

Atlantic Girls Bow to Smyrna Tuesday Night

The Smyrna lassies, opening defense of their county championship took a 45-42 decision over a determined Atlantic team Tuesday night. Smyrna, playing before a home crowd, saw a comfortable lead melt away under the pressure of a last-quarter splurge by Atlantic.

With Jean Willis and Carolyn Phelps leading the way, the Smyrna girls took a 10-5 lead in the first quarter and held a 20-15 margin at the half.

By the end of the third period the home team was leading by a 35-27 score. Atlantic forward Rita Gilgo started connecting in the final quarter and Atlantic scored 15 points while holding Smyrna to 10.

Either team that had been hitting foul shots could have won easily. Smyrna hit on three free throws while shooting 13 times for a low 23 per cent accuracy. Atlantic girls, with four for 16, hit on 25 per cent of their shots.

High scorer for the game was Jean Willis with 31 points for Smyrna. Carolyn Phelps hit for 12 and Brenda Baker, the third starting forward, scored two points.

Starting guards for Smyrna were Clarice Willis, Brenda Willis and Carol Willis. Substitute guards were Patsy Chadwick and Claudia Brown. Melinda Gilikin saw action as a reserve forward.

Rita Gilgo was top point maker for the losers. She shot 29 points. Anita Brown scored nine points and Linda Taylor and Catherine Willis scored two each.

Brenda Salter, Bonnie Brickhouse and Jency Mason started at the guard positions. Katy Gilikin and Anita Brown, who shifted from forward, also played guard for Atlantic.

Blue Devils Scare Atlantic Before Losing 39-34 Verdict

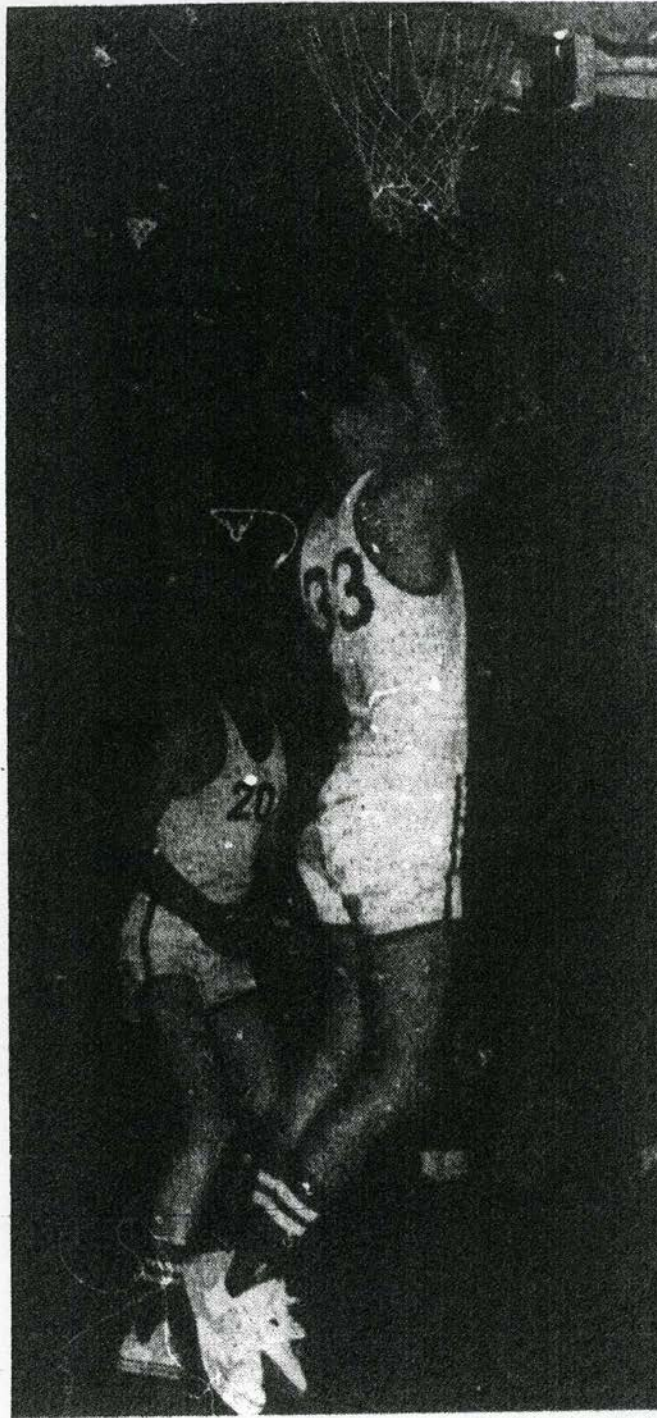


Photo by Bob Seymour

Paul Wade, 33, of Smyrna pulls down a rebound for the Blue Devils after an Atlantic shot came off the rim. Also in on the play was Carroll Hill, 20, also of Smyrna.

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 Danny Harvey, 4.

Neither team was impressive at the foul line. Smyrna hit 12 of 19 for 63 per cent and Atlantic hit 15 of 23 for 65 per cent.