

Newport Did It in 1953

Newport, led by Billy Widgeon, won the 1953 State Class A Championship — but the final game never played.

Stephens, scheduled to meet Newport the last night of the tournament at Hanes High in Winston-Salem, had to default because state athletic rules decreed that a team could play only three games a week.

Stephens had played in the Swain County tournament Wednesday of the state championship playoffs, and played both Thursday and Friday in the state playoffs, reaching their game limit.

In the opening game of the 1953 playoffs, Newport downed Pine Bluff 58-44, coming from behind to win. Newport's star scorers were Widgeon 22, Lloyd Culpepper 12, Roy Manning 10, and Roy Dennis 12.

In four free throws by Widgeon, Newport downed a favored Haw River 64-60 in the final minute of the semi-finals. Haw River led throughout and in the last minute Eagle Eye Widgeon iced it for Newport at the free throw line.

Widgeon and Manning were top scorers, 22 and 19 respectively. Newport rode on a crest of district playoff victories in to the State Class A finals two years ago. In the first game of the district playoffs at Kenansville, the Newport boys, under the able coaching of Wayne Benton, tallied a 55-40 victory over Snow Hill.

In the semi-finals Newport downed Chadbourne by a wide margin, 77, and in the district championship game, the Carteret taggers topped Jones Central 62-53.

Widgeon tallied the phenomenal individual scoring record of 34 points. Manning dumped in 12, Culpepper 9 and Dennis 7.

THE NEWS-TIMES sports reporter wrote: "Billy Widgeon put on a performance that had the Jones Central fans talking to themselves. He seemed to be able to do from any angle and just about anything he will. He could have been all over the floor for all anybody could do to stop him."

And that's the story of Carteret's stellar state championship team of 1953.

Greetings 6 Feet High



A big sign, stretched across the front of THE NEWS-TIMES building, welcomed the Seadogs Sunday afternoon, March 20. The sign was painted on newsprint.

Nearly everyone in Carteret County reads every issue of THE NEWS-TIMES

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