

Last Quarter Rally Nips Eagles 57-53

A tremendous last half rally that saw them come from behind an 11-point deficit, paved the way for the Smyrna Blue Devils' 15th win of the year Friday night as they downed the stubborn Morehead City Eagles 57-53 after the Eagles had led virtually throughout the contest.

The Blue Devils were cold from the floor in the first half while the Eagles were hitting the basket with relative consistency. As a result Morehead City went ahead at 6-5 and then increased this lead to eight points at 17-9 by the end of the first quarter.

The pattern of the game didn't change much in the second quarter as the Eagles managed to maintain their lead over Smyrna, thanks to some good shooting on the part of John Phillips and Harold Wheaton. As the buzzer sounded at half-time the Eagles were packing a seven-point lead of 26-19.

The Blue Devils warmed up somewhat in the third quarter to outscore the Eagles for the first time. They managed 16 points while holding Morehead City to 15. This narrowed the Eagle advantage to 41-35 at the end of the period.

It was in the third quarter that a mild scorekeeping dispute arose in the game. Late in the quarter a Smyrna field goal tied the score at 37-37, at least so everyone thought, as this was the score posted on the scoreboard. The Morehead City scorekeeper (who is considered to be the official scorekeeper because the game was played on the Eagle court) said that the score should be 41-35 in favor of Morehead City. Since this was the score showing in the "official" scorebook the referees had no alternative but to order the scoreboard changed to coincide. Two Smyrna scorers had the score at 37-37 in their books.

The Blue Devils continued to hack away at the Eagle lead in the fourth quarter and went ahead of Morehead City "officially" at 45-44. The Eagles managed to tie the score twice at 48-48 and 52-52 but fouls hurt them in the final minutes of play as the Blue Devils sank four straight free throws for the final victory margin.

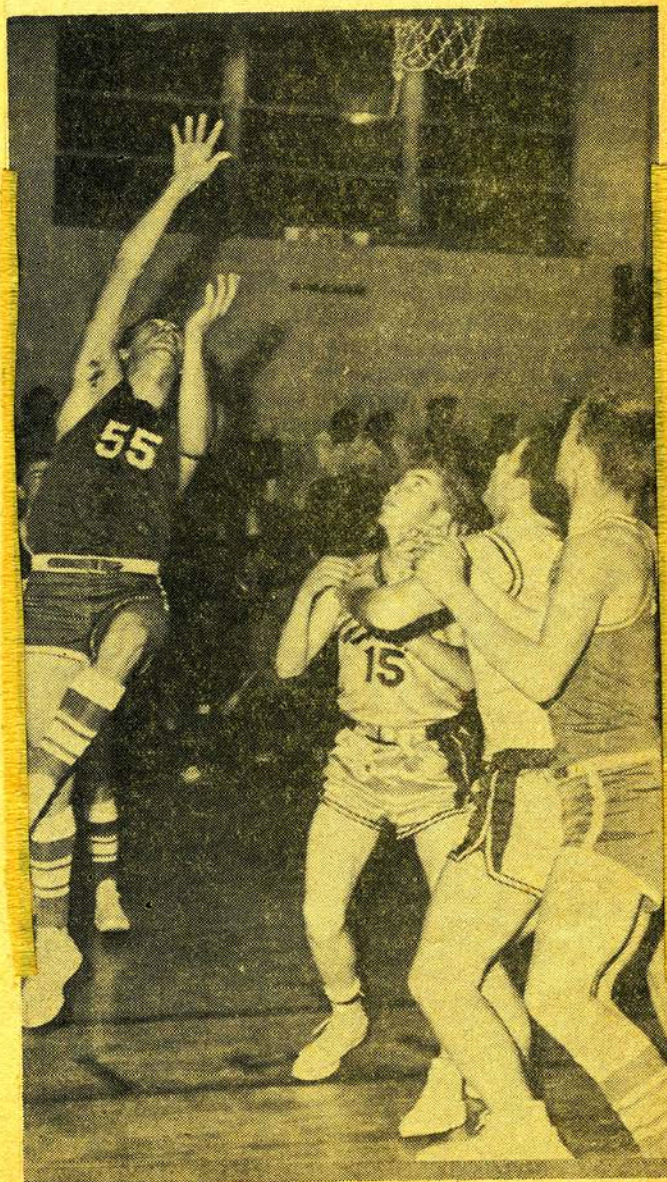
The shifty floor general of the Blue Devils, Curt Nelson, grabbed scoring honors for the game by dropping in 16 points. He was followed by team mates Horace Lawrence and Carroll Hill who each had 14.

John Phillips and Harold Wheaton led the Morehead City attack with their 14 points apiece while George Styron collected 11. Phillips was forced to leave the game late in the fourth quarter when he drew his fifth personal foul.

BOX SCORE				
Smyrna	FG	FT	PF	PT
Jones	11	0	5	2
Piner	11	5	3	27
Davis	0	1	5	1
Meares	2	0	5	4
Yeomans	5	2	5	12
Nelson	6	3	5	15
	35	11	28	61

Leland	FG	FT	PF	PTS
David	4	9	2	17
Jacobs	5	4	3	14
Benton	2	3	5	7
Thomas	0	2	0	2
Corbitt	8	9	1	25
	19	27	11	65

Lewis from Underneath



Smyrna's Dale Lewis breaks clear under the basket and drops in a field goal during the last half of the Smyrna-Dixon game Tuesday night. The Blue Devil player at the right is Braxton Piner.