

#19 1959 April 28 Dale Lewis Returns to Line-up –Drives in 4 Runs; Smyrna beats Havelock; Braxton Piner Pitches Near Perfect – His Record 5-2

Smyrna high school posted eight runs on the scoreboard in the top of the third inning to swamp Havelock high school 15-1 in a game played Thursday afternoon on the Blue Devil diamond.

The loss avenged a defeat two days earlier suffered at the hands of Havelock. Braxton Piner, who was tagged

with the loss of the game at Havelock, came back strong with just two days of rest to pitch near flawless baseball in limiting Havelock to only two hits while his teammates were pounding out a total of nine.

The Blue Devils opened the scoring in the game by crossing the plate twice in the first inning. They added another run in their half of the second before the big third inning rally that saw 14 men parade to the plate.

Lead-off hitter Vaughn Yeomans walked to open the third and this was followed by a Havelock error that gave third baseman Carroll Hill life at first. Shortstop Dale Lewis, playing his first game after removing a cast on a broken hand, then was walked to load the bases and catcher Curt Nelson came through with a single that drove in two runs.

John Hill followed Nelson's hit with another walk and after Wayne Davis struck out, Woody Hancock reached first on an error by the Havelock second sacker. With the bases loaded, Piner was given a free pass to force in a run and the next batter, James Mears, was struck by a pitched ball, sending home another run for the Blue Devils.

Batting for the second time in the inning, Vaughn Yeomans stepped to the plate and kept the rally alive by lining a single that allowed one run to score. Carroll Hill then reached first on another error and Dale Lewis drove in two more with a single.

Curt Nelson then forced Lewis at second base and John Hill ended the big rally by grounding out.

Besides making stumbles out of the Havelock pitching staff, the Blue Devils also shook up their defense by stealing eight bases in the seven inning game. Leading the pilferers were shortstop Dale Lewis and catcher Curt Nelson who each pulled off a pair of steals.

Starting on the mound for Havelock was the right-hander Grebenstein, who was the victim of the brunt of the Smyrna attack. He was relieved in the fifth inning after giving up seven hits and yielding all 15 Smyrna runs. Coming on in relief was another right-hander, Duvall, who was tagged for two hits in his two-inning stint.

In racking up the win Piner pushed his record for the season to five wins and a pair of losses. Besides giving up only two hits he struck out 10 Havelock batters and walked six men.

Pacing the Blue Devils at the plate was Dale Lewis, who drove in four runs on a pair of hits. He was backed up by Woody Hancock, who also had four rbi's, and Wayne Davis who collected two hits. One of Davis's hits was a tremendous triple.

The next game for the Blue Devils will be this afternoon when they play host to the Morehead City Eagles.

Score by innings:

Havelock	000	010	0—	1
Smyrna	218	310	0—	15