

AUFORT, N. C.

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Blue Devils Scare Atlantic Before Losing 39-34 Verdict



Photo by Bob Seymour

Paul Wade, 33, of Smyrna pulls down a rebound for the Blue

The Smyrna Blue Devils played host to the Atlantic Pirates Tuesday night and almost pulled an upset out of the bag on the first night of the season. The Pirates had to come from behind in the second half to take a 39-34 victory.

It was a low-scoring contest all the way and was highlighted by aggressive play on the part of both teams. Neither team was able to hit consistently.

Smyrna grabbed a 3-1 lead in the first minute but the Pirates rallied and held an 8-6 lead at the end of the first period. The Blue Devils tied the score up and moved ahead, 9-8, when Paul Wade hit a free throw early in the second quarter.

For the rest of the first half it was all Smyrna as the Blue Devils ran up a 23-16 lead. Making matters even worse for Atlantic was the fact that both Stevie Mason and Roger Harris had collected four fouls each early in the game.

The Pirates came out to begin the second half with a rush. In the first six minutes of the third quarter, the Pirates scored nine points while Smyrna was getting two. Bobby Nelson, Atlantic guard, scored the basket that tied the game at 25 all.

Smyrna was unable to score again during the third quarter but Atlantic hit for four more points to take a 29-25 lead. The final quarter saw the Pirates maintain their lead, scoring 10 points to nine for the Blue Devils.

Atlantic Coach Roy Cockerham declared, "We were lucky to win this one. Atlantic fans are due to see a real good ball game when these two teams tangle at Atlantic Friday night."

Smyrna coach Jimmie Parkin said his team killed its chances for a victory by making too many mistakes. "Bad passes, missed layups and failure to get the ball down the court hurt us a lot," he said.

High scorer for the game was Dale Lewis of Smyrna. He scored 12 points, one more than Roger Harris of Atlantic.

Smyrna players were Paul Wade, 2, Vaughn Yeomans, Curtis Nelson, 9, Horace Lawrence, 4, Carroll Hill, 2, Lewis, 12, and Braxton Piner, 5.

Atlantic players were George Golden, 5, Harris, 11, Stevie Mason, 4, Sammy Salter, 6, Bobby Nelson, 9, Van McIntosh and Dan-

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