

## Smyrna Blue Devils Figure To Improve with Each Game

The Smyrna Blue Devils should turn out to be the most improved team in the county this year. Coach Jimmy Parkin, with the Blue Devils for his first year, has been working hard with the younger players in an effort to build a winning team.

Coach Parkin says, "We have a young, inexperienced team that has the potential to improve with every game. Some of the boys have a good bit of natural ability and some of the others are playing just because they love to play.

"As long as a boy shows he really wants to play ball for me I will give him a chance to show what he can do. Right now I have a freshman, two sophomores and two juniors on the starting team.

"They are Dale Lewis, 5'11", Braxton Piner, 5'10", Horace Lawrence, 6'2", Curtis Nelson, 5'10", and Paul Wade, 6'. Sophomore Vaughn Yeomans and Carroll Hill, a junior, are pushing hard for starting berths.

"Yeomans played some last year as a freshman but this is the first year that Hill has been out for basketball. Hill is 6'1" and would have been a great player by now if he had been playing for two years," the coach commented.

Other boys on the Blue Devil squad are John Hill, Roland Lewis, James Mears, Mike Willis, Ken Harris, Mike Harris, A. C. Davis, Keith Willis, Gary Smith, Frank Willis, Donnie Russell and G. Jones.

The Smyrna lassies will have a strong defensive team this year. Veteran guards Clarice Willis, Brenda Willis and Carol Willis, all seniors, are rated among the best in the county.

The Smyrna forwards should have a good scoring punch with Jean Willis and Carolyn Phelps, a pair of 6-footers, and Brenda Baker, who stands only 5-foot 5 but rates as the playmaker.

Other girls on the team are Sally Hooper, Claudi Brown, Patsy Chadwick, Linda Willis, Melinda Gillikin, Brenda Golden, Rose Arthur, Elizabeth Styron, Sandra Willis, Carolyn Gillikin, Diane Willis, Dawn Piner, Daphnie Thompson, Patsy Taylor, Carolyn Salter, Barbara Davis, Rosita Guthrie, Jennie Guthrie, Betty Jones and Harriet Gillikin. Team manager is Lionelle Taylor.



Braxton Piner, left, and Horace Lawrence will be co-captains for the Smyrna Blue Devils for tonight's game. The team will select new co-captains for each game.



Brenda Willis, left, and Clarice Willis have been elected captains of the Smyrna girls basketball team. They will be at guards when their team plays Atlantic tonight.