

Devils Overcome Pamlico Freeze

Pamlico county high school put on a freeze Friday night and Smyrna kept them there as they racked up their first victory on the road to the state basketball playoffs. When the ice had melted in Kenan stadium, Kenansville, Smyrna had a 45-32 win in the District II Single-A tournament.

Pamlico opened the game with a freeze and held the ball 3½ minutes before attempting a shot. The shot was blocked by David Bailey and Smyrna took the ball down court. The Blue Devils lost the ball, however, and Pamlico's Hurricanes froze it again.

Smyrna finally regained possession and Bailey hit a jump shot from about 20 feet out to start the scoring. In the first quarter Pamlico attempted only two field goals and was successful only once. The Blue Devils made three out of seven.

Despite the slow-down tactics staged by Pamlico, Smyrna added 11 points in the second quarter to bring their total to 17. Pamlico put 8 with their 2 and were down 7 points at the half.

The Hurricanes gave up the holding method in the second half for a running game. This proved more effective for them, as they added 11 points in the third quarter. Unfortunately for them, Smyrna also added 11, so they were still down 7 going into the final frame.

The best Pamlico could do in the last quarter was 11 points. The Blue Devils added 17 to put the game under their belt.

Joe Willis was high scorer for the Blue Devils with 12 points, but Pamlico's J. W. Whitfield took game honors with 20.

Linwood Parker, who scored 9 points, captured 8 rebounds for the winners while his teammate, Bailey, grabbed 5. Bailey scored 7 points.

Other Smyrna scorers were Danny Gillikin, 10, and Norris Nelson, 7. Nelson and Willis were pitted as defensive standouts.

Scoring for Pamlico, in addition to Whitfield, were Jay Clark, 6;

Buddy Rice, 4; and Brantley Brinson, 2.

The winners attempted 20 free throws and made 13 for 65 per cent. Out of 31 field goal attempts 16, or 51 per cent, were successful. The Hurricanes shot 4 out of 10 from the charity stripe for 40 per cent and 14 of 32 field goals were good for 44 per cent.

The win brought Smyrna's record to 23 wins and 4 losses. The Blue Devils are scheduled to meet the team from Leland tomorrow night in the quarter finals. They have to top Leland and two other teams to gain a berth in the state playoffs.