

# West Brunswick Grabs Share Of TRC Lead; Tops Clinton, Vikings

**BY JOHNNY CRAIG**  
West Brunswick pulled even in the Three Rivers 3-A Conference baseball race with West Columbus on Friday with an important 5-1 victory

over the visiting Vikings. Both teams are now 4-1 in the conference with seven games remaining including one final key matchup in Cerro Gordo on Tuesday, May 6.

## SPORTING SCENE

### Classic Leather Becomes Second NCHSAA Sponsor

**BY JOHNNY CRAIG**  
Classic Leather, Inc. of Hickory was named last week as the second full corporate sponsor of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Charles H. Adams, Executive Director of the NCHSAA, announced that beginning this year Classic Leather will completely underwrite the expenses of the Western Regional prep basketball tournament.

Classic's expenses will include team expenses, press conferences and other numerous activities for the regional tournaments.

The Western Regionals are played at three different sites including Newton (1-A), Hickory (2-A and 3-A) and Morganton (4-A).

According to Adams, the NCHSAA is close to naming two more corporate sponsors with the announcement coming this spring. Earlier this year the association announced that Wachovia Corporation of Winston-Salem would become its first sponsor.

Classic Leather operates three plants in Alexander and Catawba counties with Gerald Tuttle being president. Tuttle is a former University of North Carolina basketball star having played in the early 1970's.

**Trojans Battling For Top Spot**  
The West Brunswick Trojans have climbed back into contention for the Three Rivers 3-A Conference baseball championship after last week's sweep of Clinton and West

Earlier in the week the Trojans took a come-from-behind 5-2 road victory over Clinton to stay in the race for the TRC title. Matt Gore's two-run homer in the sixth inning tied the game and sparked the Trojan rally which included three runs in the seventh.

West Brunswick, now 8-5 overall and riding a three-game winning streak, hosts East Bladen on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in next action.

#### West Columbus

West Brunswick pitcher Matt Gore held the Vikings hitless through five innings and struck out 11 to pace the Trojans' 5-1 Three Rivers Conference win. The victory avenged an earlier loss this season to West Columbus when Viking pitcher Keith Frink tossed a no-hitter in the Trojans' league opener.

The Trojans took a 1-0 lead in the second on Craig Johnson's hit, walks to Chris Johnson and Scott Williams and a pair of passed balls by West Columbus catcher Kevin Ranson.

West Columbus tied the game 1-1 in the top of the fourth on a walk to Mike Smith on Trojans second baseman Rusty Johnson's error.

The Trojans scored twice in the fourth for a 3-1 lead taking advantage of Frink's throwing error along with a walk to Craig Johnson, Chris

Johnson's sacrifice and Keith Stanley being hit by a wild pitch.

West Columbus got its only two hits of the game in the sixth when Smith and Ranson led off the inning with back-to-back hits. Following Gore's ninth strikeout of the game, the Trojans ended the inning turning a Derek Long-to-Rusty Johnson-to-Donnie Vansteen double play.

West Brunswick scored its final runs in the sixth on a pair of hits by Stanley and Williams and a walk to Chris Johnson.

The win was Gore's fifth while Frink took the loss while walking six and striking out eight.

Williams led the Trojans batting attack going 1-for-2 with two RBIs.

West Columbus				
Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Frink p	3	1	0	0
Smith cf	2	0	1	0
Ranson c	3	0	1	0
Britt lf	3	0	0	0
Richardson ss	3	0	0	0
Fowler rf	3	0	0	0
McClellan ib	2	0	0	0
Brown dh	3	0	0	0
Bass 3b	0	0	0	0
D. Brown 2b	1	0	0	0
Totals	23	1	2	0

West Brunswick				
Player	AB	R	H	RBI
R. Johnson 2b	3	0	0	0
Long ss	2	0	0	0

Gore p	3	1	1	0
Stevenson cf	3	0	0	0
Stanley c	2	2	1	0
Craig Johnson lf	2	1	1	0
Chris Johnson 3b	0	1	0	1
Williams dh	2	0	1	2
Stewart rf	0	0	0	0
Vansteen 1b	1	0	0	0
Totals	18	5	4	3

W. Columbus	000	100	0-1-2-1			
W. Brunswick	010	202	X-5-4-1			
Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gore (W-5-3)	7	2	1	0	3	11
Frink (L)	6	4	5	5	6	8

#### Clinton

Matt Gore's two-run homer and Derek Long's two-run single Tuesday enabled the Trojans to struggle past Clinton, 5-2. Trojan pitcher Timmy Ludlum scattered five Dark Horse hits and struck out eight in raising his record to 3-2.

Clinton took a 1-0 lead in the fourth on Lennie Faison's leadoff triple, pitcher Billy King's sacrifice and Tommy Hair's hit.

The Dark Horses struck for two more runs in the fifth for a 3-0 lead on three walks by Ludlum and Trojan catcher Keith Stanley's passed ball.

West Brunswick pulled within 3-2 in the sixth on Gore's blast and scored three more runs in the seventh on three hits by Rusty Johnson, Chris Johnson and Derek Long and three Dark Horse errors.

King was the losing pitcher for

Clinton giving up seven hits and striking out four.

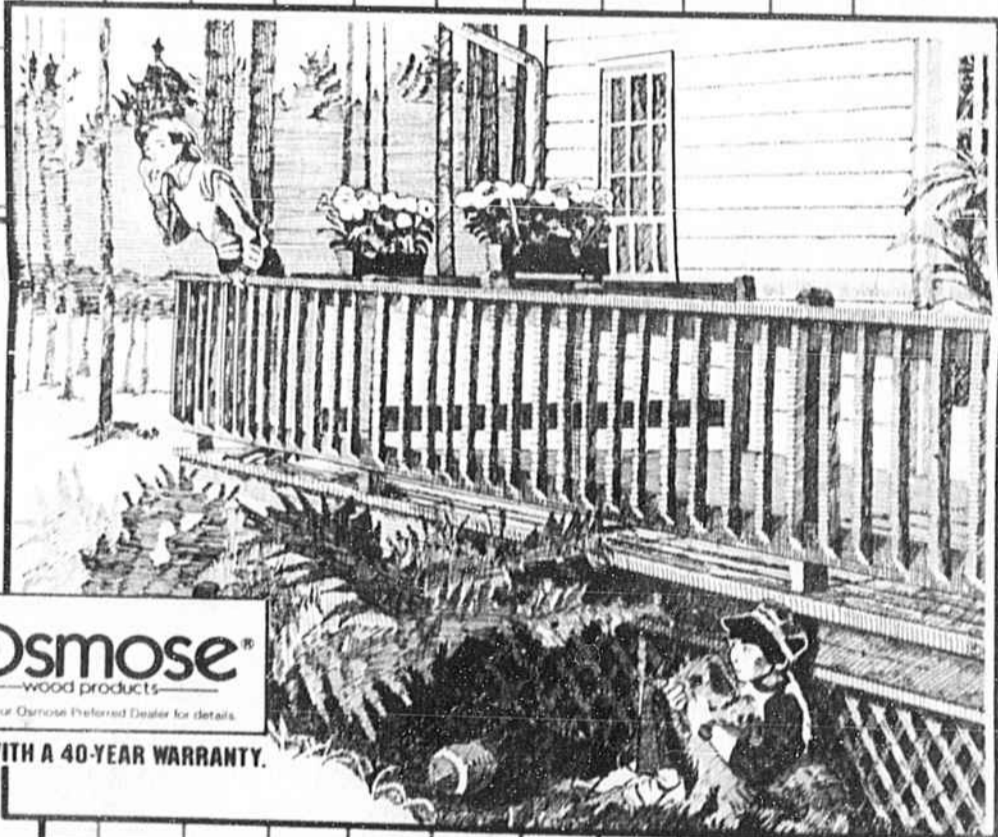
The Trojans still have two home games remaining with the Dark Horses including the rescheduling of a late-March engagement that was postponed due to rain.

West Brunswick				
Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Craig Johnson lf	4	1	1	0
Long ss	3	0	1	2
Stanley c	4	0	0	0
Gore 3b	3	1	1	2
Stevenson cf	3	0	1	0
R. Johnson 2b	3	1	1	0
Vansteen 1b	3	1	0	0
Chris Johnson rf	3	1	2	1
Williams dh	3	0	0	0
Ludlum p	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	5	7	5

Clinton				
Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Thorton cf	3	1	0	0
Clark ss	3	0	1	0
Biberry rf	4	0	0	0
L. Faison c	4	1	1	0
King p	2	0	1	1
Hair 2b	3	0	1	1
Spell 3b	3	0	0	0
D. Faison 1b	3	0	1	0
McColler lf	2	1	0	0
Totals	27	3	5	2

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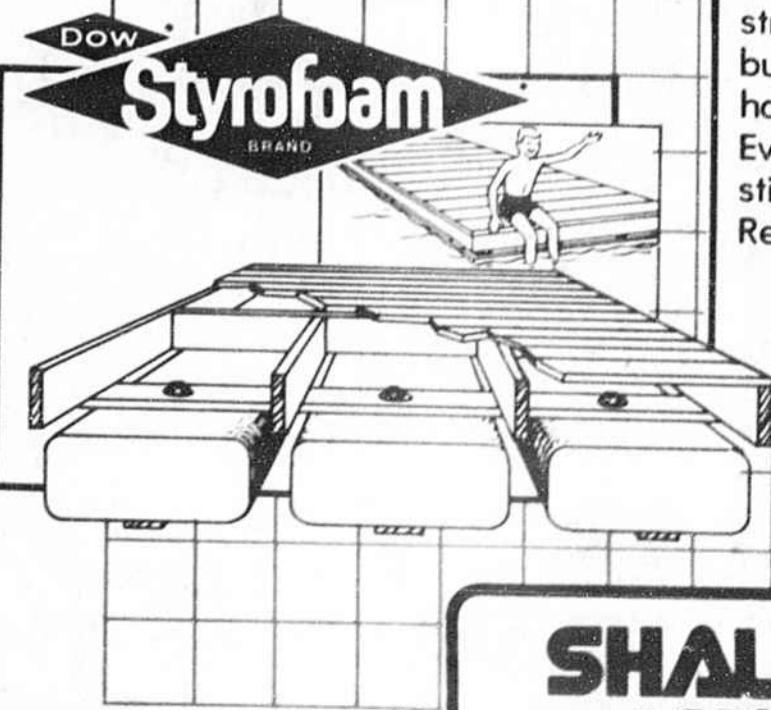
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### Benefit Golf Tourney To Be Played At Marsh Harbour

The third annual Jimmy Simpson Invitational Golf Tournament will be played Sunday, June 16 at the famous Marsh Harbour Golf Links, according to an announcement this week from its founder, Jimmy Simpson.

The tournament is the largest single fund-raiser for Brunswick County Special Olympics, which will be held at South Brunswick High School Thursday, April 25.

Donations from friends, relatives, private citizens, business establishments and others help underwrite Brunswick County Special Olympics.

Play in the June benefit golf tournament is open to both ladies and men. Trophies will be given for both for low gross and low net divisions. Players must have a certified handicap in order to compete in the low net division.

Russ Ford will award a 1985 car and Harold's TV will award a new color television for a hole-in-one. Simpson said, and hundreds of dollars in merchandise prizes will be given. A barbecue dinner will be included in the total entry fee of \$25, which also covers play and cart.

Entry blanks will be available at all courses in the county and entries will be limited to 144 players.

Tournament motto is "We play so they can play," Simpson said.

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