

Blue Devils Split Pair at Tourney

Joe Willis Scores 22 Twice to Lead Team

The Smyrna Blue Devils posted one win and one loss at the Knapp Central holiday invitational tournament in Currituck county over the weekend. Guard Joe Willis, who reportedly sustained a mild concussion in the Dec. 20 game with Topsail, offered proof of his recovery with 22 points in each game.

Smyrna took Manteo for a 76-59 ride Friday night. The

game got underway at 9 p.m. The Blue Devil first string hit a steady 52 per cent from the floor. Behind Willis in the records book was Linwood Parker, 6-foot, 3-inch center, with 20 points.

Parker also claimed 17 rebounds to lead the Blue Devils under the backboard. David Bailey, the second half of Smyrna's double-post, grabbed 14 rebounds.

According to coach Bartholomew, the Blue Devils "played ball" for the first three quarters. Smyrna outscored Manteo in the first period 20 to 12; second, 19 to 12; and third, 21 to 13. With most of the bench seeing action in the final quarter, the Blue Devils found themselves outscored 22 to 16.

Coach Bartholomew says his boys never looked better than in the opening moments of Friday night's game. Smyrna hit 8 out of 11 from the floor in the first period. "They were really tearing up that basket," he said.

Also scoring against Manteo were Danny Gillikin, 14; Norris Nelson, 14; and Jonathan Willis, 1. Charles Perry led opposition with 28 points, and "He wasn't the man we were afraid of," the coach added.