

Smyrna Defeats Atkinson, Loses To Midway in District II Finals

Midway outscored the Devils 11 to 6 in the first quarter, but took a back seat in the second period as Smyrna tossed in 11 to the Raiders' 8. Midway outscored Smyrna 15 to 7 in the third period, and 27 to 15 in the fourth.

Parker led the Devils under the boards, with 11 rebounds. Bailey got 8. Smyrna ended the season with a 25-5 record, the Carteret-Pamlico season and tournament titles and the runner-up trophy in the District II tournament.

According to most fans, Smyrna played its finest game Friday night in a 59-57 victory over the Atkinson Hornets, the tournament favorites.

Linwood Parker broke loose for 29 points to lead the Devils. Joe Willis tossed in another 10; Norris Nelson, 8; Danny Gillikin, 7; and David Bailey, 5. They hit 54 per cent from the floor, and 13 of 17 foul shots for 82 per cent.

Smyrna dominated the first half, outscoring Atkinson 16 to 13 in the first quarter and 18 to 15 in the second, for a 34-28 lead at the half.

But the Hornets roared back in the third period to outscore Smyrna 23 to 10, and take a 51-44 lead going into the final quarter. The Devils recovered, moving to a one-point lead three minutes after the fourth-quarter jump.

Atkinson overloaded on Linwood Parker in the closing moments, with the score tied at 57-all. The Devils called time to set up a freeze for a final shot.

With seconds to go, Danny Gillikin drove toward the basket, then stopped and moved to the corner. Hornet defenders moved toward Parker, Smyrna's high-scorer for the evening, to prevent a feed to the big forward, leaving Gillikin open.

Gillikin tossed in a 30-footer for the two-point margin of victory. The Devils had outscored Atkinson 15 to 6 in the final period.

Scoring for the Hornets were Moore, 28; Wallace, 8; W. Harrell and D. Harrell, 7 each; Smith, 5; and Foyles, 2.