

**Fred L. Bartholomew:**

- ◆ Our Coach
- ◆ Our Teacher
- ◆ Our Mentor
- ◆ Our Friend
- ◆ Our Hero

**1962 Fred L. Bartholomew, Smyrna Coach**

**“He came to Coach us in 1961 when we were boys;  
we left as championships.”**

Joe Willis



**Coach**

**Fred L. Bartholomew**

May 17, 2005

By Joe Willis

Fred was born in 1937 in Warrenton, NC. He lettered in three sports, and was all conference in Baseball and Football. He received scholarship offers from Clemson, Wake Forest and accepted one from Louisburg for Baseball and Basketball. He transferred to East Carolina his junior year.

It was at East Carolina that he met Dee Ballou from Morehead City, and they married in May 22, 1960. Dee and Fred have three children, Betsy, Nancy and Fred III and they have four grand children.

In 1960, during his senior year, he did his student teaching at Smyrna, teaching 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education. Both Dee and Fred fell in love with Smyrna, and over the next five years Fred would make a significant impact on both sports and education in Carteret County. He coached through the 1964 season and became the Principal in 1965.

It was in the summer of 1961 when I got to know Fred as my Pony League Coach and later that year at Smyrna as our basketball and baseball Coach. Through Fred's leadership, the 1961 Pony League team dominated the baseball league, and many of the same players would go on to play for him at Smyrna in both basketball and baseball.

Fred said, “The 1961/1962 Basketball team was the toughest for him. He had talented players, but they lacked experience. I immediately switch the first six home games to away games to help reduce the pain. However, that year turned out to be better than he thought. He said, “he took to the players and they took to him. We had some very successful years.” The following represents some of those achievements at Smyrna:

**#1B Fred Bartholomew Continued Page 2 of 7 - Accomplishments Listed Below:**

**Summary Achievements**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Basketball</b>
<b>1961/1962</b>	<b>Out of 10 Game Schedule I was able to get documentation on 8, of which, Smyrna Won 7</b>	<b>Conference Record 6-5 Overall Record 8-15</b>
<b>1962/1963</b>	<b>CONFERENCE Champions (10 and 3 Record)</b>	<b>SECOND in Conference (8-2 Record) ( Lost 2 games, both to Newport)</b>
<b>1963/1964</b>	<b>6 and 5 Record (Lost some of our key pitchers)</b>	<b>CONFERENCE and Tournament Champions (Last won by the Smyrna 1947 Team)</b>

Fred coached us and helped make us Champions on the field; however, the far greater impact was the guidance and direction he gave us that has helped us off of the field. He mentored all of us, and that direction has helped guide us for more than 40 years. For that, we are forever grateful.

While coaching, Fred played semi-pro baseball with the Smyrna team, coached by Wilson Davis, of the East Coast League. He had a lot of fond memories of some of the players such as AC Davis, Donnie Gray Davis, Wilson Davis, Manager, Grady Fulcher, John Hill, Jamie Lewis, Wump Lewis, Curt Nelson, Crawford Pigott, Mack Pigott and Braxton Piner.

He told me a story about the time he came in to pitch the second game of a double header, and how AC Davis who was catching told him he knew the batters and Fred said he would listen to his signals. He had a no-hitter going deep in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning when he shook off AC call and the batter got a hit. That was the only hit of the game. Ac came up to him at the end of the game and said, "You realize that would have been a no-hitter. Man, it's hard to teach college boys." Fred said, "He regretted that one."

In 1962, Fred was an All-Star for the Smyrna team. He batted .327 and won the batting title.

After Smyrna, Fred took the Principal's job in Currituck, and he bought Crawford Pigott there to teach Math. Brenda and Crawford lived downstairs and Dee and Fred lived upstairs in the same building. After one year, Fred took the principal's job in Warrenton for five years.

In the summer of 1971 he moved to Princeton where he served as principal until he retired in 1999. Princeton is in the 1A Carolina Conference, located at the eastern end of Johnston County, has about 1200 people and has K-12. Before consolidation from 1973-1975, they had the biggest conference in the State with Wilson, Johnson County, Wayne, Sampson, Harnett and Lee. Then 1A Schools ruled before 4A School took over.

Fred was elected twice to the NC State Assistant Principal Association, and he serves now as the Chairman of the School Board. Princeton High School named the Athletic field in dedication to him, and Princeton name a street after him. They recognized a great leader, Coach, educator and mentor.

I want to thank Fred for being there when he was needed most, and for the impact he helped make on my life.

#1C Fred Bartholomew Continued Page 3 of 7 - Championship Teams Listed Below:



◆ The following are some of the accomplishments at Smyrna, and some of the players Fred mentored and helped make a difference in their lives:

Championship Teams Listed Below:

1961 Smyrna Blue Devils Pony League List of Baseball Team Members and Standings: Record 13-1

Team Players

1. Doug Damren
2. Danny Gillikin
3. Sterling Hancock
4. Cranston Jones
5. Kenny Lewis
6. Terry Lewis
7. Norris Nelson
8. Barry Willis
9. Gordon Willis
10. Joe "Boy" Willis
11. Steve Willis

Standings				
PONY LEAGUE				
	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Blue Devils	13	1	.928	
BFD	10	4	.714	3
Tigers	6	8	.428	7
Black Hawks	4	10	.285	9
Comets	2	12	.142	11

**RESULTS LAST WEEK**  
 Blue Devils 3, Black Hawks 2  
 BFD 17, Comets 0  
 BFD 12, Tigers 11

**GAMES THIS WEEK**  
 Tonight—Tigers vs. Comets  
 Thursday—Blue Devils vs. Tigers  
 Friday (2)—Black Hawks vs. Comets  
 Blue Devils vs. BFD

**LEADING HITTERS**  
 (Based on 20 official at-bats)

Name, team	ab	h	avg.
Merrill, BFD	44	21	.477
Willis, J., Smyrna	42	20	.476
Woodard, BFD	24	10	.417
Croom, BFD	46	17	.370
Dameron, Smyrna	41	15	.366
Pake, Tigers	36	13	.361
Oglesby, Comets	36	13	.361
Stanley, BFD	43	15	.349
Willis, B., Smyrna	27	9	.333
Williams, Comets	27	9	.333

**1963 May 21 Fred Bartholomew's Smyrna Baseball Team Captures Conference Championship!!!**



**Top Row Standing:** Joe Willis, Doug Damren, Gerald Honneycutt, David Bailey, Byron Lee Styron, -----, Sterling Hancock, Willie Willis, Steve Willis, -----, Tom McGee, Ted Lewis

**Bottom Row:** Arnold Ray Davis, Tony Hancock, David Pake, Cranston Jones, Norris Nelson, Peter Fulcher, Danny Gillikin, David Lawrence, Gray Lewis, Tom Styron, Linwood Varnum, Robert Tyler, Dennis Chadwick and Coach Fred Bartholo

**Not Pictured:** Kenny Lewis and Terry Lewis

**1963 Smyrna Baseball Team Batting Statistics**

**Team Record:** 10 and 3 ( Lost 1 Conference Game)

**Pitchers:**

- ✓ Byron Styron: 6 and 2
- ✓ Sterling Hancock: 4 and 1

**Batting Leaders:**

- ✓ Doug Damren: .430
- ✓ Joe Willis: .340

**Note:** Terry Lewis went 6 for 12 at the plate for his last 12 at bats

**1964 Smyrna Baseball Team Batting Statistics**

Name	At Bats	Hits	Ave
Joe (Boy) Willis	31	13	.419
Terry Lewis	24	9	.375
Kenny Lewis	29	10	.344
David Lawrence	30	10	.333
Norris Nelson	33	10	.303
Doug Damren	34	9	.264
Tony Hancock	15	4	.266
Tom McGee	33	7	.212

1964 March 20 Fred Bartholomew's Smyrna Conference Championship Basketball Team

Wins for the First Time Since 1947!!!

*Boys' Basketball*



Keith Piner, Terry Lewis, Linwood Parker, David Bailey,  
Danny Gillikin, Jonathan Willis, Clinton Nelson, Douglas

Da m r e n, Norris Nelson, Joe Willis, T o m m y McGee,  
David Pake



Tri-captains: JOE WILLIS, LIN-  
WOOD PARKER, NORRIS NELSON



FRED BARTHOLOMEW, Head  
Coach



Managers: DENNIS CHADWICK and  
TOMMY STYRON

# Blue Devils Claim Cage Honors, First County Title Since 1947

The Smyrna high school basketball team won 25 games this season to reach, though not win, the District II single-A finals at Kenansville. It was the Devils' first trip to the district tournament.

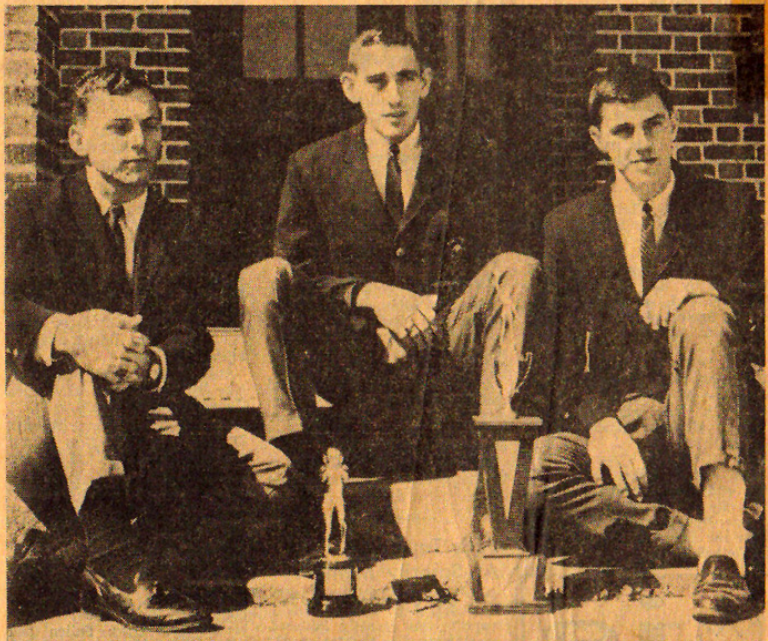
They claim the season and tournament championships of Carteret county in single-A ball. Smyrna's last county championship was won in 1947, 17 years ago.

The Blue Devils lost only five games this season. The first loss was to Havelock at the opening of the season, but Smyrna returned the favor in their next meeting. Their second defeat was to Mount Olive during Christmas Invitational tournament. Mount Olive ended the season with a 25-1 record, losing the only game to Beaufort in the finals of the District II double-A tournament in Jacksonville.

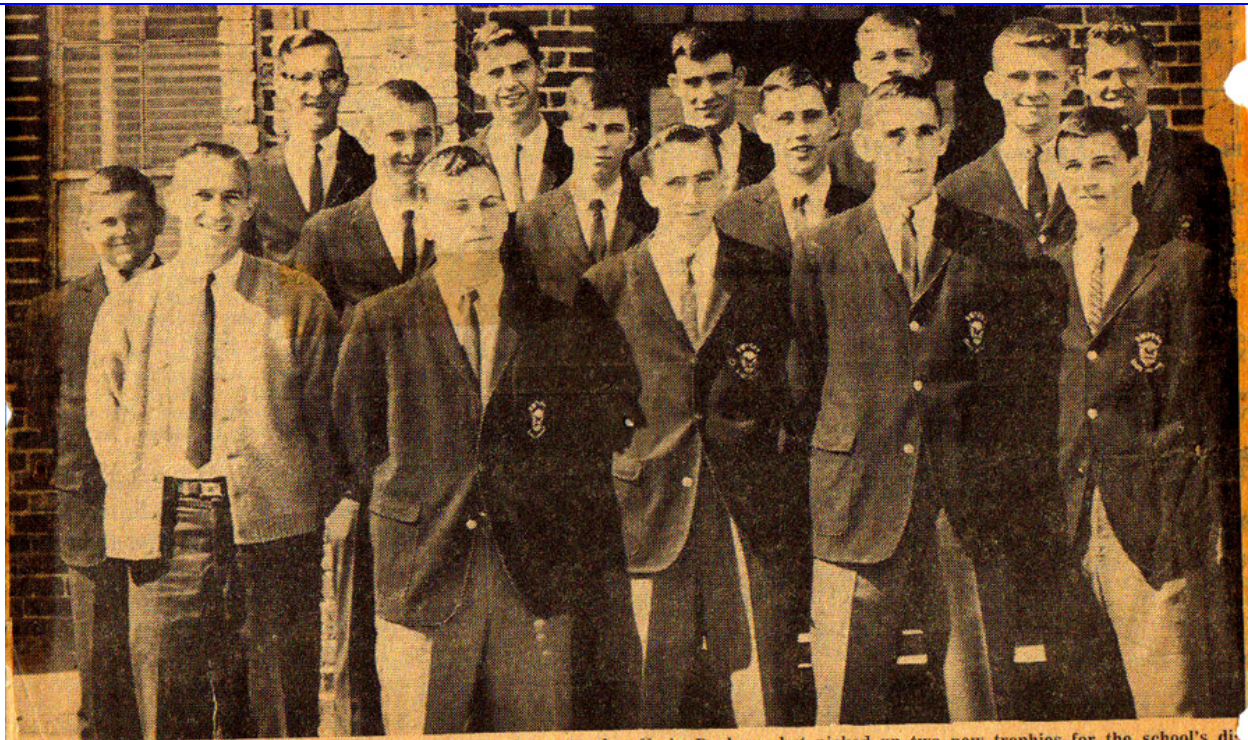
The Devils lost two more games to Beaufort, third ranking double-A team in the state. The fifth loss was to Midway in the finals of the district single-A playoffs. The final defeat was Smyrna's only loss to a single-A team.

What are the prospects for next year? Smyrna will lose Linwood Parker, Joe Willis and Norris Nelson from the first unit, and Doug Damren, the sixth man. Coach Fred Bartholomew will have to build a new team, and expects that "We'll start slow . . . but will come along by mid-season."

Even without this year's first stringers, the coach expects to come up with a winning team.



Smyrna's tri-captains display the team's trophies for the county championship and for runner-up in the District II playoffs at Kenansville. From the left are Joe Willis, Linwood Parker and Norris Nelson.



The Blue Devil basketball team missed a chance at the state playoffs in Durham, but picked up two new trophies for the school's display cases. From left, front row, are coach Fred Bartholomew, Joe Willis, Doug Damren, Linwood Parker, Norris Nelson; second row, Tommy Jones (manager), Clinton Nelson, David Pake, Keith Piner, David Bailey; third row, Arnold Asdenti, Terry Lewis, Danny Gillin, Jonathan Willis and Tommy McGee. Absent is Dennis Chadwick.

**Smyrna Men's Basketball Team:** **Won Both the Conference and Tournament**

**Players From Smyrna High School (Note: This was the only statistics that were available from the Newspaper):**

- ❑ **Carteret-Craven All-Conference:** Joe Willis and Linwood Parker
  - ❑ **All-County Second Team:** Linwood Parker, David Bailey and Joe Willis
  - ❑ **All-County Honorable Mention:** Norris Nelson
  - ❑ **All-Tourney:** Linwood Parker, Joe Willis, Norris Nelson and Danny Gillikin
- Women Basketball Team:** Jo Anne Valentine

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**Statistics:**

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- ✓ **Linwood Parker: Averaged 18.13 Points Per Game and 14 Rebounds**
- ✓ **David Bailey: Averaged 10.00 Points Per Game**
- ✓ **Joe Willis: Averaged 14.50 Points Per Game**
- ✓ **Norris Nelson: Averaged 15.00 Points Per Game**