

Beaufort Seadogs Outclass Smyrna Blue Devils, 73-48

The Beaufort Seadogs overpowered Smyrna's Blue Devils, 73-48, in the first round of the county tournament at Beaufort Monday night. It was the 19th straight victory for the Seadogs.

Three Seadogs scored in the double figures with Butch Hassell leading the scoring parade with 26 points. Pud Hassell hit for 19 and Ray Hassell scored 14.

Butch hit on seven of eight shots from the floor and connected on 12 free throws for his total of 26. The best performance at the free throw line, however, was turned in by Horace Lawrence who hit all nine of his charity tosses.

Lawrence hit on two field goals for a total of 13 points to cop scoring honors for Smyrna. Braxton Piner scored 12 points and Dale Lewis and Curtis Nelson scored eight each. Carroll Hill completed the scoring for Smyrna with seven points.

Allen Autry, Frank Potter and Leon Thomas also broke into the Beaufort scoring column. Autry scored seven, Potter hit five and Thomas added two points.

Sammy Merrill played a good floor game and was a top rebounder. He took only one shot at the basket all night and missed it.

The Seadogs connected on 25 of 50 shots from the floor while the Blue Devils were hitting on 12 of 30 shots from the floor. The Blue Devils outscored Beaufort from the line, hitting on 24 free throws with Beaufort hitting for 23.

The victory moved the Seadogs into tonight's final round. The Seadogs will play the winner of Wednesday night's Atlantic-Newport game.

Player Eligible

Certain teams in the county have questioned the eligibility of Leon Thomas Jr. as a member of the Beaufort varsity team, because Thomas is married. Both T. H. McQuaid, Beaufort coach, and Bruce Tarkington, Beaufort principal, say that there are no rules which would disqualify Thomas in regular season play, district or state tournament play.

Smyrna Sextet Gains Final Round of County Tourney

The Smyrna sextet won its right to play in the tournament finals tonight with a 71-56 victory over Atlantic Monday night. Smyrna jumped into a 17-8 lead in the first quarter of the game and was never headed.

The first round tournament game, played in the Beaufort gym, drew a near-capacity crowd of fans. They got their money's worth as Rita Gilgo of Atlantic and Jean Willis of Smyrna put on a scoring show.

Gilgo finally wrapped up scoring honors with 46 points, three more than Willis scored. Carolyn Phelps, with 22 points, and Brenda Baker, who scored six, made the difference in Smyrna's favor.

For Atlantic, Anita Brown scored only six points and Linda Taylor and Catherine Willis managed only two each.

Smyrna guards were Carol Willis, Clarice Willis, Brenda Willis and Sally Hooper.

Guards for Atlantic were Brenda Salter, Katy Gillikin, Jean Bell, Pat Fulcher and Bonnie Brickhouse.

Eagles Ready For Tournament

The Morehead City Eagles and Eaglettes will play in first round games in the Coastal Plains Tournament at Jones Central Wednesday night. The tournament will be played on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

The Eaglettes and Jones Central Rockettes will open the tournament with a game at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The Rockettes won the regular season championship while the Eaglettes were finishing last.

In the boys game Wednesday night the fourth place Eagles and first place Wallace-Rose Hill Bulldogs will clash.

Teams scheduled to play Thursday night are the Pamlico and Wallace girls and the Pamlico and Jones Central boys.

The girls championship game and a boys consolation tilt are scheduled for Friday night. The boys championship and girls consolation are set for Saturday.

Morehead City principal Lenwood Lee says the consolation games will have two advantages. He points out, "Every team will play two games and more fans will attend the games. The second advantage is that there will be no question about third and fourth places."

Wallace, regular season champion, and the tournament champion will represent the conference in the district two play-offs at Dunn. If Wallace wins the tournament, the tournament runner-up will go to the play-offs.