

Nelson's 18 of 21 Charity Attempts Provide Edge

By LIONELLE TAYLOR

The deadly free-throw-shooting eye of Curt Nelson helped the Smyrna Blue Devils gain a revenge win over the Morehead City Eagles Saturday night in an important county clash on the Blue Devil hardwoods. Nelson was practically automation at the free throw line as he sank 18 of 21 charity attempts to lead the Blue Devils to a 54-47 win over the Eagles.

Nelson also hit seven shots from the floor to grab high scoring honors for the game with 32 points. But it was his accuracy at the free throw line that broke the backs of the Eagles. Morehead City was in position to pull within striking distance of the Blue Devils on several occasions in the crucial last half only to see these chances thwarted as Nelson stepped to the free throw line each time and inched the Blue Devils further out front.

The Eagles scored first in the game on a field goal by Harold Whealton but the Blue Devils scored a field goal of their own by Lenus Jones and added a free throw for a 3-2 lead. During the remainder of the first period, the lead changed hands several times and the end of the period came with the Blue Devils holding a slight 9-8 lead.

Two Smyrna starters, Dale Lewis and Braxton Piner got in foul trouble early in the second period when they both drew their third fouls. Smyrna coach Jim Parkin removed the two from his lineup and neither got back into the game until after the half.

With Lewis and Piner on the bench, the Blue Devils managed to maintain their slight margin over the Eagles until seconds before the halftime buzzer when a jump shot pushed the Big Red out front 21-20.

At the start of the third quarter, the Blue Devils quickly erased the Morehead lead as Piner scored on a fast break. From here Smyrna hit three straight field goals for a seven-point lead, the largest of the night by either team. The quarter ended with the Blue Devils ahead by six at 41-35.

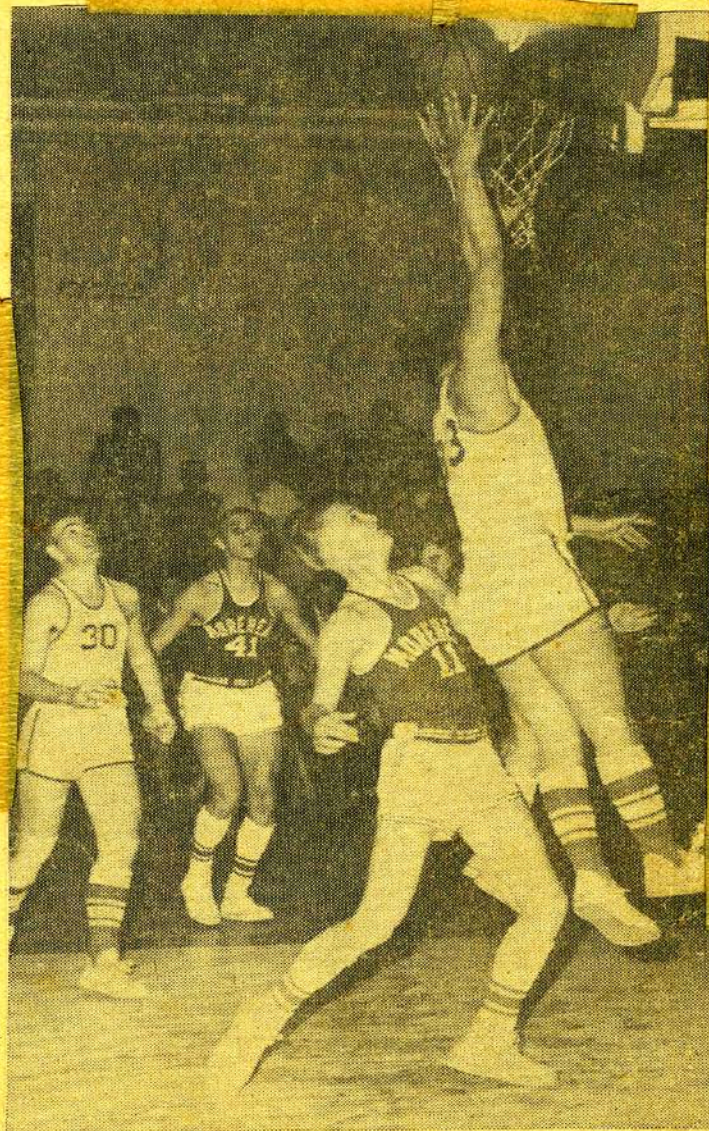
Fouls began to tell on the Eagles too in the final frame as Gannon Talbert lost two of his starters, Dan Wade and George Styron, in the period.

With only two minutes left in the game, the Eagles were trailing by only four points but this was as close as they could get as Nelson missed one free throw and then hit three straight for a seven-point Blue Devil lead.

Morehead's Harold Whealton scored 17 points to pace the Eagles' attack and finish second to Nelson for high point honors. His seven field goals and three free throws represented his seasonal high top-

BOX SCORE				
Smyrna	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Jones	2	3	5	7
Piner	1	1	5	3
Lewis	0	0	5	0
Meares	2	2	0	6
Yeomans	2	2	0	6
Nelson	7	18	3	32
	14	26	18	54

Morehead	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Whealton	7	3	2	17
Styron	0	2	5	2
Smithwick	4	5	3	13
Thompson	2	2	2	6
Wade	2	1	5	5
O'Neal	0	0	2	0
Sledge	0	4	1	4
				47



Smyrna's Curt Nelson ignores Morehead City's George Styron as he leaps high to drop in a layup during the first half of the two teams' game Saturday night in Smyrna. Other players in the picture are James Meares, No. 30, and Jimmie Smithwick, No. 41.