

Nelson Gets 40

Smyrna Girls Rock Eaglettes 87-45

By LIONELLE TAYLOR

The Smyrna Blue Devils, paced by a brilliant 40-point scoring performance by floor general Curt Nelson, manhandled the Morehead City Eagles 81-55 in a game played Tuesday night at Smyrna.

The Blue Devils were slow getting started, but once they got rolling, they hit for an amazing 41.5 per cent from the floor to bury the Eagles. The Blue Devil sharpshooters took 39 floor shots and hit 16.

Doing most of the damage to the Eagle defense throughout was Nelson with his baseline drives that netted 11 field goals. The slick ball handling guard also hit 18 of 23 free throw attempts which was more free throws than the entire Morehead City team took.

Looking real sharp in the first half, the Eagles built up a five-point lead at 14-9 at the end of the first quarter. Smyrna began finding the range in the second period as they pumped in 25 points to the Eagles' 13 for a Blue Devil lead at halftime of seven points at 34-27.

Horace Lawrence and Carroll Hill gave Nelson a hand with the scoring in the third quarter and by the end of the eight minutes of play the Blue Devils had mounted their lead to 20 points at 59-39. In the fourth quarter the Eagles starters Jimmie Smithwick and Mack Sledge on fouls and the Blue Devils raced to their final victory margin of 26 points by scoring 22 in the quarter while holding Morehead to 16.

Nelson easily grabbed high scoring honors for the game with his 40 points while Horace Lawrence contributed 17 for Smyrna. John Phillips paced the Eagle scorers with 18 points and George Styron had 10.

As a team the Blue Devils made good on 33 of 40 free throws attempted, for a very respectable 82.5 per cent average. The Eagles, who took only 22 free throws, made 15 of them for an accuracy of 68.1 per cent.

One of the finest holiday basketball attractions in the state will be staged in Elizabeth City this week and will involve four highly successful high school basketball teams.

Heading the four-team bracket for the two-night stand will be top-seeded Pantego high school which last year posted a record of 25 consecutive wins before bowing to Jonesville in the state tournament at High Point.

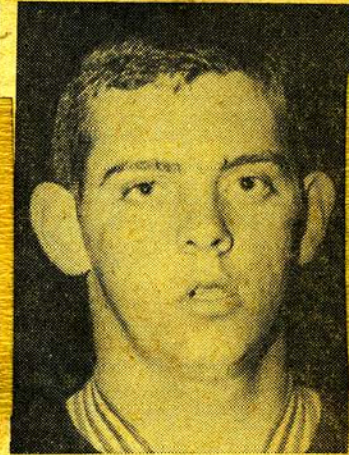
The Elizabeth City attraction is not a tournament, but rather is billed as a holiday doubleheader. The three teams participating, in addition to Pantego, are Smyrna, Pasquotank Central and Knapp. The first night of the doubleheader Wednesday, pits Central against Pantego in the opener and Knapp against Smyrna in the nitecap. On Thursday night, Central plays Smyrna and Knapp takes on Pantego.

Pantego boasts another strong aggregation this year with all five of last year's starters back including 6-4 Bill Respress, the team's leading scorer and one of the most impressive players in last year's state tournament.

Smyrna, winner of 20 of 25 games last year, has compiled a 7-2 record to date this year. The Blue Devils finished second to Beaufort last year in the county tournament at Newport.

Knapp and Central reportedly are both strong this year too. Knapp is a new consolidated school in Currituck county and Central is favored to win their conference this year.

Nineteen colleges have indicated they will send scouts to the affair.



Curt Nelson
Smyrna

BOX SCORE				
	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Smyrna	3	5	5	11
Piner	3	3	0	9
Hill	5	7	3	17
Lawrence	2	0	4	4
Lewis	11	18	3	40
Nelson	—	—	—	—
Totals	24	33	15	81
Morehead City				
	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Styron	3	4	4	10
Phillips	7	4	4	18
Wheaton	0	2	2	2
Wade	1	2	0	4
O'Neal	2	0	2	4
Smithwick	3	0	5	6
Sledge	3	2	5	8
Thompson	1	1	3	3
Totals	20	15	25	55

Smyrna to Participate In Holiday Exhibition