

# Smyrna Blue Devils Basketball Team #70 May 1964

## Blue Devils Claim Cage Honors, First County Title Since 1947

The Smyrna high school basketball team won 25 games this season to reach, though not win, the District II single-A finals at Kenansville. It was the Devils' first trip to the district tournament.

They claim the season and tournament championships of Carteret county in single-A ball. Smyrna's last county championship was won in 1947, 17 years ago.

The Blue Devils lost only five games this season. The first loss was to Havelock at the opening of the season, but Smyrna returned the favor in their next meeting. Their second defeat was to Mount Olive during Christmas invitational tournament. Mount Olive ended the season with a 25-1 record, losing the only game to Beaufort in the finals of the District II double-A tournament in Jacksonville.

The Devils lost two more games to Beaufort, third ranking double-A team in the state. The fifth loss was to Midway in the finals of the district single-A playoffs. The final defeat was Smyrna's only loss to a single-A team.

What are the prospects for next year? Smyrna will lose Linwood Parker, Joe Willis and Norris Nelson from the first unit, and Doug Damren, the sixth man. Coach Fred Bartholomew will have to build a new team, and expects that "We'll start slow . . . but will come along by mid-season."

Even without this year's first stringers, the coach expects to come up with a winning team.



Smyrna's tri-captains display the team's trophies for the county championship and for runner-up in the District II playoffs at Kenansville. From the left are Joe Willis, Linwood Parker and Norris Nelson.