

Blue Devils Rout Tigers 11-5 in 9, Edge BFD 3-2

Hancock Hits, Hurls Dramatic Win Over BFD

The Smyrna Blue Devils closed out regular season play in the Pony League last week with a pair of wins to fatten their first-place lead to four games over the BFD.

On Thursday night, the Blue Devils needed nine innings before they subdued the Beaufort Tigers 11-5 and on Friday night they squeezed past the BFD 3-2 on a game-winning

single in the sixth inning by Sterling Hancock. The blow drove a Norris Nelson from second and gave the Blue Devils their 15th win in 16 starts.

Against the Tigers Thursday, the Blue Devils had to come from behind to score one run in the seventh to send the game into extra frames. They scored their run on a pair of walks, a stolen base and a single by Sterling Hancock.

Neither team could score in the eighth inning but the Blue Devils exploded for six big runs in the ninth as they routed Tiger reliever Julius Taylor. Taylor had come on in the sixth replacing starter Charles Piner.

All six runs scored with the benefit of only one hit. Five unearned runs were scored on five walks, four errors and five stolen bases.

Barry Willis, third Smyrna hurler, picked up the win while Taylor took the loss. Danny Gillikin started on the mound for the Blue Devils and was replaced by Kenny Lewis and Willis.

On Friday, the Blue Devils came up with another dramatic ending as they tallied once in the sixth inning for a 3-2 win over the BFD.

Until the sixth, the two teams had been deadlocked at 2-2 with Sterling Hancock and Richard Stanley locked in a tight pitching duel. Stanley was called to the mound in the top of the first after BFD starter Clem Woodard had surrendered three straight hits and given up one run.

The Blue Devils collected eight hits in all with Norris Nelson leading the way with a single and a triple in two times at bat. Woodard had a pair of singles for the losers.

Blue Devils, Tigers Open Pony Playoffs Last Night

Playoffs in the Pony League got under way in Beaufort last night with the Beaufort Tigers playing the winners of the regular season, the Smyrna Blue Devils.

Tonight's game will send the Morehead City Black Hawks against the Beaufort Fire Department and the winners of these two games will play Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in a best of three series for the league championship.

All playoff games will be played on the Beaufort high school diamond. Starting time is 7 p.m.