

## Smyrna Downs Topsail 86-64 Friday for 7th Win of Season

### Joe Willis Injured; Gillikin Scores 24

Smyrna ended its pre-Christmas basketball season Friday night with an 86-64 win over Topsail. It was the Blue Devils' best home-game performance, according to coach Fred Bartholomew.

Joe Willis, Smyrna's outstanding guard, left the game early in the second quarter after catching a knee in the

face during a scramble for the ball. Coach Bartholomew said he received a mild concussion. Willis was taken to Sea Level hospital for examination.

But the Blue Devils weren't left without a star. Danny Gillikin hit for 24 points to lead Smyrna to its seventh win. "It was Danny's best game," the coach said. The Blue Devils' only loss was to Havelock, and they'll meet the Rams again, this time at Smyrna, on Jan. 15.

Against Topsail, the Blue Devils grabbed 44 rebounds. Linwood Parker, center, got 17 of them, and David Bailey, forward, got 14. Smyrna picked up 18 offensive rebounds.

The Blue Devils hit 41 per cent from the floor in the first half and 48 per cent the second. They tossed in 27 of 41 free throws for 66 per cent.

The game was the Blue Devils' third at home this year, and they obviously wanted to win. Scoring were Gillikin, 24; Parker, 19; Norris Nelson, 17; Bailey, 13; Joe Willis, 5; Terry Lewis and Jonathan Willis, 4 each.

Smyrna outscored Topsail 24 to 12 in the first quarter, but fell behind 16 to 17 in the second and 15 to 19 in the third. The Blue Devils topped the visitors in the final period by 21 to 16.

Scoring for Topsail were B. Batson, 16; Cecil Thomas, 11; G. Watkins and E. Carter, 10; S. T. Hollis, 6; T. Edmonds, 4; D. Millis, 3; Wesley Thomas and D. O'Neil, 2 each.

Coach Bartholomew said the Blue Devils will leave Thursday for Knapp Central high school, Currituck county, to play in the Knapp invitational tournament. His boys are slated to meet teams from Manteo and Mt. Olive on Friday night at 9 and Saturday at 4 p.m. He doesn't know much about the Blue Devils' opponents, he said.

The Smyrna girls took a 21-10 win from the Topsail girls Friday night. J. Valentine scored 10 points to lead the Blue Devils.

Also scoring for Smyrna were J. Lewis, 6; E. Gillikin, 3; and T. Gillikin, 2. Scoring for Topsail were C. Costin, 8; A. Batts and C. Howard, 2 each.