

Seadogs Still Smyrna Bid

Eaglettes Down Pamlico 69-55 to End 3

Seadogs Impressive In Downing Arch Rivals

By SARA GERY and LIONELLE TAYLOR

The Beaufort Seadogs, able to score against a variety of Smyrna defenses Friday night, settled the Beaufort-Smyrna dispute at least temporarily, with an impressive 73-64 win over the Blue Devils in a game played before an overflow crowd in the Smyrna gymnasium.

The win was the 62nd consecutive victory for the defending state champions and strengthened their position as favorites in the county race. Pud Hassell topped his previous seasonal high scoring performance by tallying 37 points which allowed Beaufort to lead virtually throughout the game. At one point in the third quarter, the Seadog advantage over their arch rivals reached as much as 18 points.

The Blue Devils opened the game with a man to man defense on four of the Beaufort players and had Curt Nelson playing a loose zone under the basket. This left David Jones open and the Seadogs took quick advantage of the situation as they fed the senior guard for three quick baskets that put the Blue Devils in an early hole. Jones, with one guarding him, dropped in two set shots and a layup before Smyrna changed their defensive alignment.

The Blue Devils took their only lead of the night in the opening seconds of the game when Dale Lewis hit a jumper from the side for a 2-0 Smyrna lead.

Ray Hassell then missed a free throw for Beaufort but Chuck Lewis connected on a field goal and Pud Hassell added a basket for a 4-2 Beaufort lead.

Beaufort then put David Jones to work and Beaufort opened its lead to 10 points. Jones hit a layup at the end of the first quarter to put the Beaufort lead at 22-11 over the Blue Devils.

The Blue Devils managed to shave one point off the Seadog lead in the second quarter by outscoring the defending state champions 17-16. At one point in the quarter, a basket by Chuck Lewis had opened the Beaufort spread to 12 points.

The pressure on both teams was evident in the third quarter. The play became rougher as the game wore on. Beaufort added five more points to their halftime advantage to take a 59-45 lead at the end of the period.

The Blue Devils refused to be counted out though and came fighting back in the fourth quarter to do their hottest shooting of the night, pouring 19 points through the net to Beaufort's 14. The Blue Devils lost their top rebounder,

Dale Lewis, in the frame when he drew his fifth personal foul minutes before the end of the contest. Beaufort's David Jones was also benched with five personals in the period.

Curt Nelson finished behind Pud in the scoring column with 22 points to his credit. Four players, Smyrna's Braxton Piner, Dale Lewis and Genus Jones and Beaufort's David Jones, all scored 11 points.

Free throwing statistics on the game showed a marked contrast in the two teams' efficiency from the charity stripe. The Blue Devils hit on 24 of the 33 free throws they attempted for a 72.7 per cent accuracy mark while the Seadogs were well below a good showing, hitting only 39.2 per cent of their gift shots. Of 28 free throws taken, the Seadogs missed on 17 of them.

The preliminary game between the Beaufort and Smyrna girls turned out to be a real scoring duel with the combination of Phelps and Co. besting the three Seadog forwards.

Towering Carolyn Phelps dropped in 41 points to lead her team mates to a high-scoring 76-68 win over the Seadog sextet. This 41 points, plus 32 more scored by Brenda Golden proved to be more than enough to offset the well-balanced attack of the defending county champions.

Beaufort had three forwards scoring 20 points or more with Lynn Peterson topping the trio with 26 markers. Lynda Chadwick added 26 and Anna Salter 22.

The two teams matched basket-for-basket right up to the final minutes of the last quarter when Smyrna opened a seven-point spread on two straight three-point plays.

Beaufort coach Jim Fodrie went all the way with his guard combination of Freda Garner, Judy Pake and Norma Merrill. Smyrna used only five guards in the game with Linda Willis, Elizabeth Syron, Becky, Trudy Gillikin and Diane Willis seeing action. Patsy Taylor was used at a forward position in relief of Rose Marie Arthur.



Viewing Sports

by Larry McComb

Smyrna-Beaufort Notes

It wasn't as close as last year's first meeting and to a lot of Smyrna fans it was just a little disappointing but, all in all, last Friday's Smyrna-Beaufort game was a thrilling and well-played contest.

By beating their Down East rivals 73-64, the defending state champion Seadogs served notice that they will be around come state tournament time and will be hard to deal with.

For the Blue Devils to lose to a team like Beaufort is no disgrace. They played well enough to beat a lot of teams that will appear in the state tournament in Durham. They have one of the finest teams ever to be produced in the history of a county synonymous with winning cage teams. The fact that their rise to power came during Beaufort's greatest years of success should not take anything away from their fine record.

On the part of the Seadogs, their play relieved a lot of anxiety for most of the Beaufort fans. It was no secret that the defending state champs had looked ragged in several of their outings prior to the Smyrna game, but their play Friday indicated that they are capable of rising to the occasion.

One of the secrets of a successful basketball team is adaptability and in this category the Seadogs excel. A team of five top-flight basketball players will win a lot of games but they will also lose some unless they have the ability to adapt their attack to their opponents' strength and weaknesses.

Smyrna chose to start off the game in a four-man man-to-man defense with Curt Nelson playing a one-man zone under the basket. This move left David Jones unguarded but the Smyrna strategy was to be able to offset any damage David might be able to do.

The Seadogs quickly spotted the defensive holes on David and began feeding him for wide open shots. Before the game was two minutes old, David had gone on the Seadogs off to a flying start with three quick baskets.

In the second half the Blue Devils attempted a three-man press but also found this ineffective as the Seadogs ran the ball through the press and broke open under the basket for easy layups.

The overflow crowd at the game caused both teams to have to play under somewhat of a handicap. Spectators were anywhere from seven to eight deep all the way around the floor, making the teams confine their playing to a small area near the center of the court.

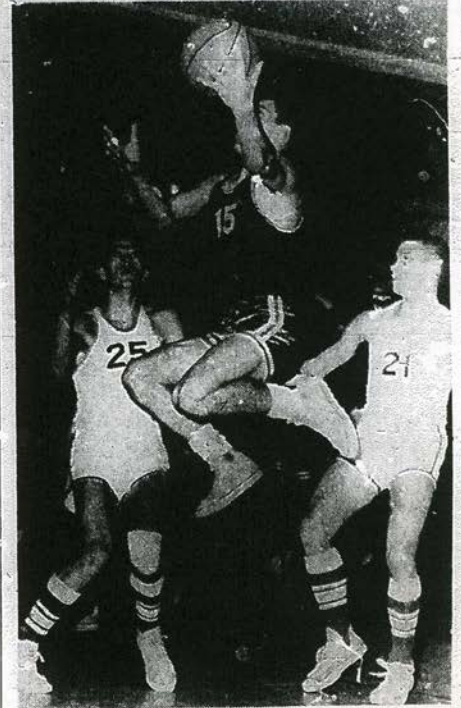
If games like the Smyrna-Beaufort or Morehead City-Beaufort contests cannot be rescheduled to be played in a gym large enough to accommodate the crowd, school officials should see that tickets for only that amount of people who can be seated are sold. To do any less is unfair to both teams.

The same situation is expected to exist Saturday night when the Seadogs invade the Morehead City fieldhouse for a game with the Eagles. Only Morehead's gym doesn't have the seating capacity of even Smyrna's gym so there probably will be more people standing than sitting.

A final note on Friday's game is the fact that it was the first basketball game I have ever witnessed in which the ball never went out of bounds. The boundary lines were a good two or three feet behind the spectators and the ball couldn't have wedged its way out of bounds if it had wanted to.

That's 30 for now.

High-Flying Seadog



Beaufort's Ray Hassell, with ball, goes flying past Smyrna defenders Dale Lewis, No. 25, and Vaughn Yeomans to score a two-point layup during last half action of the two teams' thrilling game Friday night at Smyrna.

Z. Riggs and White Oak Defeat Newport 70-52

The Newport Hawks last week found a 74-point effort of White Oak's Zeb Riggs more than they could cope with and, as a result, the Hawks went down 70-52 before the White Oak quintet. The loss was the 12th of the year for Newport and their fourth straight setback.

Riggs was almost the whole show for the White Oak team as he hit for 11 field goals and 12 free throws in 32 minutes of play. His shooting led White Oak to a 15-10 first-quarter lead and a 29-27 intermission advantage.

Newport's attack was slowed somewhat by the ineffectiveness of co-captain Winkie Chadwick who was far below his 12-point average, with 2 points. Some of the slack was taken up by Jimmie Mills who turned in his highest scoring performance of the year with 23 points. Even this, however, was not enough to offset the White Oak attack that picked up steam in the last half to open its margin to 18 points.

The last two quarters of the game saw the Hawks lose three starters via the foul route. Jimmie Mills, Clayton Garner and Johnny Thrower were all whistled out of the contest.

The night wasn't a total loss for the Hawks, however, as the Newport girls had things pretty much their own way in the preliminary.

See HAWKS, Page 6