## Whiteville Finishes Atop Final Rankings

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The Whiteville Wolfpack rode its perfect 10-0 regular season to the top 2-A football ranking in the Associated Press' final high school grid poll released last week.

Whiteville, winners of the Waccamaw Conference in a run away, received eight of nine possible firstplace votes and outdistanced secondranked Jordan-Matthews and thirdplace North Rowan.

North Rowan received the only other first-place vote while also finishing 10-0.

Nearby Wallace-Rose Hill (10-0), East Central Conference champion, was ranked fourth in the poll and is a likely opponent of Whiteville in the third round of the state playoffs should both win Friday.

Clarkton was tabbed as the topranked 1-A team after also finishing the regular season unbeaten at 10-0.

Whiteville running back Patrick Lennon was named to the North Carolina team last week in the annual Shrine Bowl Football Game scheduled for Charlotte on Dec. 14.

The game is sponsored each year by Shriners as a fund raiser and pits the top high school players from North Carolina against those of South Carolina.

Should Whiteville advance to the state 2-A finals, Lennon would miss the bowl game as the championship is slated for Dec. 14.

Lennon has run for 1,144 yards this season and has been one of the top running backs in the state.

Wolfpack followers are hopeful that Lennon is able to miss the bowl game due to Whiteville's participation in the 2-A championship game. In order to do so, Whiteville must win three more playoff games where it could wind up hosting the title contest.

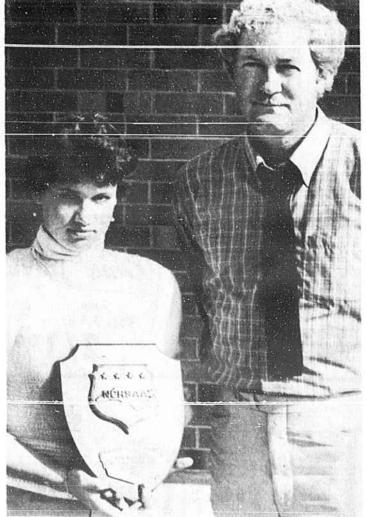
Waccamaw 2-A Conference officials met in Whiteville last week for the league's second quarterly meeting of the year.

Top priority at the meeting was given to the manner in which all-conference teams are named. Since there were several ties this year in the conference football race, the matter of deadlocks was dealt with to prevent future controversy.

The league also declined to adopt the three-point play in basketball. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association had approved the three point goal but allowed individual conferences to decide upon whether to allow it in their respective leagues.

The format of conducting girls volleyball matches was also changed. Beginning next season, volleyball matches will be held in a double-header format rather than the current round-robin schedule.

The league's next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 8 in Whiteville.



STATE PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS—West Brunswick's April Causey and coach Jerry Small display the regional championship plaque won by the Lady Trojans tennis team two weeks ago in Willmington. Causey competed in doubles play with her partner Jill Hewett.



PARTICIPATE IN STATE TOURNEY—West Brunswick tennis players Jill Hewett (left) and Gina Howard (right) participated in the state 1-A—2-A tennis championship last week in Chapel Hill. Hewett, along with teammate April Causey, won an opening-round doubles match but were eliminated in the second round. Howard was knocked from the competition in her first match.

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## Whiteville Routs Clinton; Vikings, Mustangs Ousted From Playoffs

Two of the three Waccamaw 2-A Conference state football playoff teams were eliminated last Friday in the opening round of post-season ac-

WC champion Whiteville opened at home with a 48-6 rout of East Central third-place finisher Clinton (7-4) while conference runnerup West Columbus was trounced by host White Oak (East Central runnerup), 36-7 and visiting South Robeson (WC third-place) fell to Wallace-Rose Hill (ECC champion), 39-6.

Whiteville will centique place for a conference of the conference of the

Whiteville will continue playoff action Friday hosting Clayton (9-2) in second round play.

The two losses by West Columbus and South Robeson ended the season for both. West Columbus finished the year at 8-3 overall while South Robeson concluded its campaign at 6-5.

Wolfpack running back Patrick Lennon ran for 146 yards and three touchdowns to lead Whiteville to its 11th win of the season in an openinground blowout of Clinton.

Whiteville scored four times in the first 6:21 of the game and took a quick 15-0 lead before the Dark Horses were ever really able to get into their offersive scheme.

into their offensive scheme.

Clinton did receive some consolation on its second possession of the game when the Dark Horses became only the second team to score on the Wolfpack this season.

Clinton drove 64 yards in five plays sparked by a 64-yard halfback option pass from Scott Lewis to running back Trey Apperson on the first snap.

Four plays later Tracey Thornton scored to bring Clinton to within 15-6 but the Dark Horses never gut closer.

Whiteville blocked three Clinton punts turning the Dark Horses miscues into a safety and a fourth quarter touchdown as Curtis Edwards fell on the loose ball in the end

Chris Little also scored for the Wolfpack on a 39 yard run as did Roosevelt Colson (six yard run) and

zone for the score.

Tim Southern on a 39 yard pass from quarterback Heath Hewett.

The Wolfpack spurt to a 27-6 halftime lead despite two turnovers (fumble and pass interception) and 80 yards in penalties. However, Whiteville scored twice in the third quarter and once in the final period while scoring 40 or more points for the seventh time this season.

White Oak eliminated West Columbus early as Bobby Wray ran for 159 yards and one touchdown to lead the way.

White Oak (9-2) opened a 39-0 lead before the Vikings were able to score in the final two minutes of the game. Viking running back Jamie Farris scored on a one yard dash for West Columbus' only touchdown.

The loss ended the season for West Columbus (8-3) as the Vikings dropped their last two games of the year. East Bladen downed the Vikings

East Bladen downed the Vikings 21-13 in the final regular season game for only their second loss. White Oak advances to second

round play with the win to face Wallace-Rose Hill.

South Robeson got the similar treatment of Clinton as the Mustangs were erased from playoff action in a 39-6 rout from Wallace-Rose Hill.

It was the 11th straight win for Wallace-Rose Hill, the fourth-ranked team in the state.

The Bulldogs expanded their 7-0 first quarter lead to a 19-0 halftime bulge.

Wallace-Rose Hill then ran up a 26-0 lead before South Robeson's Jerome Hunt put the Mustangs on the board with a one-yard touchdown run.

Jesse Reaves led the South Robeson attack with 65 yards on 25 carries.

South Robeson had tied for third place in the Waccamaw Conference with South Brunswick and East Bladen but won a coin flip at the conclusion of the regular season for the league's third playoff spot.

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## Lady Trojan Netters Finish 6th In State Finals

The West Brunswick Lady Trojans concluded their tennis season last week with a sixth-place team finish in the state 1-A—2-A tennis finals in Charel Hill.

Chapel Hill.

Gina Howard was eliminated in second round play after receiving an opening bye while the doubles team

of Jill Hewett-April Causey won their first round match before being eliminated. Hewett-Causey collected the only point for the Lady Trojans in the

team standings with a 6-3, 6-4 win

over the team of Dard-Damon of Salisbury.

However, Hewett-Causey (the seventh seeded doubles team in the tourney) were ousted in the second round by Cranford-Jarrett of

Newton-Conover 6-7, 6-2, 6-3. Howard dropped her second round match to Jane Faye of Union Pines

Howard was the seventh seed in singles competition and the secondround loss was her first match ever on clay courts.

Salisbury eventually won the team championship with 21 points while Newton-Conover (12) finished second followed by Roanoke Rapids (9) third, C.B. Aycock and Union Pines (6 points each) tied for fourth. The Lady Trojans along with Bandys and North Stokes were tied for

Twenty players participated in singles play while 20 teams competed for the doubles championship.

Twelve teams were eligible for the overall team championship with only eight managed to score points.

"We feel very fortunate to have been able to participate in such a tournament on the state level like this," said West Brunswick coach Jerry Small.

"The whole experience was good for the team and everyone who went learned a great deal."

The entire West Brunswick girls team accompanied Howard, Hewett and Causey to the tournament as did several parents of the players to lend support.

days in Chapel Hill and see the University as well as see some really great tennis talent from across the state," added Small.

Howard finished the year with an overall 10-1 singles record while the team of Hewett-Causey went a perfect 11-0 in regular-season play and concluded the season with a 16-1 mark.

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