

● 4 Unearned Runs Beat Blue Devils

Havelock high school was out-hit 6-3 Tuesday afternoon but scored four unearned runs to chalk up a 4-2 victory over the Smyrna Blue Devils in a game played at Havelock.

Havelock jumped off to a quick lead in the first inning by scoring two runs, thanks to some shakey defensive play on the part of the Blue Devils. The first man up was safe at first on a low throw to first by pitcher Carroll Hill.

The next batter bunted in an attempt to sacrifice the base runner to second and he too was safe on an overthrow. On the play, Hill threw to second base, trying to get the lead runner but his throw went over the head of the second sacker into center field. The center fielder then overthrew third base trying to nab the runner.

The umpires then called a balk on the pitcher, Hill, which allowed the runner on third base to score the first run of the game.

The Blue Devils fought back to score two runs in their half of the third inning. Leadoff man Dan Yeomans walked and pitcher Braxton Piner followed with a tremendous triple over the head of the right fielder that scored Yeomans from first.

The next batter up, Curt Nelson, was safe at first on a fielder's choice as Piner was caught in a rundown between home and third. Wayne Davis then fanned, for the second out of the inning and John Hill followed with a single that drove in Nelson with the Blue Devils' second run.

Carroll Hill started on the mound for Smyrna but was relieved after two innings as coach Jim Parkin

inserted his ace southpaw Braxton Piner. Hill gave up two hits and two runs and struck out one in his brief stint and Piner allowed only one hit in going five innings.

Havelock also scored two runs off Piner and he was credited with eight strikeouts. In the walk department, Hill issued one free pass and Piner gave up three.

Curt Nelson continued his terrific defensive play behind the plate as he threw out two men at third base and two trying to steal second.

Righthander Coon started and went the distance for Havelock to register the victory while Hill was tagged for the loss.