

In district LTHL tourney



Trogdon no-hitter nets title

By ROBERT STONE
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FUQUAY-VARINA — Young Mark Trogdon pitched and batted the Sanford Jaycee Little League All-Stars to the championship of District 3 Thursday night. Trogdon threw a no-hitter at the host team, Fuquay, and then did them in at the plate, where he went two for two. Mark hit a homer over the left field fence in his first appearance in the first inning and in the fourth, blistered a single down the third base line. He eventually scored on a throwing error and Sanford won a 3-0 victory that gains them entry into the state playoffs beginning Monday in Fayetteville. Sanford is the defending champion.

Both Sanford coaches, Bobby Hales and Doug Johnson, had high praise for the losers.

"Fuquay has been tough for us to beat because of their good defense," Johnson said. Our pitching in the playoffs has been about as good as I have witnessed in my career of coaching. "No way could we have come this far without the excellent performances from our pitching staff."

Bobby Hales, head coach was more explicit. "Fuquay is a tough competitor and it is difficult to

defeat a team twice on its home field. In the two games," Hales said, "we beat them 2-1 and 3-0. And tonight their pitcher (Scott Senter) was pitching with only one day's rest so he was not as sharp as he was in his first game against us.

Hales continued. "On the bus down here today I sensed that our kids were psyched up mentally and really wanted to win the first game. Our pitching has been outstanding. In our six victories in the playoffs, Greg Hamilton has pitched a no-hitter, a one-hitter and a two-hitter. Now Trogdon has two no-hitters in the playoffs. The key to our win has been pitching and credit has to go to our assistant coaches, Harold Trogdon and Oscar Jones. I would be remiss, if I didn't mention the play of Mike Mellette behind the plate.

Tonight, he played super and without him to handle the pitchers we would be a completely different team."

Both coaches had praise for the support the team had received from the community. They were especially appreciative of the support the Jaycees had provided. Fans and parents have also swelled the crowds at playoff games.

Sanford took an early lead in the first inning. With two outs, Mark Trogdon came to the plate. He worked the pitcher for a two strike and one ball count before

poling the fourth pitch over the left field fence for a homer.

Fuquay had their only threat in the second inning. Tony Arnold opened the inning with a base on balls but was erased on a grounder fielder's choice by Junior Brown. Trogdon then bore down and struck out Andra Boulden and Maurice Hawkins to end the inning.

Sanford built on their working margin in the fourth. Trogdon opened the inning with a scorching single down the third base foul line. He went to second on a wild pitch and came into score when the first baseman fielded Greg Hamilton's grounder and threw it away at third base attempting to get Trogdon. Israel Lucas came through with a line drive double to center field that scored Hamilton.

Center fielder Jerry McNeill made the defensive play of the contest in the fifth inning when he made a diving catch of Maurice Hawkins' liner which had "hit" written all over it.

For the game Trogdon struck out 10 even though he was having problems getting his fast ball in the strike zone in the early going. He also had a perfect two for two night at the plate.

Sanford will face Massey Hill Monday night in the first round of the State Tourney.

Box score

FUQUAY
Smith, c
Brown, cf
Senter, p
Dean, ss
Arnold, 1b
Baker, 3b
Boulden, 2b
Hawkins, rf
ATKINS, lf
TOTALS

SANFORD
Beal, 3b
Hodges, 2b
Trogdon, p
Hamilton, 1b
Lucas, rf
Mellette, c
Stewart, ss
McNeill, cf
Godwin, lf
McMillan, lf
Combs, if
TOTALS
Fuquay
Sanford



1980
ALL
STARS

