

Smyrna Rallies in 7th To Edge Lejeune 5-4

The Smyrna Blue Devils waited until there were two out in the top of the seventh inning Thursday and then exploded for five big runs to down the Camp Lejeune Devil Pups 5-4. The Devil Pups had held a seemingly safe 4-0 lead going into the last inning.

Braxton Piner started the rally with a leadoff single in the top of the seventh but then Grady Davis fanned and James Meares grounded out second to first. Piner moved to second on the play.

The Blue Devils got their first run of the day when the next hitter, Joe Willis, blasted a pitch that got past the left fielder and went for a home run.

Vaughn Yeomans then stepped to the plate and lined a single and Norris Nelson got on when he was hit by a pitch. Yeomans then scored from second on a passed ball with Nelson advancing to third. The next batter, A. C. Davis, worked the Camp Lejeune pitcher for a base on balls and then stole second to put two men in scoring position.

Genus Jones then stroked the game-winning hit by lining a double that scored both runners to give the Blue Devils a 5-4 lead. The side was retired when the next hitter, Curt Nelson, flew out deep to left field.

Braxton Piner, who had held the Devil Pups to only two hits throughout the first six innings, retired the side in order in the bottom of the seventh to preserve the win. Piner started on the mound for Smyrna and picked up the win, his second in as many starts. The crafty southpaw registered 10 strikeouts and gave up three walks. Pactow, the losing hurler, also went the distance and was touched for five hits. He fanned four and issued five walks.