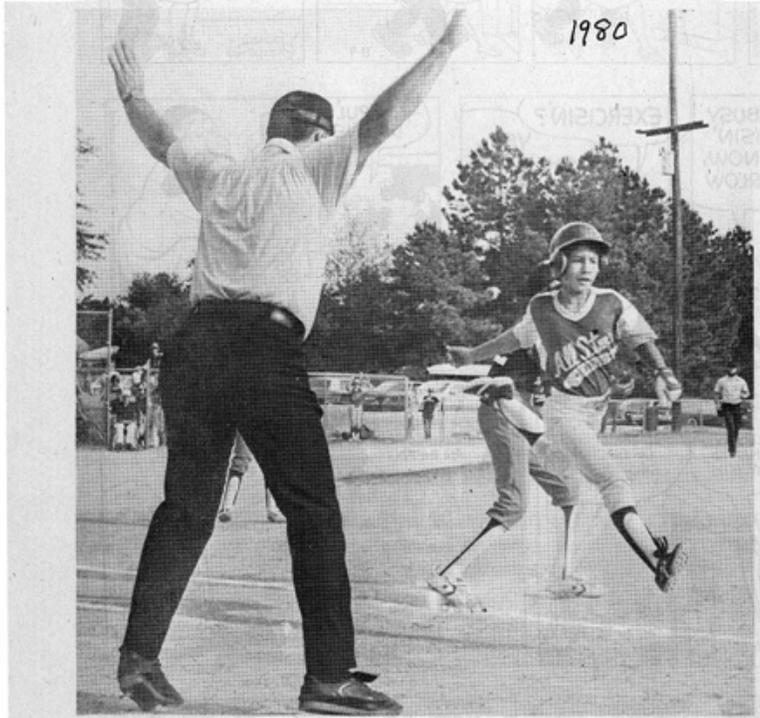




The Sanford players stand by intently as their other teammates were introduced during the pre-game ceremonies.



One Sanford player comes forward to receive his trophy for being a member of the state championship team.



He's safe! That's the signal from the umpire as Jeff Beal reaches first base during championship game action against the Fayetteville Kiwanis All-Stars Friday evening.

## *Sanford wins third straight state title*

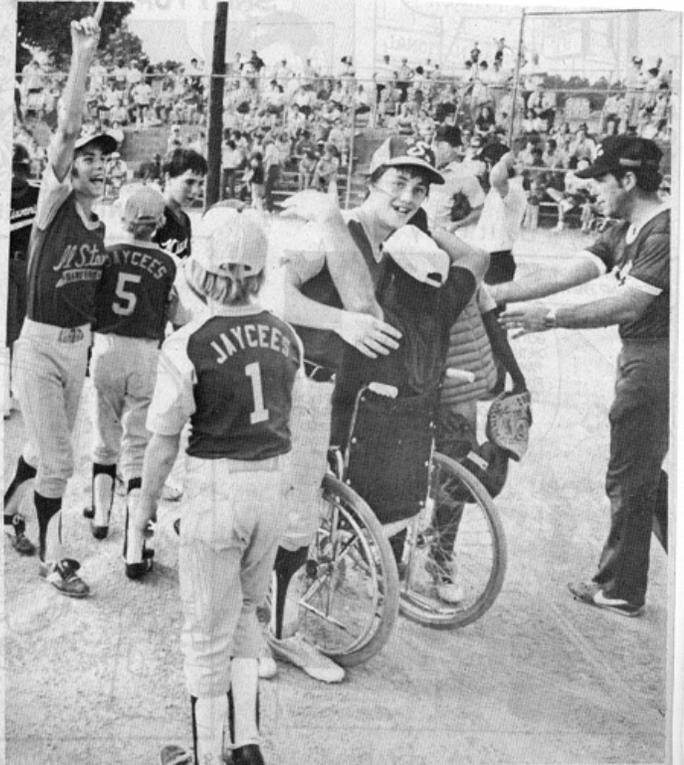
The Sanford Jaycee All-Stars won its third consecutive state Little Tar Heel League state title Friday evening with a 6-0 victory over the Fayetteville Kiwanis All-Stars. The Sanford squad went through the double elimination tournament undefeated.

The victory gives Sanford nine state titles since 1959.

It makes the second time Sanford has won three consecutive titles. Sanford was state champions in 1968-70 and now 1978-80. Other championships were won in 1959, 1962, and 1974.

Sanford scored wins over Massey Hill (3-1), the Fayetteville Kiwanis (7-3), Fairmont (1-0), and the Fayetteville Kiwanis (6-0) to take the title this year.

Bob Hales and Doug Johnson were the coaches of the championship team, assisted by Oscar Jones and Melvin Pollock.



1980

Mark Trogdon gives coach Bob Hales a hug after the championship was won with teammate Jerry McNeill signifying Sanford is No. 1.

# They're No. 1!

## Sanford team wins state little league title

By R. V. HIGHT  
Herald Sports Editor

FAYETTEVILLE — 1980 state champions!

That is the title the Sanford Jaycee League All-Stars wear proudly today after left hander Greg Hamilton fired a three-hitter for the All-Stars Friday to down the Fayetteville Kiwanis All-Stars, 6-0, in the title game of the Little Tar Heel state tournament at the Massey Hill Recreation Center.

Sanford has now won three consecutive state championships, and nine since 1959.

"I'm just real proud of them. I'm happy for them. They're just a super group of kids," said head coach Bob Hales.

Sanford jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning and were never really challenged after that. Fayetteville was limited to just five base runners the entire evening, two of them coming in the final stanza.

The victory saved Sanford from playing a second game with the Fayetteville squad, as Sanford was unbeaten in the double elimination event while Fayetteville entered Friday's play with one loss.

"The boys wanted to take it in the first game," said Hales. "They didn't want to lose and take any luster off the win. They wanted to go out with the first game and win it, and win it like champions."

Fellow Sanford coach Doug Johnson explained what the coaches had told the team before the important contest. "We

basically told them that we could hit this pitcher, and let's get him early and go home."

That is exactly what the fans, including a large contingent of Sanford supporters, were treated to.

It was Hamilton's second win over the Fayetteville squad in the tournament. Sanford had scored a 7-3 come from behind win over Fayetteville on Tuesday evening.

Hamilton struck out seven and walked two in recording the win.

"When I first started pitching, the only thing I was thinking about was throwing strikes and hitting Mike's (catcher Mike Mellette) target," said Hamilton. "I knew I could do it if I wanted to. My curve ball was working pretty good tonight. I was getting it down, and they were swinging at it pretty good."

Hamilton also garnered praise from Hales. "Greg pitched a beautiful ball game," said Hales.

Hamilton also had quite an offensive game. He had two hits, and got on base three times scoring twice.

The only other Sanford player with two hits was second baseman Derrick Hodges. "The last two games I haven't been hitting that well," said Hodges. "This game I really tried to hit the ball because it was the last game and it meant the most to me because it's the state championship game."

Mellette had just one hit, but knocked in three runs for the day. His first inning single scored two runs.

"It was a fast ball inside, and Mr. (Bob) Hales would tell me just meet it, don't try to hit it out. I just kept my eyes on the ball

and met it. I wasn't going for a home run. I was just trying to meet the ball and get a base hit, and bring in the run."

Mellette also had the difficult duties of catching both Hamilton and Mark Trogdon, two hard firing pitchers, in the state playoff series. "It's tough, but I hang in there," said Mellette.

Trogdon contributed greatly in the championship series with a one-hitter and no-hitter, as well as getting some timely hits himself. He was especially pleased with the win.

"Me and Greg did our share of pitching, and everybody else did their share of what they did," said Trogdon, who then went on to praise his many teammates. "We had to concentrate and play hard to win the state championship."

Sanford jumped on Fayetteville pitcher Tripp Anderson for four runs in the first inning.

Jeff Beal got on base when second baseman Steve Sanders couldn't get a handle on the ball. Hodges followed with a double over the right fielder's head putting runners on first and second.

Trogdon then hit a shot to first baseman Jeff Edwards who made the putout, but Beal was able to score on the play and Hodges moved to third. Hamilton singled into right field to score Hodges.

Israel Lucas drew a walk, then Hamilton and Lucas both advanced on a passed ball. That set up Mellette's single into left field to score both Hamilton and Lucas. The next two Sanford batters were retired to end the inning.

Fayetteville had its first base runner in the third inning when

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# Winners

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Anderson singled with one out. However, Perryn Oglesby hit a ball to Hamilton who threw to shortstop Brian Stewart to get Anderson at second, and Stewart threw to Trogdon at first base for the double play. That was the start of another fine defensive play to come.

In the fourth inning, Strickland drew a walk with one out. That is when Jeff Edwards hit a liner to first baseman Trogdon who dropped the ball. The ball fell in fair territory. Trogdon simply picked up the ball and ran the put out, then threw to Stewart coving second base to get Strickland out. Yes, another double play!

"I think tonight, and I've been telling you, that we had a good defense, and I think tonight we had an opportunity to show our defense," said Hales. "When you're down 4-0 and a team's turning double plays on you to take you out of an inning, that has to take something out of you."

Fayetteville used a little of its own defensive skills for a double play in the bottom of the fourth inning. With one out, Sanford pinch hitter Brent Johnson doubled as the ball hopped by the second baseman. Beal hit a ball to second baseman Sanders who threw to first baseman Edwards for the second out. Edwards threw to third baseman Hunter Hair to get Johnson for the double play.

Sanford did come up with two runs in the fifth inning. Hodges hit a ball back to pitcher Anderson who could not come up with it in time for a play at first. Hodges advanced on a passed ball, and was put out at third when Trogdon hit a ball to shortstop Trey Edge who threw to Hair for the out at third.

Hamilton singled into right field as Trogdon moved to third, and Hamilton moved to second on the throw from the field. Lucas hit a ball to Hair, who fumbled it allowing Trogdon to score and Hamilton moved to third. Mellette then hit a long sacrifice fly to right fielder Marty Martin to score Hamilton.

Fayetteville threatened in the final inning when Tripp Anderson drew a walk, and Perryn Oglesby singled into left field to put runners on first and second with no one out. Sanders hit a chopper to the pitcher and was put out on the play, but the two runners advanced to second and third. However, Strickland and Edwards grounded out to end the game.

Anderson went the distance on the mound for Fayetteville giving up seven hits, striking out and walking one.

"I think the four runs in the first inning were very important," said Hales.

Hodges and Hamilton paced Sanford with two hits apiece, with Trogdon, Mellette and Johnson getting one apiece.

Anderson, Oglesby and Lewis Nance each had one hit for Fayetteville.

Members of Sanford's championship team are Hamilton, Trogdon, Mellette and Hodges, all members of the 1979 state title team, Lucas, Stewart, Beal, Johnson, Kevin Combs, Jerry McNeill, Greg Godwin, Jeff McMillian and Brian Combs. Van Holly and Cliff Stephens were the alternates.

Oscar Jones and Melvin Pollock were assistant coaches.