

Piner Hurls 2-Hit 3-1 Win Over Vanceboro in Playoffs

John Hill's 3-Run Blast Provides All Smyrna Runs

The Smyrna Blue Devils Monday combined the masterful two-hit pitching of southpaw Braxton Piner and a bases-loaded single off the bat of John Hill to score a 3-1 win over Vanceboro in the opening round of play for the state Class A baseball title at Smyrna.

Piner was in control of the game all the way as he limited Vanceboro to only two hits, both singles, and struck out seven batters. Only six men reached base against the Blue Devil ace and only one advanced as far as third base after Vanceboro had scored their unearned run in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The Blue Devils threatened early in the game as they had two men on in the first inning and loaded the bases in their half of the second inning. They failed to score on both occasions, however.

In the fourth inning, leadoff hitter Curt Nelson reached base on an error on the Vanceboro shortstop. With Braxton Piner at the plate Nelson attempted to steal second but was called out on a close play at the keystone sack.

Piner then popped up to the shortstop for the second out of the inning. Dale Lewis followed with the Blue Devils' first hit of the game, a single. The next hitter, A. C. Davis, was also safe on an error on the shortstop and James Mears drew a base on balls to load

the bases and set the stage for John Hill's base clearing blow, a blue darter that dropped in right center field between the right and center fielder.

Lewis, Davis and Mears scored on the hit and Hill held up at first base. Grady Davis ended the rally by popping up to the shortstop.

In the bottom of the fifth inning Vanceboro got their only run of the game when they put together a pair of Smyrna errors and a single for the lone tally. With two men out, the Vanceboro batter, Willis, hit a routine ground ball which third baseman A. C. Davis booted for an error. Davis then threw wild to first base, allowing Willis to advance to second. Sawyer then lined a single to right field to score Willis.

The Blue Devils threatened again in the sixth inning, when they had two men on with two outs. The rally ended when Dale Lewis was called out at the plate on an attempted steal from third base. Lewis had reached base when he was hit by a pitched ball.

With a 3-1 lead in his favor and just three outs from the win, Piner went out and struck out the side in the bottom half of the seventh inning.

The win advances the Blue Devils into the second round of the playoffs and drops Vanceboro from contention. Smyrna now plays Camp Lejeune, winners of the Onslow county championship.

Baseball League To Select Queen

Officials of the County Baseball league, to promote their All-Star game July 3 at Smyrna, will sponsor a County Baseball Queen contest to be held the same day of the game.

Any girl in the county between the ages of 16 and 24 who has never been married is eligible to compete for the title of County Baseball Queen.

The selection of the queen and her attendants will be made prior to the game July 3 by a panel of judges to be named later. The winner will receive a trophy plus gifts and cash prizes.

Beauty is the sole category in which the contestants will be judged. Pictures of the candidates will run in THE NEWS-TIMES prior to the contest.

Appearing on the sports page of the next issue of THE NEWS-TIMES will be entry blanks for the contest which interested girls are asked to fill in and mail. Entry blanks should be sent to Box 9, THE NEWS-TIMES, Morehead City.

BOX SCORE

Smyrna	ab	r	h	e
Davis, W., cf	4	0	1	0
Jones, 2b	3	0	0	0
Nelson, c	2	0	0	0
Piner, p	4	0	0	0
Lewis, ss	4	1	1	1
Davis, A. C., 3b	3	1	0	2
Mears, lf	1	1	0	0
Hill, 1b	3	0	1	0
Davis, G., rf	3	0	1	0
Totals	27	3	4	3

Vanceboro	ab	r	h	e
McLamb, 2b	3	0	0	0
Whitford, p	3	0	0	0
Gaskins, 1b	3	0	0	0
Heath, ss	2	0	1	2
Nobles, c	3	0	0	0
Kutchins, rf	3	0	0	0
Willis, 3b	3	1	0	2
Sawyer, lf	3	0	1	0
Pollard, cf	2	0	0	0
Totals	25	1	2	4