

#10A-1 Girls Basketball Teams and their Record; Won the Championship from Page 1 of 4

Early Years - 1923/24 Won for 16 Years Straight! Won more than 160 games!

- A. Jack Dudley, Downeast Portraits of the Past said, "Although academic achievements were primary, probably the most remembered achievement of the early years was the winning record of the girls' basketball team. Beginning with the first school year, 1923-24, the girls' teams won every game for the next 16 years (1939). 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..."

Three of those teams are 1923, 1934 and 1935:

The Champs

Although its academic achievements were primary, probably the most remembered achievement of the early years was the winning record of the girls basketball team. Beginning with the first school year, 1923-24, the girls team won every game for the next 16 years! The first games were on dirt courts, and travel to other schools was difficult.



*Consolidated High School girls team,
1923.*



1934 champs. (left to right) Annie Lee Willis, Irma Pake Quinn, Melva Lynch King, Louise Piner Lewis, Esther Brown Valentine, Eunice Lewis Gilgo.

1935 Smyrna HS Women **Championship** Basketball Team!



Photo Courtesy of JoAnne Valentine Brooks

Front – Left to Right: #11 Bellzara Honneycutt; #5 Mamie Willis; #13 Melva Lynch; #14 Bertha Chadwick; #8 Agnes Wade; #3 Ester Brown; #10 Harriet Willis; #7 Dorothy Willis; #9 Nomae Gillikin; #6 Louise Piner; #4 Louise Lewis; #1 Norma Davis

1947 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team

Coach Coach Reginal B. Moore and Manager Dennis Piner :

Peggy Arthur, Helen Chadwick, Estelle Gillikin, Kathryn Lawrence, Pearl Lawrence, Catherine Lewis, Marguerite Lewis, Hazel Piner, Robena Whitehurst; Jean Arthur; Gloria Willis and Captain Joyce Willis.

1949 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team

Coach Ray Varrone: Jean Arthur, Peggy Arthur, Martha Davis, Grace Fitts, Barbara Fulcher, Sally George, Estelle Gillikin, Leta Gillikin, Nadine Gillikin, Kathryn Golden, Jane Hill, Catherine Lewis, Sylvia Lewis, Terry Lynch, Joyce Mason, Kathryn Piner, Minnie Piner, Clara Faye Wade, Carolyn Willis and Gloria Willis.

1951 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Know for their Manners and Sportsmanship!**

Coach Frank Nance and Manager Jean Lewis: Grace Chadwick, Martha Davis, Catherine Gillikin, Ester Lee Lewis, Captain Fay Lewis, Terry Lynch, Joyce Mason, Patricia Piner, Lorraine Styron, Edna Wiggins and Co-Captain Carolyn Willis.

1952 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Champions!**

Coach Stewart Daniels and Managers Hazel Gilgo and Jean Lewis: Mona Arthur, Peggy Davis, Effie Gaskill, Eva Gaskill, Terry Lynch, Mary Sue Nelson, Ruth Wade, Edna Wiggins and Nancy Willis.

1953 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Strong Record that Received the **Sportsmanship Award!**

Coach Stewart Daniels: Mona Arthur, Peggy Davis, Joyce Fulcher, Annie Brown Gaskill, Effie Gaskill, Eva Gaskill, Hazel Lynch, Terry Lynch, Mary Sue Nelson, Lorraine Styron, Ruth Wade, Edna Wiggins, Edith Willis and Nancy Willis.

1954 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team

Coach Stewart Daniels: **Mona Fay Arthur, Mary Ellen Chasteen, Betty Davis, Peggy Davis, Effie Louise Gaskill, Eva Frances Gaskill, Hazel Gilgo, Caritta Guthrie, Lillian Hancock Barbara Hooper, Velma Lewis, Hazel Lynch, Mary Sue Nelson, Frances Pigott, Lorraine Styron, Rachel Tylor, Ruth Wade, Ginette Willis, Janet Willis, Nancy Willis and Blanch Wolf.**

1955 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Record 16-5!**

Coach Stewart Daniels and Hazel Gilgo, Manager: Mona Arthur, Helen Cash, Mary Ellen Chasten, Ann Davis, Berry Davis, Peggy Davis, Serina Davis, Carita Guthrie, Connie Jackson, Laura Lewis, Vilma Lewis, Hazel Lynch, Rachel Tyler, Ruth Wade, Gladys Willis, Janet Willis, Nancy Willis.

1956 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Record 11 and 9!**

Coach Daniels, Rachel Willis and Frances Gillikin, Managers: Anna Arthur, Brenda Baker, Evelyn Baker, Mary Ellen Chasteen, Helen Cash, Betty Davis, Ann Davis, Serina Davis, Elberta Gillikin, Vesta Golden, Laura Lewis, Rachel Tyler, Brenda Willis, Clarice Willis, Carol Willis, Gladys Willis, Janet Willis, Blanche Wolfe,

1957 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; **Champions – Beat Newport 40 to 39 in the Tournament!**

Coach Sanders: Anna Arthur, Claudia Brown, Patsy Chadwick, Mary Ellen Chasteen, Serina Davis, Carolyn Gillikin, Elberta Gillikin, Sally Hooper, Laura Lewis, Judy Thompson, Brenda Willis, Clarice Willis, Jean Willis, Janet Willis and Rachel Willis.

1958 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; 1958; **Champions – Beats Morehead 60 to 49 for the County Title and beat Morehead 83-61 to Win the Tournament!**

Coach Sanders: Anna Arthur, Claudia Brown, Patsy Chadwick, Mary Ellen Chasteen, Serina Davis, Carolyn Gillikin, Elberta Gillikin, Sally Hooper, Laura Lewis, Judy Thompson, Brenda Willis, Clarice Willis, Jean Willis, Janet Willis and Rachel Willis.

1959 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; 1959; Lost Championship to Newport 52 to 50!

Coach Jim Parkin and Manager Lionel Salter: Rose Arthur, Brenda Baker, Claudia Brown, Patsy Chadwick, Barbara Davis, Brenda Golden, Harriet Gillikin, Jennie Guthrie, Rose Guthrie, Sally Hooper, Melinda Gillikin, Betty Jones, Carolyn Phelps, Dawn Piner, Carolyn Salter, Elizabeth Styron, Patsy Taylor, Daphnie Thompson, Brenda Willis, Carol Willis, Clarice Willis, Diane Willis, Linda Willis, Jean Willis and Sandra Willis.

1960 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; 1960 Runner up to Beaufort (71-65) (All-County: Jean Willis and Brenda Golden)!

Coach Walter Fulcher: Rose Arthur, Claudia Brown, Patsy Chadwick, Barbara Davis, Melinda Gillikin, Brenda Golden, Rose Guthrie, Sally Hooper, Carolyn Phelps, Elizabeth Styron, Patsy Taylor, Diane Willis, Jean Willis, Linda Willis, and Melinda Willis and Sandra Willis.

1961 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Won the County Championship - Beat Beaufort 48 to 45! (All-County: Carollyn Phelps, Linda Willis and Elizabeth Styron)(Co-Captains: Carolyn Phelps and Linda Willis)

Coach Walter Fulcher: Rose Arthur, Becky Brown, Alice Chadwick, Melinda Gillikin, Trudy Gillikin, Brenda Golden, Carolyn Phelps, Elizabeth Styron, Patsy Taylor, Clara Wiggins, Diane Willis and Linda Willis).

1962 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Runner up to Newport 52 to 39!

Coach Virginia Knowles: Alice Chadwick, Gaye Styron, Trudy Gillikin, Eleanor Gillikin, Becky Brown, Elizabeth Styron, Coach Virginia Knowles, Kay Willis, Jo Anne Valentine, Patsy Taylor, Emma Bartholomew, Anna Lawrence and Clara Wiggins.

1963 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; Beat Vanceboro 28 to 8 in 1st round of Tournament! (All-County: Alice Chadwick, Gaye Styron and Trudy Gillikin)(Co-Captains: Gaye Styron and Alice Chadwick)

Coach Virginia Knowles and Managers Eddie Hill and Connie Lawrence: Alice Chadwick, Darlene Chadwick, Margaret Daniels, Eleanor Gillikin, Trudy Gillikin, Perry Lynn Hancock, Beth Lawrence, Janet Lewis, Kaye Lewis, Gaye Styron, Dianna Taylor, Jo Anne Valentine, Karen Wade, Clara Wiggins and Caroline Willis.

1964 Smyrna Girls Basketball Team; (All Tourney: Jo Anne Valentine)(Co-Captains: Trudy Gillikin and Jo Anne Valentine)

Coach Francis Curling and Managers Connie Lawrence, Belle Gillikin and Vicky Lawrence: Sara Campobasso, Margaret Daniels, Annette Fluhart, Eleanor Gillikin, Trudy Gillikin, Perry Lynn Hancock, Beth Lawrence, Cathy Lawrence, Janet Lewis, Mary Simpson, Dianna Taylor, Karen Wade, Susanne Wilson and Sharon Yeomans.