



Viewing Sports

by
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A year ago this month, the Smyrna Blue Devils invaded the Beaufort high school gym and gave the undefeated Seadogs the scare of their lives as they battled the defending state champions right down to the wire before bowing 63-62 in the most exciting game of the year.

This week that rivalry will be renewed with the setting being much the same as last year's historical clash. The biggest difference this year is that the game will be played in Smyrna on the home floor of the Blue Devils.

Records of both teams to date is very similar to those of last year. Smyrna goes into the game with a mark of 14 wins and three losses. Last year they faced the Seadogs with a record of 12 wins and three losses. The Seadogs, of course, are undefeated as they were last year. They now have won 60 straight basketball games while last year at this time they were at the 35-game mark in their unbeaten string.

Since last year's memorable game, both teams have lost key personnel through graduation. Beaufort players no longer around include All-Stater Butch Hassell and Calvin Jones. Departed Blue Devils are Carroll Hill and Horace Lawrence.

In looking over statistics for the two squads, a couple of facts can be noticed that could add interest to this year's clash. In games played so far, the Blue Devils have been the top defensive leaders. Smyrna has scored just over 70 points a game in 17 contests and Beaufort has held nine opponents to an average of 43.5 points a game. This could add up to a good old fashioned offense vs. defense battle.

The fact that Smyrna has four starters with double figure averages compared to Beaufort's two should also be of some significance. In last year's game it was almost the equalizer as the well-balanced attack of the Down Easters came within a hair's breadth of pulling off the biggest upset of the year.

Neither team seemed to hold an edge in the rebound department in the game last year. This year, however, the Blue Devils are minus their two big boys, Carroll Hill and Horace Lawrence, so will give away a definite height advantage to the Seadogs. Smyrna's home court advantage, which experts rate as high as six points in high school basketball, could offset this edge.

No matter how you look at it, it shapes up as a real contest and seats in the Smyrna gym will be hard to find long before the opening tip. School officials plan to make every effort to provide extra seating capacity but by game time standing room only conditions will probably prevail.

Beaufort-Smyrna Rematch To Highlight Tourney Finals

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