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Beaufort's 5th in Row?

Going into last night's district tournament finals, which decided most of the State tourney berths, one of the leading contenders in Class 2-A ranks was—what, again?—Beaufort.

The Seadogs of Coach Tom McQuaid were seeking a phenomenal fifth straight State tourney trip, second in 2-A ranks. After winning an unprecedented three straight State Class

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A titles, Beaufort moved into 2-A last year and, despite having its all-time record win streak of 91 consecutive games broken and losing out in its Coastal Plains Conference tourney finals to arch-rival Morehead City, won out in the district meet and went to the State 2-A tournament. Beaufort won four State 'A' titles within seven years.

There all four Eastern teams fell in the first round, Beaufort after having the unfortunate opening draw of playing defending 2-A champion North Wilkes. Northwest Forsyth won the title over East Montgomery in the finals.

Gates County, newcomer that took the honors in the Albemarle Conference tourney last week, gained a berth in the State tournament early as District One champion. The other three Eastern district winners were decided last night in finals at Cary, Goldsboro and Chadbourn. Defending champions Elizabethtown and Cary fell in semifinal upsets. . . .