

# Braxton Piner Hurls Smyrna Blue Devils Past Swansboro

The Smyrna Blue Devils opened their baseball season Friday afternoon with a 9-3 win at Swansboro. Despite the cold, windy weather, the Smyrna hurler, Braxton Piner, pitched a steady game, allowing only four hits.

After giving up three runs in the first inning, Piner settled down to pitch shutout ball for the rest of the way. He struck out three.

The Blue Devils won the game with a seven-run outburst in the second inning. Piner helped win his own game with two hits, both singles. Other Blue Devils getting hits were Curtis Nelson, Woody Hancock, Dale Lewis, Philip Mason and Johnny Ingram.

Smyrna Coach Norman Chadwick was particularly impressed with the fine showing Piner made on the mound and at the plate. He picked out a play by Dale Lewis as the outstanding defensive play of the day.

Aubrey Riggs had tripled for Swansboro in the last inning to set the stage for the play. With two men out, a Pirate batter poled a long drive to center field. Lewis caught the ball on the dead run to wind up the game and leave Riggs stranded on third base.

The Blue Devils will invade Atlantic Friday afternoon in an effort to make up for a pair of losses to the Atlantic nine last season. Coach Chadwick is pleased with the showing his team has made so far and is confident that it will be even better with the coming of warmer weather.