

Swansboro Pirates, Newport Hawks to Continue Rivalry

Smyrna Lassies Are Favorites In Game Tonight

The high-flying Smyrna girls team, defending county champions and winners of seven straight games, is favored to make it eight in a row tonight. They will play the Beaufort Lassies in the first game of a doubleheader at Beaufort tonight.

Beaufort Coach Hugh Gordon says that he plans to continue his deliberate style of play. "I have instructed my forwards to hold on to that ball until they have a good shot at the basket," he declares.

To Call Shots

"With my short guards and Smyrna's tall forwards, they are sure to score nearly every time they get the ball. We will have to do the same thing if we hope to win. That means we will work the ball until we get an open shot at the basket or a free throw."

In three games this year the Beaufort girls have scored 88 points for an average of 29 points per game. Their opponents have scored 109 for an average of 36 points per game. This doesn't tell the whole story, however.

In the one game when the Beaufort lassies opened up and tried to match their opponents' basket for basket, they got beat by 17 points. Swansboro handed them a 57-40 licking.

Had Chance to Win

In the two games they tried to control the ball they lost by scores of 28-25 and 24-23. "We had a chance to win either one of those games," the coach points out, "while we didn't have a ghost of a chance in the Swansboro game."

Smyrna Coach H. T. Sanders may counter with a possession-type ball game or he may count on his tall forwards scoring every time they get the ball as Coach Gordon predicts.

It may be a slow ball game, but a close score and a hard fight for the victory is just as exciting as a race horse game where fans get rubber necks from watching the points mount up.

Tomorrow night's game between the visiting Newport Hawks and the Swansboro Pirates should rate as one of the top games of the year for both teams.

It will mark the continuation of a red-hot rivalry that reached its peak in the district play-offs last winter. The Hawks had won two straight over the Pirates during the regular season, only to have the tables turned in the play-off tournament at Kenansville.

The Pirates have looked impressive in their early game, particularly in the second half of their game at Morehead City. They have a well-rounded attack with every man on the first team a deadly shot.

Good Team Average

The Hawks can counter with some pretty good sharpshooters too. As a team they have averaged 69 points a game. Johnny Mason, Hawk forward, is third leading scorer in the county. He has an average of 19 points a game and is a constant threat to get hot and score 30 or more.

Center Larry Wallace and guard Reuben Lilly are averaging over 13 points a game each and can be counted on to make things tough on the opposition.

Says Coach Bob King, "Wallace will nearly always get his 10 or 15 points. On the nights when Lilly and Mason are hitting, it will really take a good team to hold us down." He hopes these boys will be "right" tomorrow night.

Top Competitors

The other two starters, Alton Hardison and Larry Kirk, are good steady performers who are top competitors. "They get in there and fight for the ball, and that is what you have to do to win," says the coach.

Girls coach Tom Dickinson says that much of the success of his team will depend on the recovery of forward Dotty Jo Whitaker. She

is the only starting forward held over from last year's team, but has been out all year with a bad leg.

She may be able to see action tonight. Coach Dickinson has been depending on freshmen and sophomores but has still run up a record of four victories against one loss. He figures that the Hawkettes are several points stronger when Whitaker is in the lineup.

Eagles to Play Wallace Bulldogs

The Morehead City Eagles will meet their first AA competition tonight when they invade Wallace for a twin bill with the Bulldogs. The Eagles have compiled a record of three wins and two losses against some rugged Class A competition.

Coach Cannon Talbert says he plans to stick with his same starting line-up with Darden Eure and John Phillips at forwards, Jewellyn Phillips at center and Walter Morris and Jimmy Swann at guards.

Three of the Eagle starters will go into the game with scoring averages of better than 10 points a game. The big gun in the Eagle attack is Jewellyn Phillips, who is averaging 22.4 points per game. His brother, John, is hitting at an 11-point per game clip.

Sandwiched between the two brothers is Darden Eure, who is scoring at an 11.8 average. He is recognized as one of the best rebounders on the team.

The starting line-up for the girls will probably have Anna Faye Willis, Faye Jones and Jenny Lou Smithwick at forwards and Jessie White, Sally Morris, Patsy Robinson or Frances Gaskins.

Top Scorers Will Meet In Beaufort-Smyrna Game

Two of the top scorers in the county will meet tonight when the Smyrna Blue Devils invade Beaufort. Glenn Willis, who has been the only Devil star in a poor season, will find himself pitted against Beaufort's ace scorer, Butch Hassell.

Willis has been scoring at a 14-point average, while Hassell has been hitting an average of 18.8 points per game. Neither team has another man who averages 10 points a game.

Beaufort fans are quick to point out why individual averages are rather low. They say that Coach T. H. McQuaid has so many good players he tries to use all of them.

There is no doubt that the Seadogs are loaded this year and will

give everyone plenty of trouble. Their only loss this season has been to New Bern, an AA school.

After they earned a nine-point victory over the defending champion Newport Hawks, many fans predict that they have the county title wrapped up.

(Morehead City, an AA school now, is not eligible for the county title since it would not be able to play in play-off competition. The Eagles will play in the county tournament and can be declared tournament champions).

Freshmen dominate the Blue Devil team, which shows lots of promise for next year. Lack of experience hurts the Devils but they play with all the spirit characteristic of young teams.