

August 1, 1954

Umpire Beating...

Veteran umpire Gerald (Choppy) MacDonald is assaulted by a half a dozen players during a Halifax and District Senior League semi-pro game between the Dartmouth Arrows and the Halifax Cardinals.

Described as the "worst brawl in Halifax baseball history" the 47-year-old MacDonald is cut over his right eye and suffers numerous bruises after several Dartmouth players attack him at second base.

Two Dartmouth players - Sam Stell and Bill Bergeron - are ejected from the game which is eventually won by the Cardinals 15-1 ... Bergeron, who denies striking MacDonald, is indefinitely suspended.

Veteran Umpire Takes Bad Beating

HALIFAX — (CP) — Veteran umpire Gerald (Hoppy) MacDonald was pummeled by half a dozen players Saturday in the worst brawl in Halifax's baseball history.

Two American League scouts described the seventh-inning melee during a Halifax and District Senior Baseball League game between Halifax Cardinals and Dartmouth Arrows as the most disgraceful exhibition they had seen.

MacDonald, 47, received a gash over the right eye and numerous bumps and bruises when Dartmouth players jumped him at second base, knocked him to the ground and began flailing away.

Sam Stell of Farmville, N.C., and Bill Bergeron of Greenwich, Conn., were banished from the game. All but three players in the six-team league are Americans.

MacDonald, who admitted punching back when "Bergeron hit me hard in the stomach," said in an interview he wasn't contemplating legal action.

Bergeron, who was indefinitely suspended Sunday, denied he struck MacDonald.

Halifax won the game 15-1.

Stell, a native of Farmville, North Carolina, has a .305 career batting average in two minor league seasons with the Mayfield (Ky.) Clothiers in 1949 and the Tarboro (N.C.) Tars in 1952.

Bergeron is born in New Canaan, Connecticut, on November 22, 1925 ... an outstanding high school athlete at Greenwich High School where he letters in football, basketball and baseball ... he joins the Marines at the end of World War II ... following his discharge, he attends Duke University where he plays baseball and is the captain of the Blue Devils' baseball team his senior year in 1951.

Bergeron has a career batting average of .248 in three minor league seasons in the Philadelphia Athletics' farm system with Fayetteville (1951, 1953) and Savannah (1952).

Bergeron Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HR	RBI	AVG
1951	Fayetteville Athletics	Carolina	B	0	-	.264
1952	Savannah Indians	South Atlantic	A	2	-	.247
1953	Fayetteville Highlanders	Carolina	B	0	-	.237
Minor League Totals (3 Years)				2	-	.248

Stell Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HR	RBI	AVG
1949	Mayfield Clothiers...Kentucky-Illinois-Tennessee		D	4	-	.299
1952	Tarboro Tars	Coastal Plain	D	7	-	.308
Minor League Totals (2 Years)				11	-	.305