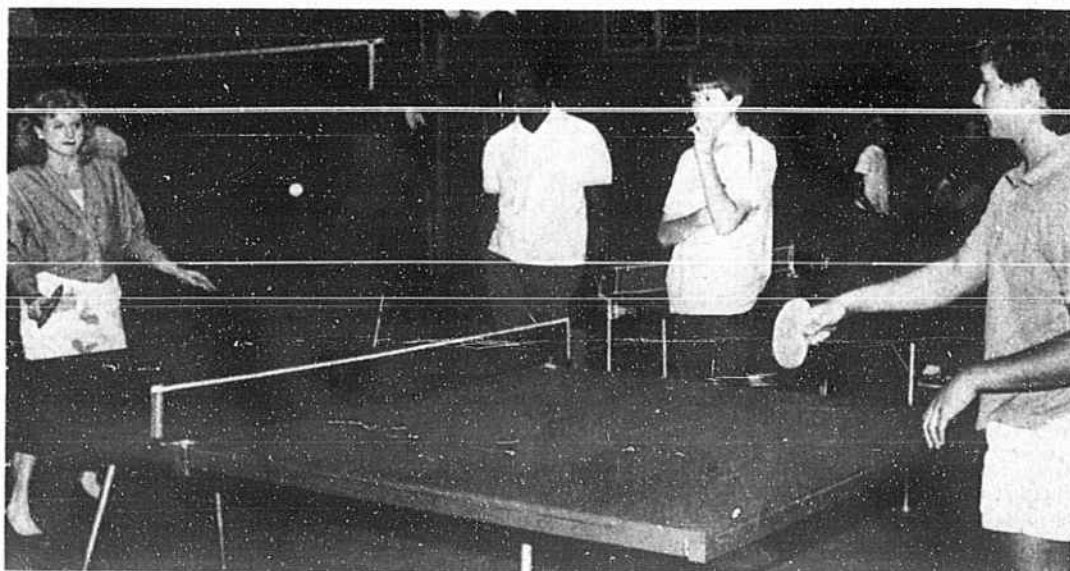




INTRAMURALS SUCCESS—The West Brunswick intramurals program has been successful in receiving both student and faculty participation. Four-square is played by individuals on two levels—beginner and advanced. John Watts and Jay Cheers (at left) await a pass from opponents.



PING PONG—Jill Hewett (left) and Javelin Pigotte (right) play ping pong during lunch break. Observing in the middle is (from left) Cedric Godwin and Kyle Jones. Ping pong is one of a number of activities in the West Brunswick Intramural program which is in its second year.

Intramural Sports Program Blossoms At West Brunswick

BY JOHNNY CRAIG
Competitive sports at the high school level aren't just for the advanced and highly-skilled student/athletes any more—at least not at West Brunswick.

More and more students are becoming involved in the newly-formed Intramural Sports Program at West Brunswick which has been incorporated into the school's total educational picture.

Organized and founded by coaches Ronnie Champion and Greg Norris, Intramurals participation at West Brunswick has increased by over 100

percent from its beginning during the 1984-85 school year.

The recreational program is conducted primarily during the two lunch periods but offers free play for students before school as well.

"We have about 130 students from each lunch period involved in Intramurals. This makes up about 25 percent of the school enrollment participating," said Champion.

West Brunswick is one of few schools in the state that offers such a program during school hours and the only school in this area (Wilson County being the closest) with such activities.

Champion and Norris presented their program last week at the annual convention of the North Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NCAHPERD) in Greensboro and received much interest from other educators.

"At the convention we gave an overview of the program telling how and why it was formed and its importance. We also gave a slide presentation which showed West Brunswick Intramurals in action," continued Champion.

"A member of the UNC-Greensboro faculty who was attending the convention got 15 of our Intramural handbooks to use as an aid in teaching a class on the subject. It was even mentioned that the UNC-G class may consider a field trip to West Brunswick to observe our program."

The Intramural program at West Brunswick not only involves student participation in sports but on the administration level as well.

This year the school faculty began participating in the program for the first time and has helped develop a better rapport with students.

While Champion and Norris serve as directors, a staff advisory council is comprised of assistant principal Maliston Stanley, Nancy Turner, Harold Johnson and William Cockrell.

There is also an executive council which includes one boy and one girl from each grade. These elected students assist in organization, reviewing rules, eligibility and evacuation.

A 32-member advisory council comprised of one student from each homeroom class works as a liaison to the executive council and helps make recommendations and promotes the events by providing information to students.

The program is divided into three phases—individual participation, team participation and special activities.

Individual activities include handball, tennis, ping pong, badminton, horseshoes, checkers, chess, four-square, darts, archery and golf.

Team sports include soccer, volleyball, basketball, team dodgeball, flag football, speedball and team handball.

Special activities enable students to check out certain equipment for

free play and also includes dances, guest speakers, movies and athletic exhibitions.

A possible surfing contest and camping trips are also being considered according to Champion.

Individuals and teams are awarded t-shirts for winning championships in different activities. Also individuals and homeroom classes that accumulate the most points at the end of the year are honored with awards.

"We feel that sports are not only beneficial to athletes but for everyone," said Champion. "We believe that Intramurals are important in that it provides all students with a chance of recreation and friendly competition."

"The program emphasizes having fun and participating in lifetime ac-

tivities," Champion added.

"The program also gives students something to do with their free time. During lunch in past years the kids, after eating, just sat around and some got into trouble. Now the students are given a break from class and can go and have some fun after lunch," said Champion.

The West Brunswick Intramural program has drawn praise from a number of administrators outside the school including assistant county schools superintendent Ed Lemon and county physical education and athletic supervisor Nelson Best.

"Intramurals have really aided in creating a positive environment for students' free time during lunch periods," said West Brunswick principal David Corley.

"It has given students meaningful

activities, stimulated healthy competition and provided a place for non-varsity athletes to gain recognition.

"The program has also given students and faculty time to have fun together, been a motivation for advanced physical education and provided time for students not taking physical education to get some physical activity," said Corley.

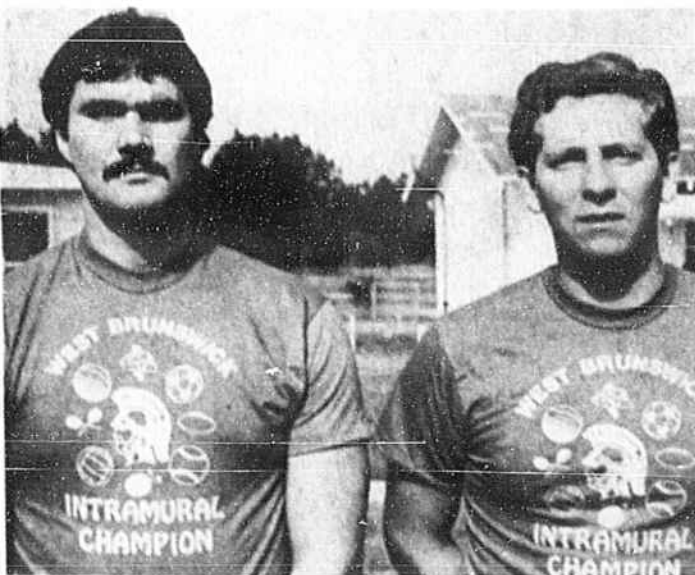
Champion and Norris both plan to continue to expand the Intramural program and hope to get even more students involved.

"A lot of schools showed interest in such a program at the NCAHPERD convention but felt it was not worth the time and effort to get it started," said Champion.

"It has been a lot of work but we all feel that what has resulted from Intramurals here at West Brunswick has been well worth it."



TEAM HANDBALL—Casey Gore serves a point in team handball play at West Brunswick. The West Brunswick Intramural program, under the directorship of Greg Norris and Ronnie Champion, has nearly 130 students participating during each lunch break.



INTRAMURAL DIRECTORS—West Brunswick Intramural Sports Directors Greg Norris (left) and Ronnie Champion (right) display t-shirts that are given to individual and team winners in a particular activity. The program is in its second year and is receiving increased support from the students and faculty.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CHESS—Chess is just one of the individual activities in the West Brunswick Intramural sports program. Players are, from left, front row, Wilson Bass and Dean Smith, back row, Travis Hayes and Cameron Tucker.

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