

#3 1962 Jan 16 Overview of Smyrna Basketball [Rebuilding Team](#)

1962 Smyrna Basketball Team Members

David Bailey, Johnny Bland, Doug Damren, A. C. Davis, Grady Davis, Danny Gillikin, Lorenzo Gillikin, Cranston Jones, Buddy Lewis, Terry Lewis, Tom McGee, Norris Nelson, Linwood Parker, Byron Lee Styron, Barry Willis, Jerry Willis and Joe Willis
Coach Fred Bartholomew All-Conference: Grady Davis Season Record: Conference 6-5 and Overall 8-15



Viewing Sports

by
Larry McComb

BIG YEAR

Basketball season is hardly half over and tournament time is still quite a way off but the 1961-62 season will have to go down as one of the top years in county basketball.

At this stage of the game there are still two undefeated cage teams in the county and two others that are off to better starts than they have had in several seasons. The only team that is "down" from last year's performances is the Smyrna Blue Devils who were hit hard by graduation and are in the first stages of a rebuilding program.

Even at that, the Blue Devils, winners of only two of eleven games so far, have given indications that things will get better before the end of the season. The young charges of coach Fred Bartholomew suffer not so much from lack of talent as they do from lack of experience, an important factor in high school basketball.

The pace being set by the Morehead City Eagles has done a lot to revive basketball fever in the town where once football was the only sport discussed by the man on the street.

Coach Gannon Talbert's team, which has been dubbed Gannon's Gunners by some poet, have stormed through seven games to date and have yet to have their real strength tested. With a well-balanced and well-coordinated unit featuring scoring ability at every position, the Eagles have displayed a carry-over of the desire and hustle that took them to the eastern regional finals in football.

All indications point to the fact that the Eagles' meeting with Beaufort this month will be the game that will decide the championship of the Coastal Plains conference. Both squads seem to have too much class for the rest of the loop and their Jan. 26 meeting in Beaufort should draw a packed house.

Newport, which could find itself battling it out with Havelock for the Carteret-Craven conference championship, presently is 10-4 on the season and headed for its best season in several years. The Hawks still have 11 games to play and already they have won as many games as they did during the entire season last year. Two years ago the Hawks won only seven games.

The Atlantic Pirates, 6-4 on the season, have indicated that they may have something to say about the outcome of the Carteret-Craven race. In two games with Newport, the Pirates have broken even, losing 55-48 and winning 90-74. The Pirates boast one of the county's top cagers in Ray Tallent and on nights that they can give him some help, they have proven to be tough to deal with.

The Beaufort Seadogs, to the surprise of virtually no one, are rolling along in their winning ways and still have to be termed the cream of the county crop. Their winning streak has now reached 84 games and could go over the 100 mark before the end of the season. Advancing to 2-A ranks hasn't seemed to take any kind of edge off their effectiveness.

Add to this the fact that there will be at least two county teams in district playoff competition and you have a pretty successful basketball season for one of the top cage counties in North Carolina.

That's 30 for now.

Standings

CARTERET-CRAVEN CONFERENCE

GIRLS

	Conf.
W	L
Newport	3 0
Atlantic	2 0
Vanceboro	2 1
Smyrna	2 1
Jasper	1 4
Dover	0 2

BOYS

	Conf.
W	L
Havelock	4 0
Newport	3 0
Atlantic	2 1
Vanceboro	2 2
Smyrna	1 2
Jasper	1 5
Dover	0 2