

Early Years

- A. The first games were on dirt courts and travel to other schools was difficult.”
- B. Based on Joe (Boy) Willis research, the Smyrna Women team won *16 Straight Years*, winning more than *160 games!* In comparison the Beaufort Men’s Basketball team won 91 games over four (4) years from 1958 to 1961, which is a standing school record for NC Men’s Basketball for 90 years.

Joe said, “This is a record that is unbelievable, one that gives us a great deal of pride in our mothers, grandmothers and friends...We should give thanks to those great women for setting the bar for all of us that played sports at Smyrna high school...”

- C. Teams Played in Class A: **Beaufort, Morehead, Newport and Smyrna.**

Names of Two of the Teams: 1934 and 1935 Teams – Coach and Principal Conner Eagles (Left after 1935):

1934 Smyrna Girls Team: Eunice Lewis Gilgo, Guard; Melva Lynch King, Forward; Louise Piner Lewis, Guard; Irma Pake Quinn, Forward; Ester Brown Valentine, Forward; and Annie Lee WillisGuard.

1935 Smyrna Girls Team: Bertha Chadwick, Forward; Norma Davis, Guard; Nomae Gillikin, Guard; Bellzora Honneycutt, Guard; Louise Piner Lewis, Guard; Melva Lynch, Forward; Louise Piner, Guard; Ester Brown Valentine, Forward; Agnes Wade, Guard; Dorothy Willis, Forward; Harriet Willis, Forward; and Mamie Willis, Forward.

- D. Smyrna continued their winning, winning spirit and the winning attitude instilled by those that came before them.

NOTE: Records were not available for most of the years from 1940 to 1950; however, it is known and often recognized that the Smyrna Girls Basketball teams always had a strong competitive team, and based on Joe (Boy) Willis research.

1951-1964 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team;

- ❖ 1940 Morehead Girls beat Smyrna 17 to 13; and Atlanta Boys beat Morehead 24 to 19.
- ❖ 1941 Morehead Girls and Beaufort Boys are Champions.
- ❖ 1942 Newport Girls over Morehead 24 to 19; Beaufort Boys win 16 to 3.
- ❖ 1943, 19445 and 1946 records not found.
- ❖ 1944 Smyrna Girls **Won the Championship.**
- ❖ 1947 Smyrna Boys are **Championship.**
- ❖ 1948 Smyrna Girls Beats Harkers Island 35 to 13; and Harkers Boys beat Smyrna 25 to 21 for **Championship.**
- ❖ 1951 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Won the Sportsmanship Award!**
- ❖ 1952 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Won the County Championship by beating Morehead City!**
- ❖ 1953 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Strong Record and received the Sportsmanship Award!**
- ❖ 1954 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; record Not Available.
- ❖ **1955 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Record 16-5!**
- ❖ 1956 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Runner up to Newport!**
- ❖ 1957 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Won the County Championship!**
- ❖ 1958 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Won the County Championship beat Morehead 83 to 61!**
- ❖ 1959 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Runner up to Newport (Score 52-50)!**
- ❖ 1960 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Runner up to Beaufort (71-65)!**
(All-County: Jean Willis and Brenda Golden).
- ❖ 1961 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Won the County Championship Beat Beaufort 48 to 45!**
(All-County: Carolyn Phelps, Linda Willis and Elizabeth Styron)(Co-Captains: Carolyn Phelps and Linda Willis)
- ❖ 1962 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Runner up to Newport 52 to 39!**
- ❖ 1963 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Beat Vanceboro 28 to 8 in first round of Tournament!**
(All-County: Alice Chadwick, Gaye Styron and Trudy Gillikin)
(Co-Captains: Gaye Styron and Alice Chadwick).
- ❖ 1964 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **(All Tourney and All-County: Jo Anne Valentine)**