

Blue Devils Knock Out Red Raiders 10-6

Smyrna's Blue Devils captured the Carteret-Craven baseball crown Friday, when they downed the conference leading Vanceboro Red Raiders 10-6.

Smyrna was in second place because they had dropped a conference game to the Red Raiders. Vanceboro was in a precarious situation, because they also had dropped a conference game to Newport.

So the game meant that the winner would be the conference champion.

In the first frame, the Red Raiders scored two runs on Blue Devil errors. Smyrna pushed across two runs in the same inning to knot the game at two all.

Doug Dameron was safe at first on a Raider bobble, Joe Willis singled, Danny Gillikin was issued a walk and Sterling Hancock blasted a double that was good enough for two runs to tie the game.

The Blue Devils scored one run in the second frame to take a 3-2 lead, Vanceboro rallied with a run in the top of the third to again tie the game.

The Blue scored a run in their half of the inning to take a one-run lead.

In the fourth Gillikin was hit with a pitched ball, Byron Styron collected a single, Terry Lewis drove in two runs on a double.

Gray Lewis had a base hit. Tommy McGee doubled to drive in two more runs and the Blue Devils were on their way to being conference champs.

Smyrna finished their 1963 season with a 10-3 record. Two of the losses were to non-conference foes.

Blue Devil coach Fred Bartholomew said there would be no conference play-offs this year, because it was so near the end of the school year.

He said he is looking forward to next year's team. Although the two seniors who shared the pitching load this year would not be back, he had a lot of sophomores and

freshman that would see a lot of play next year.

Byron Styron was the Blue Devils' leading pitcher with a 6-2 record. Sterling Hancock, who also doubles as a centerfielder, had four wins against one setback for the champs.

Doug Dameron led the Blue Devils at the plate with a .430 batting average. Joe Willis, who catches for the Smyrna team finished the season with a .340 average.

Terry Lewis, a sophomore, who went 6-12 at the plate in the last three games, looks like an excellent prospect for next year's team, the coach said.

Coach Bartholomew said this year's team showed a lot of hustle and desire to win. "I imagine that is one of the big reasons we are conference champs," he said.

Smyrna 10	AB	R	H
Dameron 3b	5	2	1
Willis c	5	1	1
Gillikin ss	2	1	1
Styron p	4	1	1
Lewis 2b	3	2	2
Hancock cf	3	2	1
Lewis rf	4	1	1
McGee 1b	4	0	2
Willis G.	3	0	1

Vanceboro 6	AB	R	H
Smith 3b	4	0	1
Sawyer 2b	3	0	1
Wright ss	4	1	0
Miller p	3	1	2
Barrow rf	3	1	2
Trip c	2	0	1
Morris lf	4	1	1
Willis 1b	1	0	0
Whitford cf	3	0	0