

Piner's Two-Hitter

Faces Only 23 Men in Racking Up Sixth Win, Second Shutout

Braxton Piner, ace southpaw of the Smyrna high school Blue Devils, chalked up his sixth win of the season and his second shutout by setting down the Morehead City Eagles on just two hits Tuesday afternoon to pace his team to a 10-0 win.

Piner pitched near perfect ball in the seven-inning contest as he faced a total of only 23 men, which is two over the 21-minimum. In four of the seven innings Piner set the Eagles down in order. Only two Eagles reached base during the contest and only one man advanced as far as second base.

Piner mixed his fast ball with a good assortment of breaking stuff and pinpoint control to strike out 10 men. He didn't issue a walk in racking up his second shutout of the season.

Piner's teammates pounded the Eagle pitching staff for a total of eight hits that provided them with their ten runs. Two big innings, the second and the fifth, in which they scored eight times, highlighted the big win for the Blue Devils.

Catcher Curt Nelson led off the bottom of the second inning by reaching base on an error. This was followed by a single by John Hill and a strikeout by Wayne Davis. Woody Hancock then stepped to the plate and lined a single that scored two runs. The next batter, Piner, also reached base on an error and another Blue Devil run crossed the plate on the play.

Dave Mears then grounded out and after Vaughn Yeomans had walked, Dan Yeomans flied out to end the inning.

In the fifth James Mears led off with an infield hit but was out when the next hitter, Vaughn Yeomans, was safe on a fielder's choice. Dan Yeomans then got his second single of the day and shortstop Dale Lewis followed with a walk to load the bases. This set the stage for a big single by Curt Nelson that sent two more runs across the plate.

John Hill then was safe on an error with another run scoring and Wayne Davis followed with a walk. Woody Hancock then got credit for his third rbi of the day by lining a run-producing single.

Piner then helped his own cause by following with a single that scored the fifth run of the inning for the Blue Devils. James Mears ended the rally by grounding out, short to first.

After giving up a two-out single in the second inning, Piner set the Eagles down until the top of the sixth when an error allowed an Eagle runner to reach first base. He was quickly erased however, on a perfectly executed pickoff play by the Blue Devil catcher, Curt Nelson.

Morehead City's other hit came in the seventh inning when McQueen dropped a double in back of first base.

Jim Turner started on the mound

for the Eagles of coach Norman Clark and worked six innings, giving up all eight hits and being charged with all the runs scored by the Blue Devils. He struck out three and walked three.

Linwood Durham came on in relief of Turner in the sixth and finished the game without giving up a hit although he allowed two men to reach base as the result of being hit by a pitched ball. He also was charged with two walks.

The win put the Smyrna record at seven wins and two losses for the season and marked win number five for Piner.

Score by innings:
Smyrna 030 052 0-10
Morehead City 000 000 0-0