

Piner's No-Hitter Blanks Swansboro

The Smyrna high school Blue Devils got their baseball season off to a winning start as southpaw Braxton Piner pitched near perfect ball in hurling a seven inning no hitter. Final score of the game, which was played on the Swansboro diamond was 3-0.

Piner, who was backed up by some superb fielding by the Smyrna infield, relied mostly on fast balls with an occasional breaking pitch to keep the ball away from the Swansboro hitters.

In going the route in his first starting assignment of the season Piner was never in trouble as he racked up nine strikeouts and Swansboro was able to get the ball out of the infield only twice and these were pop flies that the Smyrna infield handled with no difficulty.

Three walks prevented Piner from pitching a perfect game as no Swansboro hitter was able to reach first base until the fifth inning when Piner issued his first free pass.

The Smyrna attack at the plate was led by freshman shortstop Dale Lewis, who had two hits in three at bats and drove in two runs. The other Blue Devil run was driven in by centerfielder Wayne Davis with a tremendous double to deep centerfield.

Both teams committed one error afield in the seven inning contest.

Smyrna's next game will be today against Morehead City.