

Seadogs Take County Title In 78-44 Win over Pirates

Fans Jam Seadog Gym For Hoop Finals Friday

By WILSON DAVIS



Butch Hassell, left, Seadog ace, and Sammy Merrill, right, accepted the boys' championship trophy. H. L. Joslyn, county school superintendent, presented it after the Seadogs defeated Atlantic Friday night.



Photos by Donald Edwards

Happy Hawkettes hold the county championship trophy. They are Becky Garner, left and Peggy Jo Wallace. H. L. Joslyn, county superintendent of schools, made the presentation of the trophy after the girls' game Friday night at the Beaufort gym.

After a first half that left Beaufort fans shaking their heads and Pirate fans cheering, the Seadogs snapped back Friday night in the county tournament to post a decisive 78-44 win over Atlantic. The two teams left the Seadog floor at the half, the scoreboard reading 32-32. The contest was played before a packed gymnasium.

The win, 20th straight this season, earns Beaufort the right to represent Carteret in the district 2 Class A preliminaries at Kenansville Friday night.

The Atlantic Pirates who had won their last six games couldn't keep up with the high-flying Seadogs who many Beaufort fans consider better than the Seadogs of 1954-55 that took the state championship.

The heavily-favored Seadogs started slowly and the Pirates found themselves in the lead 12-11 at the end of the first quarter. Both teams stepped up the scoring pace in the next quarter, Atlantic posting 20 points, 16 coming by free throws, and the Seadogs scoring 21 to make it all even, 32-32 at halftime.

At this point, most fans conceded that an upset was possible. Beaufort had been pressed to win only once this year. They tucked victories under their belts usually by margins of 20 or more points.

But the Seadogs had a bad first half, making many fouls in using their full court press defense. The Pirates ran well against it, hitting 18 of 22 foul shots.

With the start of the second half, it was a different ball game. The old master, Seadog coach Tom McQuaid, dropped the pressing defense and the Seadog sharpshooters started hitting, scoring 10 points before the Pirates made a basket.

Then the Pirates just lost their hustle and were out of the ball game when the score stood at 57-36 at the end of the third quarter.

Both Pirate coach Roy Cockerham and McQuaid put their entire squads in action in the dying minutes of the last quarter. The Seadogs scored 21 points while giving up 8 to make the final reading 78-44.

Four Beaufort players scored in double figures. Butch Hassell led

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