

#15A 1959 April 10 - Blue Devils beats Beaufort 7-6

♦ **The Smyrna Blue Devils** jumped off to a quick 5-0 lead, then had to come from behind to score two runs in the bottom of the 5th inning to defeat the Beaufort Seadogs 7-6 in a baseball game played Wednesday afternoon on the Smyrna diamond.

The Blue Devils wasted no time in getting down to business as they loaded the bases in the bottom of the first on a hit and two walks. John Hill got credit for the Blue Devils first rbi as Carroll Hill scored from third on a fielder's choice on a ground ball hit by Hill.

Pitcher Braxton Piner then walked to load the bases again with two outs and the next batter, Mike Hancock, was also passed to force in Curt Nelson with the second run of the inning. Smyrna's third run came when Wayne Davis scored on a passed ball.

The Seadogs made their first serious threat in the top of the third inning when they filled the bags with a hit and two walks. The rally was cut short though, when Chuck Lewis grounded out to the first baseman to end the inning.

In the Blue Devils' half of the third, Wayne Davis plated the fourth run for Smyrna when an error on second baseman Leon Thomas allowed him to score. **Pitcher Braxton Piner** got credit for the rbi on Thomas's error. Smyrna added another run in the fourth inning when catcher Curt Nelson hammered out a double driving in Vaughn Yeomans.

The Seadogs came to life in the top of the fifth inning when a walk and back to back singles by Ray Hassell and Leon Thomas loaded the bases with no one out. This set the stage for a bases loaded triple by rightfielder Bill Morgan that made the score 5-3.

At this point, coach Jim Parkin relieved his starter Braxton Piner with righthander Carroll Hill. Hill was greeted rather roughly by the Seadogs as Pud Hassell lined a single to drive in the fourth run of the inning. The Beaufort scoring was closed out when a passed ball by catcher Curt Nelson let in two runs to make the score 6-5 in favor of Beaufort.

The Seadogs' lead was short

lived as Smyrna came right back to put two men on base as the result of some shaky fielding on the part of the Seadogs. Woody Hancock then stepped to the plate and lined a vicious ball down the third base line that got through the legs of both the third baseman and leftfielder. This allowed Piner and Hill to cross the plate with the winning runs.

Carol Hill, who came on in relief, picked up the win for the Blue Devils while Snuffy Willis was tagged with the loss in going the distance.