



Cape Fear Firebird

The Light of Save the Cape

July 21, 2012

It ain't over 'til it's over.
-Yogi Berra

The Final Inning?

No. It ain't over. But we were a little hoarse yesterday from cheering about back-to-back home runs: Thursday's public statements of rejection of a deepwater port at Southport from both gubernatorial candidates.

Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton had led off the inning with an inside-the-park blooper, saying "I do not plan to pursue a deepwater port in Brunswick County" Not impressive, but it counts. Then Charlotte's Mayor Pat McCrory stepped up and swatted one over the fence, "the marketplace currently doesn't support a new deepwater port. The deepwater port issue has become an Easley-Perdue-Dalton boondoggle." That brought us out of our seats.

Last inning, Representative Frank Iler and Speaker Tom Tillis put together a strong rally to get language in the budget law prohibiting spending on the megaport. Yeah! Before that, we had a long dry spell, but we did permit ourselves a smirk when the Ports Authority CEO who started the game was sent to the showers by the new manager.

We had been hurting since the Brunswick County Commissioners adopted a resolution for more study for the megaport. And in the previous inning, last year's session of the legislature, we weren't ready for a too-hot-to-handle drive that lifted the ban on spending on the megaport.

Before that, the score against the megaport had been building. Caswell Beach's Harry Simmons led off the first inning with a brave statement of opposition. Then Southport Alderman Ken Karn, after stepping in and out of the box, started a rally with a statement of opposition from Southport. Inspired, Bald Head, St. James, Boiling Spring Lakes, and Oak Island rounded the bags right behind. And we stood up to cheer when Frank Iler, Pricey Harrison, Martin Nesbitt, and David Redwine brought us the fiscal year 2011 prohibition on spending on the megaport.

Oh, then the scoreboard glowed! Congressman Mike McIntyre blasted one out of the park with his statement of opposition, powerful and unequivocal. Inspired us all to win this.

So the home team is ahead right now. Might even have a comfortable lead. Some of the benchwarmers are packing up their gear, straightening up uniforms never dirtied from the work that will win this struggle, looking at the dugout door as if the game were over and won. But we are determined to go the distance, dirty uniforms and all.

No, the game is not over. Not until the visiting team leaves the 600-acre field at Southport. Not until they line up to shake our hands and accept their loss. Then we'll throw our hats in the air.