

#30-4 Page 5 Girls Basketball Teams Record - Summary

Early Years

- A. The first games were on dirt courts and travel to other schools was difficult.”
- B. Based on Joe (Boy) Willis research, the Smyrna Women team won *16 Straight Years*, winning more than *160 games!* In comparison the Beaufort Men’s Basketball team won 91 games over four (4) years from 1958 to 1961, which is a standing school record for NC Men’s Basketball for 90 years.

Joe said, “This is a record that is unbelievable, one that gives us a great deal of pride in our mothers, grandmothers and friends... We should give thanks to those great women for setting the bar for all of us that played sports at Smyrna high school...”

- C. Teams Played in Class A: **Beaufort, Morehead, Newport and Smyrna.**

Names of Two of the Teams: 1934 and 1935 Teams – Coach and Principal Conner Eagles (Left after 1935):

1934 Smyrna Girls Team: Eunice Lewis Gilgo, Guard; Melva Lynch King, Forward; Louise Piner Lewis, Guard; Irma Pake Quinn, Forward; Ester Brown Valentine, Forward; and Annie Lee Willis Guard.

1935 Smyrna Girls Team: Bertha Chadwick, Forward; Norma Davis, Guard; Nomae Gillikin, Guard; Bellzora Honnecutt, Guard; Louise Piner Lewis, Guard; Melva Lynch, Forward; Louise Piner, Guard; Ester Brown Valentine, Forward; Agnes Wade, Guard; Dorothy Willis, Forward; Harriet Willis, Forward; and Mamie Willis, Forward.

- D. From 1940 through 1964 the Women Basketball Teams Continued to Win!

Smyrna continued their winning, winning spirit and the winning attitude instilled by those that came before them.

NOTE: Records were not available for most of the years from 1940 to 1950; however, it is known and often recognized that the Smyrna Girls Basketball teams always had a strong competitive team, and based on Joe (Boy) Willis research, he said the data shows that 24 years after the win streak, Smyrna Girls have won five (5) times; and it is believed that Smyrna Girls won at least 6 or 7 Championships in the 1940s, giving the women’s teams, from 1923-24 school year, a **68%+ Winning Percentage!** **In addition, Smyrna Girls were Runner-up to the Champions for five (5)!**

1951-1964 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team;

- ❖ 1951 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the Sportsmanship Award!
- ❖ 1952 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the County Championship by beating Morehead City!
- ❖ 1953 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Strong Record and received the Sportsmanship Award!
- ❖ 1954 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; record Not Available.
- ❖ 1955 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Record 16-5!
- ❖ 1956 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Runner up to Newport!
- ❖ 1957 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the County Championship!
- ❖ 1958 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the County Championship beat Morehead 83 to 61!
- ❖ 1959 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Runner up to Newport (Score 52-50)!
- ❖ 1960 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Runner up to Beaufort (71-65)!(All-County: Jean Willis and Brenda Golden).
- ❖ 1961 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the County Championship Beat Beaufort 48 to 45!(All-County: Carolyn Phelps, Linda Willis and Elizabeth Styron)(Co-Captains: Carolyn Phelps and Linda Willis)
- ❖ 1962 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Runner up to Newport 52 to 39!
- ❖ 1963 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Beat Vanceboro 28 to 8 in first round of Tournament!(All-County: Alice Chadwick, Gaye Styron and Trudy Gillikin)(Co-Captains: Gaye Styron and Alice Chadwick).
- ❖ 1964 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; (All Tourney and All-County: Jo Anne Valentine)