

Stage Set for Dramatic Eagle-Seadog Showdown

Tickets for Game Sold Out in Only 22 Minutes

Six hundred fans, squared off evenly on each side of the Beaufort gym, will pack the stands tonight to witness a dramatic clash of two undefeated basketball teams for what could be the championship of the Coastal Plains conference.

Headliners in this long-awaited clash are the defending state Class A champions, the Beaufort Seadogs, and the undefeated Morehead City high school Eagles. The Eagles have rolled over seven straight opponents this year and currently are atop the Coastal Plains standings with a loop record of 5-0.

Tickets for the crucial game went on sale at Beaufort school Monday afternoon and lasted exactly 22 minutes, according to Beaufort principal Albert Gainey. "Some of our students went right from the classroom and got in line," said Mr. Gainey. The ticket sale started at 6 p.m. Monday. Although 600 tickets were sold, Mr. Gainey estimated that more people than that were turned away.

Both teams have spent a serious week of preparation for the game. The Eagles and the Seadogs both had games last Friday but had open dates Tuesday night. Beaufort coach Tom McQuaid and Eagle mentor Gannon Talbert have not mentioned just what plan of attack they have in store for each other but fans who have attended previous games between the two rivals know they can expect anything.

Beaufort's winning streak, which now stands at 87 games, has caused the game to draw considerable attention even outside the county. The winning streak of the Eagles is 80 games shy of Beaufort's but the Eagles have shown a lot of finesse in their seven games this season. The Eagles own at least one win over every member of the conference except Beaufort and Pamlico.

Common foes of the two teams this year have been Wallace-Rose Hill, Aycock and Jones Central.

The Eagles have clipped Wallace twice, winning 79-57 and 37-27 and own a 54-37 verdict over the Rockets of Jones Central. They also have downed Aycock twice winning each time by seven points, 58-51 and 45-38.

Against the same foes Beaufort has posted a 54-39 win over Aycock, a 65-44 win over Jones Central and a 63-35 win over Wallace.

Offensively, both teams have three starters with scoring averages in double figures. The Eagles are paced by 6-4½ Jimmy Smithwick who is averaging 16 points a game and George Styron who is averaging 14.8 points per game. This is more than half of Morehead City's average point output of 56.5 points per game. Rounding out the top three is Bernard Leary, scoring at a 10.4 clip with 73 points in seven games.

The top pointmaker for the Seadogs in 11 contests to date has been rangy Chuck Lewis who is hitting 17.9 points per game. The senior forward has a fractional lead over team mate Ray Hassell who has 188 points in 11 games for an average of 17.07. Lanky Alton Hill has contributed 12.3 points per game in keeping the Seadogs unbeaten.

Defensively, the Seadogs appear to have a rebounding edge with Hill and Lewis in the game but the Eagles have one of the best rebounders in the county in Jimmy Smithwick.

Doors to the gym will open to ticket holders at 7 p.m. and Mr. Gainey requests that a single line be formed outside the gym.

Scoring statistics on starters for both teams follow:

BEAUFORT	G	FG	FT	PF	TP	AVG.
Chuck Lewis	10	75	29	19	179	17.9
Ray Hassell	11	73	42	28	188	17.09
Alton Hill	11	55	26	29	136	12.3
Johnny Hassell	10	31	4	10	66	6.6
Paris Croom	10	20	8	13	48	4.8

MOREHEAD CITY	G	FG	FT	PF	TP	AVG.
Jimmy Smithwick	7	50	12	23	112	16.0
George Styron	7	41	22	20	104	14.8
Chuck Sledge	7	9	10	12	28	4.0
Bernard Leary	7	33	7	10	73	10.4
Edward Sanderson	7	18	1	12	37	5.3
David O'Neal	7	15	0	18	30	4.2

Monarchs Edge Queen Street Knights 36-34

The W. S. King high school Monarchs leading 12-1 in the first quarter and 16-9 at halftime, withstood a last half rally by the Queen Street Knights Tuesday afternoon to edge the Knights 36-34 in a game played in the Monarch gym.

The win was the first in several years for the Monarchs over the Knights and extended their season's record to five wins and one loss. Their only defeat was a one-point loss to Bayboro earlier in the season. The Knights are now 4-3 on the season.

The Monarchs of coach John Morehead led all the way in down-

ing their arch rivals. Their first half advantage was narrowed in the last half by the desperate Knights but Queen Street couldn't catch up.

William Hester and Chauncey Fuller led the Monarch attack with 13 and seven points apiece while Godfrey Ellison pumped in 20 points for the losers. Hester, Winfred Quick and Robert Hodge gave the Monarchs a rebounding edge in the game.

The preliminary game also went to the Monarch school as the W. S. King girls defeated the Queen Street sextet 27-9.

Standings

CARTERET-CRAVEN CONFERENCE

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Newport	5	0	8	7
Atlantic	3	1	4	6
Smyrna	2	3	5	8
Dover	2	3	2	11
Vanceboro	1	4	2	5
Jasper	1	5	1	10

CARTERET-CRAVEN CONFERENCE

BOYS

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Havelock	5	0	5	2
Newport	4	1	10	5
Atlantic	4	2	7	5
Vanceboro	3	3	4	6
Smyrna	2	3	3	10
Jasper	1	6	1	12
Dover	0	6	0	14

Schedule

GAMES TONIGHT

Richlands at Swansboro
Atlantic at Dover
Morehead City at Beaufort
Vanceboro at Smyrna

GAMES SATURDAY

Newport at Beaufort