

Beaufort Wins Class A Crown

Happy Group of Boys.



With grins from ear to ear the members of the State Class A Championship Beaufort Seadogs team smile prettily for the photographer. Left to right, front row—Ed Willis, son of Mrs. Ola Belle Willis, Monk Pittman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Pittman, Ray Gillikin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Gillikin, Bruce Edwards Jr., son of

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Edwards Sr.; second row—Dick Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moore, George Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Martin, Herb Mason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mason, Terry Nance, son of Mrs. Alvah Nance; third row—Jimmy Potter, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Davis Potter; Gehrman Holland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gehr-

mann Holland; Jimmy Owens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Owens, Henry Safrit, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Safrit, Jimmy Davis, son of Mrs. L. C. Davis. With the exception of Pittman who resides in Merrimon, and Martin and Willis who live in Beaufort RFD, the other members of the squad are all residents of Beaufort.

Seadogs Defeat Bethel In Low Scoring Game

By HAL SHAPIRO

They came the furthest with the mostest and therein lies the tale of Beaufort's Class A State Championship victory.

It was their win over the Bethel Blue Demons at the Senior High School gym in Greensboro on Saturday night, March 19 which gave the Seadogs the title. This was their 28th consecutive win. Not once during the season that started last December did they taste defeat.

Playing a possession type of game, the Seadogs scored only 48 points in the final contest against the Bethel Blue Demons, but the Bethel quintet could only make 40, and the state championship is back in Carteret County for the second time in three years.

Wells Starts Scoring

Worth Wells scored his team's first four points and the Seadogs were down 0-4 at 5:43 of the first quarter. Herb Mason hit on one of his patented jump shots at 5:21 and when Gehrman Holland hit on a driving layup at 5:04 the score was all knotted at 4.

Dean Reece put his team back in the lead with a pair of buckets and then Holland, Mason, and Reece all scored points for their respective teams in the first quarter. At the end of the quarter the Seadogs trailed 9-10.

Only four boys on both teams hit the scoring columns in the first quarter with Wells hitting 4, and Reece 6, for the Blue Demons and Holland 4, and Mason 5, for the Seadogs.

In the second quarter the boys of both teams started scoring in earnest with the game being deadlocked five times at 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22.

Capps Hits

Phil Capps, 6 foot 3 inch center of the Blue Demons, was the big scorer in the second quarter as he popped the nets for 10 points, making four baskets and two free throw conversions.

Hub Mason gave the Seadogs an 11-10 advantage at 7:54 of the second quarter when he hit on a pair of free throws, and the lead was taken over by the Blue Demons at 6:23 when Capps hit on a jump shot. Jimmy Davis put Beaufort back in the lead at 6:11 when he hit on a jump shot, but once more a Blue Demon, Wells, hit on a layup at 5:58, and the Seadogs trailed 13-14.

Holland hit on his first of two free throws and Henry Safrit tapped in the second attempt to put the Beaufort team in the lead 16-14 at 5:20.

Game See-Saws

The game was a see-saw affair until there was approximately a minute to play. At 1:01 Holland hit on a jump shot to give Beaufort a 24-22 lead and with 31 seconds left Monk Pittman made good a jump shot from the key. The score at the half read Beaufort 26, Bethel 22.

Capps started the second half and third quarter of the game with a push shot at 7:43 and the score was tightened to 26-24. At 6:44 Reece bucketed a jump shot and the score was knotted once more at 26. The score was tied a second time in the canto at 28 with the scoreboard clock showing 4:28.

Monk Pittman was the hot man in the quarter for the Seadogs with 6 points as his set shot at 3:15 gave the Beaufort five a 30-28 lead. From that point until the end of the game it was all Beaufort.

Mason followed up Pittman's score at 2:35 and the Seadogs led 32-28. Jack Phillips of Bethel converted a free throw at 2:16 and then Pittman converted a free throw. Safrit followed with a pair of free throws, and Pittman made another at the free throw line. The score stood at 35-28 with 34

seconds left, and when Dean Reece missed his free throw attempt at the buzzer, the third quarter ended with Beaufort well out in front.

Seadogs Extend Lead

The Seadogs extended their lead to 11 points at 6:20 of the final quarter after buckets by Holland and Pittman, and then the Blue Demons started to chop at the lead. At 3:32 with the Seadogs leading 40-32, Jimmy Davis, who played one of his outstanding games of the season insofar as rebounding is concerned, hit on a layup and the Seadogs kept a 10-point margin.

At 2:05 the Seadogs enjoyed a narrow lead of 44-38, but the Blue Demons' inability to hit at the free throw line kept the game on ice for the Seadogs, and when the final buzzer was sounding Monk Pittman was fouled. He sank the two free throws and gave Beaufort its well deserved 48-40 win.

Capps High Scorer

Phil Capps of Bethel took high scoring honors for the game with 16 points. Runner-up honors in the contest went to Gehrman Holland with 13 points.

Monk Pittman and Henry Safrit also hit in double figures for Beaufort with 12 and 10 points respectively. Worth Wells made 11 points for the losing Bethel five.

Though the game was a slow one in comparison to others played by the Seadogs this season it proved that the Beaufort boys could win with the pressure on.

All Played Good Game

Every member of the first five played an important role in the victory and all should be congratulated not only for bringing the championship back to the county, but also for maintaining their undefeated record, a record which extended through 28 consecutive games in regular season play, county playoffs, district playoffs, and finally the State Championship tourney.

Gehrman Holland, for the second straight year, was the high scorer in the tournament with 63 points. He and Monk Pittman were both selected for the All-Tournament team at the conclusion of play.

The box score:

Beaufort:	FG	Fta	Ftm	Pts
Safrit, f	4	2	2	10
Holland, f	2	1	0	4
Davis, c	5	4	3	13
Pittman, g	4	6	4	12
Mason, g	3	4	3	9
Totals	18	17	12	48

Bethel:	FG	Fta	Ftm	Pts
Wells, f	5	6	1	11
Stamey, f	1	2	2	4
Capps, c	6	4	4	16
Reece, g	4	4	0	8
Phillips, g	0	4	1	1
Queen	0	0	0	0
Totals	16	20	8	40

The score by quarters:	Totals
Beaufort	9 17 10 12—48
Bethel	10 12 7 11—40

Large Crowd on Hand

Over 3,000 people were on hand to welcome the Beaufort Seadogs back to Carteret County after they had won the Class A crown at Greensboro.

'I've Never Seen Anything Like It'

"I've never seen anything like the turnout that greeted us when we returned from Greensboro," were the first words uttered by Coach McQuaid when interviewed concerning the 1954-55 State Championship Class A team.

He continued, "I know that no one ever imagined that the people of the county would come out to the Carteret dog track to meet us the way that they did. It made me and the team feel especially proud to know that everyone in this area was backing us the way they did. The people in this area are by far the most generous I've ever seen."

From Ohio

Coach McQuaid, who originally hails from Youngstown, Ohio, said that he knew this was a good place to be when he first arrived. As he worded it, "I started basketball practice when the football season ended my first year here (1936) and the boys on the squad presented me with a cigarette lighter as a Christmas gift."

"I knew right then and there that the folks here are unlike those in other places, for in all of my experience of playing ball I've never seen a coach presented with gifts before."

In regards his team winning the state championship, Coach McQuaid said, "It took a lot of good breaks and a lot of people praying for us to win them all. We had the best record that has ever been made here in the county and I must congratulate all of the boys who made it possible."

It marked the fourth time since Coach McQuaid has been at Beaufort that the team has been involved in either the district or state playoffs, and marked the second state championship by a Carteret County team in three years. Newport won the crown in 1953.

Coach of Year

Coach McQuaid was selected as the coach of the year for THE



Coach Tom McQuaid

NEWS-TIMES sponsored All-Conference team, and at the time of the announcement of the honor he stated that he thought the honor should have gone to Bob King of Newport.

With the victory not only in the county and district tournaments, but with his team chalking up their first state championship, he need take a back seat to no one.

His career at Beaufort started following his graduation from Newberry College in Newberry, S. C., where he was a crack basketball player. He is married to the former Pearl Bravado of Beaufort, and they have a young son, Tom Jr.

In the years that he has been at Beaufort his teams have maintained an overall winning record, but the best record in the county belongs to Coach Gannon Talbert of Morehead City for the past 10 years, he always points out. He says too that teams coached by Moose Tenney have given his club a good run for their money.

In his coaching he stresses fundamentals and good sportsmanship.

BEAUFORT

28 Won 0 Lost

Atlantic	87-31
Dixon	62-43
Jones Central	58-24
Newport	57-50
Smyrna	47-31
Camp Lejeune	77-33
Richlands	72-34
Atlantic	73-42
Pamlico County	76-36
Richlands	62-38
Morehead City	62-60
Swansboro	56-38
Smyrna	67-49
Camp Lejeune	74-46
Morehead City	72-48
Dixon	69-52
Jones Central	55-28
Newport	72-54
Swansboro	60-48
Pamlico	66-53

County Tourney

Smyrna	75-58
Morehead City	77-65

District Tourney

Bath	48-46
Dover	59-52
Beulaville	65-49

State Class A Tourney

Hildebran	68-56
Youngsville	55-53
Bethel	48-40

Beaufort total	1819
Opponents total	1257
Beaufort average per game	65.0
Opponents average per game	44.9

Holland Does It Again!

For the second straight year Gehrman Holland was high man at the State Class A Tourney. Last year at Aberdeen he scored 70 points and this year he scored 63 at Greensboro to lead his team to the Class A Title.