

THOMPSON SETS SCORING RECORD

# Trojans Rip Clinton, West Columbus

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Robert Thompson set a West Brunswick single-game scoring record with 37 points Friday to lead the Trojans to an 81-62 rout of visiting Clinton in Three Rivers 3-A Conference basketball play. It was the second win for West Brunswick in as many days as the Trojans took a 65-56 decision over West Columbus on Thursday. The game, originally scheduled last Tuesday, was postponed two days due to cold weather damage to the Viking gym.

The pair of wins raised the Trojans to 11-6 overall and more importantly, to 2-1 in the TRC—good enough for sole possession of the league's top spot. Next action for the Trojans will be Tuesday when they host league rival East Bladen.

**Clinton**

The sloppy, ragged play that plagued Friday's TRC matchup between the Dark Horses and the Trojans was overcome in the game's final minutes when Robert Thompson erased the long-standing school single-game scoring record of 36 points.

Thompson's record game began innocently enough as he scored only five points in the first quarter but had 19 by halftime. The 6-foot-3 senior scored eight more points in the third quarter for 27 and set the mark with 10 fourth-quarter points.

Thompson tied the mark on a short jumper with 1:20 left in the game to give the Trojans a 78-57 lead. Then with only 25 seconds remaining, Thompson connected on the second of

two free throws to break the record.

If Thompson's record-breaking performance wasn't enough, Craig Grissett's half-court bank shot at the final buzzer to give the Trojans their 19-point margin certainly was.

The upset-minded Dark Horses looked like anything but losers in the opening minutes as they raced out to a 6-0 lead in the first 2:47. Thompson finally got the Trojans on the board with 4:43 to play in the quarter. Thompson's basket was the start of West Brunswick's 11-4 spurt that gave the Trojans their first lead of the game, 11-10, with 1:37 left in the period.

Clinton retook a 12-11 lead in a pair of Johnny Whitted free throws but West Brunswick scored six unanswered points for a 16-12 advantage with 33 seconds to play and never looked back.

After taking an 18-14 lead at the end of the first quarter, the Trojans outscored Clinton, 9-4 in the opening minutes of the second quarter and eased their way to a 37-28 halftime lead.

West Brunswick left the Dark Horses at the gate at the opening of the second half scoring 10 unanswered points for a commanding 47-28 lead. However, Clinton managed to close within 11, 60-49, by the end of the third period.

The Trojans were never threatened in the fourth quarter outscoring Clinton, 21-15 for the final spread.

"We were just flat and played a very ragged game," said West Brunswick coach Ronnie Champion.

"It was the second time this season we have played two games in two days. Playing back-to-back games probably didn't effect us as much physically as it did mentally.

"We still have a long way to go to win the conference championship. We need to win all of our home games and get at least one road victory in order to have a chance at the title," Champion continued.

Glenwood Robinson led Clinton (7-7) with 14 points followed by Troy Underwood with 13 and Whitted 12 and Lennie Faison 10.

Behind Thompson's 37 for West Brunswick was Mike King with eight.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**

Clinton 14 14 19 15—62

W. Brunswick 18 19 23 21—81

Clinton Scoring: Robinson 14, Whitted 12, Mallard 2, Harding 1, Underwood 13, P.Faison 2, Wilson 4, Newsome 2, L.Faison 10.

West Brunswick Scoring: King 9, Thomas 6, Thompson 37, Street 6, Marlowe 4, Walker 4, Hill 3, Hardee 2, Gore 8, Grissett 2, C.Johnson, R.Johnson, M.Johnson, Brown, Jones, Clemmons.

**West Columbus**

The slow-starting Trojans overcame only four points in the first quarter to even their Three Rivers Conference mark at 1-1 Thursday with a 65-56 win over West Columbus.

The Vikings took a 6-4 lead in the first quarter but West Brunswick managed to take a four-point, 24-21 halftime advantage.

The Trojans stretched their lead to eight points, 46-38, at the end of the third quarter and outscored West Columbus, 19-18 for the final nine-point spread.

"We played well in only a few areas tonight," said Trojan coach Ronnie Champion. "We were impatient and did not execute very well. West Columbus has some good outside shooters."

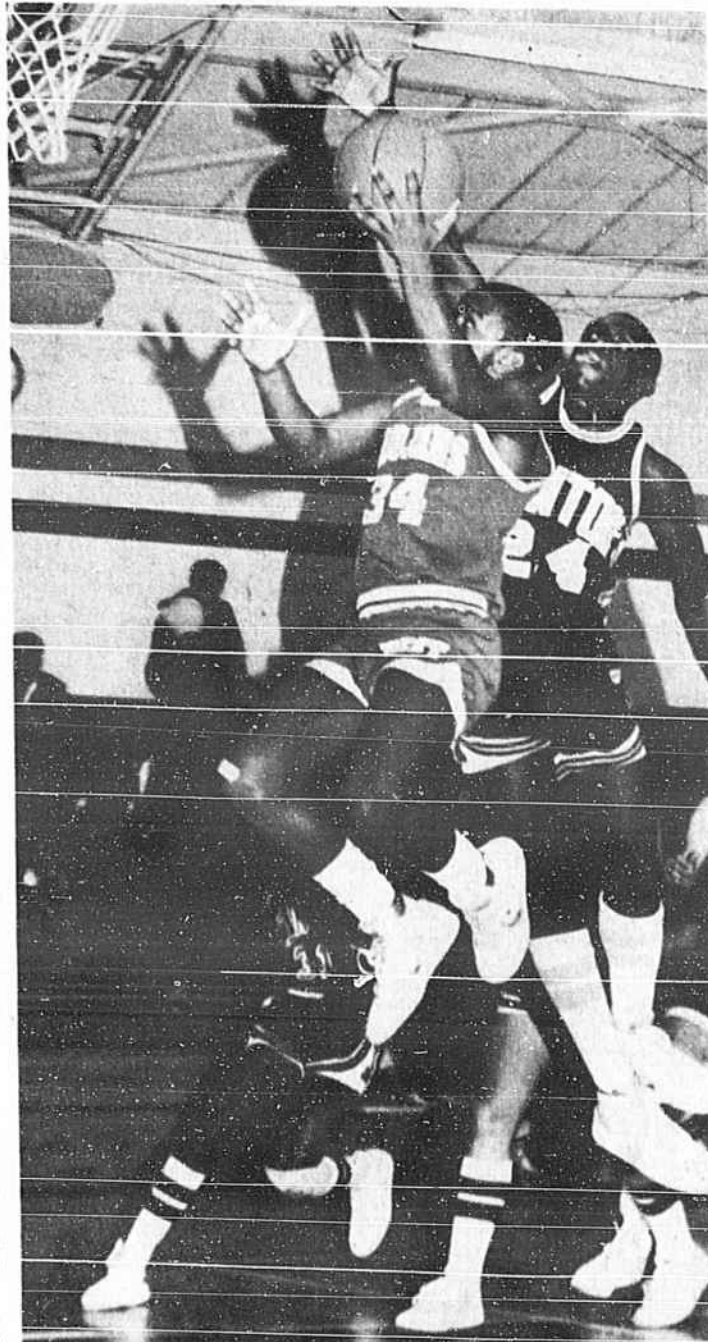
Robert Thompson led the Trojans with 29 points while Brad Thomas followed with 12.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**

W. Brunswick 4 20 22 19—65

W. Columbus 6 15 17 18—56

West Brunswick Scoring: R.Johnson 2, King 8, Thomas 12, Thompson 29, Marlowe 4, Walker 8, Gore, C.Johnson, Street, Clemmons.



TROJANS RUT CLINTON—Mike Johnson (34) of West Brunswick scores on a layup over Clinton's Troy Underwood (24) during Friday's Three Rivers Conference matchup. The Trojans routed Clinton, 81-62 for their second straight win. West Brunswick returns home Tuesday to host league rival East Bladen.



SETS SCORING RECORD—West Brunswick's Robert Thompson (42) heads upcourt following a layup in the Trojans' 81-62 win over Clinton. Thompson set a school single-game scoring record with 37 points during the contest as the win raised the Trojans to 2-1 in the Three Rivers Conference and 11-6 overall.

## North Brunswick Drops First To Whiteville

Whiteville won claim to the top spot in the East Waccamaw 2-A Conference at least temporarily Friday with a 96-81 league basketball victory over previously unbeaten North Brunswick. The Wolfpack, now 3-0 in the league and 15-2 overall, was led in a second-half comeback by Tim Southern who scored 15 of his game-high 25 points in the final period.

Host North Brunswick (3-1, 13-1) rode hot outside shooting to a 26-18 lead in the first quarter and led by as many as 14 points in the second period before the Wolfpack closed within six, 46-40, at the half.

Whiteville took its first lead of the game in the third quarter, 53-52, on a Southern basket and the Wolfpack went on to open a 63-57 advantage at the end of the period.

Southern led the Wolfpack in the final-period charge as Whiteville outscored North Brunswick, 33-14 in the fourth quarter.

Dana Quince led North Brunswick with 36 points followed by Chuck Brown with 27. Keith Woodcock also had 10 points for the Scorpions.

Patrick Lennen led Whiteville with 36 points. Along with Southern's 25 were Keith Jordan and Larry McMillian with 14 points each for the Wolfpack.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**

Whiteville 18 22 23 33—96

N. Brunswick 25 20 11 24—81

Whiteville Scoring: Jordan 14, Lennen 36, McMillian 14, Southern 25, Robinson 2.

North Brunswick Scoring: Quince 36, Woodcock 10, Brown 27, Burns 4, Southerland 2, Perkins 2.

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