

## Blue Devil Baseball Team Gets Under Way at Smyrna



Coach Jim Parkins, with ball, shows pitchers Braxton Piner, extreme right and Carroll Hill of the Smyrna high school baseball team the correct grip for throwing a curve ball. Looking on at the extreme left is catcher Curtis Nelson.

With the fair weather that has prevailed over the area for the past week Coach Jim Parkins at Smyrna high school has been able to get baseball practice underway at that school.

Parkins reports that about 26 boys have reported for the Blue Devil squad and competition has been keen for the various positions on the team as they prepare for their opening game which is scheduled for 3 Monday afternoon at Swansboro.

Coach Parkins stated that this year's diamond squad is a young team as he has only two seniors on the entire roster. The seniors are co-captains Dan Yeomans and Woody Hancock.

The strongest positions for the Blue Devils this year should be the infield and center field, while first base will be their weak spot, according to Parkins. Anchoring the infield will be freshman short-stop Dale Lewis of the varsity basketball squad. Other players vying for infield positions are Vaughn Yeomans, A. C. Davis, James Mears, Grady Davis and Marvin Murphy.

Parkins will build his pitching

around the strong left arm of Braxton Piner, who is the only southpaw on the mound staff, and Carroll Hill. Completing the battery behind the plate will be catcher Curtis Nelson.

The Blue Devils have a 12-game schedule set up but are interested in scheduling more games with area teams.