

Smyrna Defeats Atkinson, Loses To Midway in District II Finals

Smyrna edged out tough Atkinson 59-57 in the semi-final round of District II tournament play at Kenansville Friday, but ran out of steam in Saturday night's title bout with Midway high school.

The Midway Raiders claimed a 61-39 win over the Blue Devils Saturday, and a berth in the state single-A tournament at Durham.

The score, however, doesn't accurately describe the game. The Devils were behind by only 6 points with about 5 minutes left in the final period. "We began to press, and the press did everything it was supposed to do," coach Fred Bartholomew said.

The defensive maneuver gave Smyrna possession of the ball "four times in a row," he commented. "We got our shots, too, but we just weren't hitting." Although the Midway defense was good, the coach says, the Devils' inaccuracy was mainly due to an off-night.

The Raiders were able to adjust to Smyrna's press. "After that, we had to go after the ball, and they got the rest of theirs from the free-throw line," coach Bartholomew remarked. Midway picked up 13 points from the line in the fourth quarter.

Forward Linwood Parker was the Devils' high scorer, with 9 points. David Bailey and Norris Nelson got 8; Danny Gillikin, 7; Joe Willis, 5; and Keith Piner, 2. They could manage only 29 per cent from the floor, the coach reports, while Midway tossed in 42 per cent.

H. Warren led the Raiders, with 17 points. Register got 13; W. Warren and Tyndall, 10 each; Hawley, 6; and Matthews, 5. They tossed in 17 of 21 free throws during the game to Smyrna's 13 for 19.

Midway outscored the Devils 11