

West Brunswick Opens Over Topsail 60-58

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

West Brunswick survived a last-minute Topsail surge to open the new prep basketball campaign with a 60-58 win last Tuesday over the 1-A Pirates in nonconference action.

The Trojans, who led by as many as 12 points several times in both halves, saw Topsail score nine unanswered points in a 2:04 stretch in the closing minutes to pull within 59-56 with 40 seconds remaining.

Trojan guard Jeff Marlowe converted the first of a one-and-one free throw attempt for the only West Brunswick points in the final three minutes.

Both Craig Johnson and Gary Gore missed free throws for the Trojans to keep Topsail alive in the final 18 seconds.

However, Lorenzo Marshall's jumper with two seconds left was as close as the Pirates would get as

West Brunswick held the ball for the win.

"I learned tonight that we can play defense and score when we want to," said West Brunswick coach Ronnie Champion on his team's opening win.

"The only thing is that obviously they don't want to (score) at times. Hopefully scoring and other parts of our gameplan will come around with experience."

"We just made too many mistakes. We're going to have to gain maturity on the team in order to be successful. This is what my main concerns center around," continued Champion.

Topsail jumped to a 4-0 lead in the opening minute-and-half before West Brunswick got on track behind the play of forward Scott Street and Marlowe.

Street scored all six of his points in the opening period while Marlowe ad-

ded a three-point play and scored the Trojans' final four points to give West Brunswick a 20-12 first-quarter lead.

The Trojans took their biggest lead of the first half (12 points) just before halftime, 33-21, on a Curtis Hill layup. Topsail's John Batts added the final two points of the period and West Brunswick settled for a 35-25 lead at intermission.

Topsail scored 10 of its 14 third-quarter points from the free throw line as the Pirates closed within seven points, 46-39, at the end of the period.

In fact, Topsail outscored the Trojans by 10 points at the free throw line converting on 16 of 28 attempts while West Brunswick hit only six of 21.

Topsail pulled to 49-45 with 5:29 to play on six unanswered points and the Pirates appeared to be on a roll.

West Brunswick responded with an eight point surge including back to back jumpers by Derek Long to equal the Trojans biggest lead of the game, 12 points, 57-45 with 3:22 left.

The Trojans lost Hill to fouls with 2:44 left and Topsail opened its nine point tear before time ran out.

"Topsail just out-hustled us in the final three minutes," said Champion. "We were plagued last season with poor play in the third quarter and it seems to have rubbed off on us this year. Another problem with our inside play arose in the fourth quarter.

We were able to get the ball inside pretty quick but just missed the short jumpers.

"We've got 10 days till our next game and we'll spend most of that time working on posting underneath the basket, squaring up and shooting."

Champion was especially pleased with the play of Marlowe, the Trojans senior point guard.

"Jeff (Marlowe) played a good third quarter and moved the ball very well. He also had a good defensive game forcing several turnovers."

Marshall was the game's leading scorer pacing Topsail (0-1) with 23 points followed by Donnie Sidbury with 20.

Marlowe led West Brunswick with 13 points while Long added nine and Michael Johnson, Hill and Gore hit for eight each.

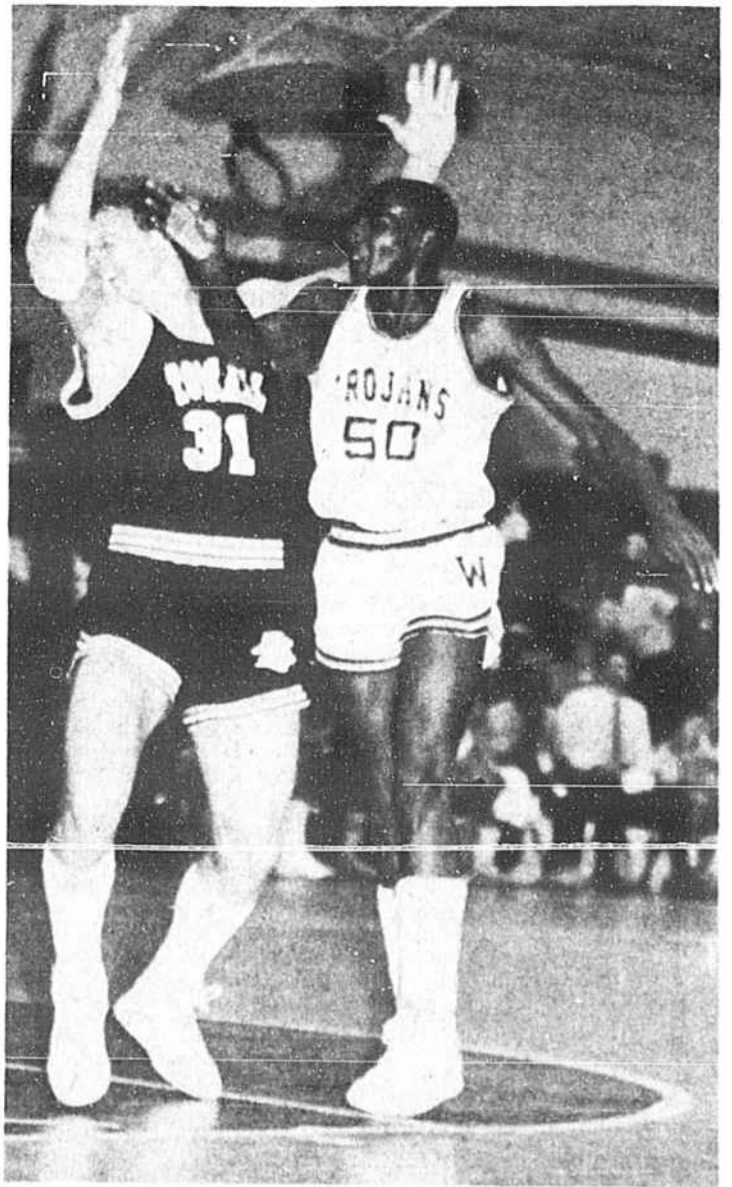
Next action for West Brunswick will be Friday, Dec. 6 when the Trojans host 4-A Hoggard.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Topsail	12	13	11	19	58
W. Brunswick	20	15	11	14	60

Topsail Scoring: L. Marshall 23, Grimm 2, Sidbury 20, Batts 6, Nixon 2, Toby 5, C. Marshall, Smith, Williams, Shepard.

West Brunswick Scoring: Marlowe 13, Street 6, M. Johnson 8, Hill 8, Gore 8, C. Johnson 4, Long 9, Vansteen 2, Clemmons 2, Hardee, Green, Brown, Turner.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG

TROJANS WIN OPENER—West Brunswick's Curtis Hill (50) reaches around Mike Smith (31) of Topsail for a pass in last week's basketball season opener. The Trojans downed Topsail 60-58 as Hill scored eight points. West Brunswick continues nonconference action Friday at home against Hoggard.



REBOUND IN A CROWD—Derek Long (with ball) of West Brunswick grabs a rebound in last week's 60-58 season-opening win over Topsail. Surrounding Long for the Pirates is Calvin Marshall (11) and Shannon Shepard (21). Long finished as the second-leading scorer for the Trojans with nine points.

Trojan JV Romp In Opener

The West Brunswick junior varsity opened its season in impressive fashion last week with an 85-18 mauling of Topsail.

Ronald Lance scored 20 points to lead six teammates in double figures to lead the way while all 11 Trojans scored.

West Brunswick wasted little time in opening a 24-4 first-quarter lead and then extended its advantage to 38-8 at halftime.

The Trojan JV held a 60-15 lead at the end of the third quarter and outscored hapless Topsail 25-3 in the final period.

Joining Lance in double figures for West Brunswick was Gary Gore with

14 and Chris Bryant, Bryan Bernard, Terrance Bellamy and Bryan Cheers with 10 each.

Clarence Walker and Steven Jones led Topsail with four points each.

The Trojan JV continue non-conference action Friday at home against Hoggard.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Topsail	4	4	7	3	18
W. Brunswick	24	14	22	25	85

Topsail Scoring: Spicer 2, Ross 2, Walker 4, Marshall 1, Jones 4, T. Nixon 3, Garrison, Robinson, Sharpless, Pate, Johnson, Atkinson, J. Nixon.

West Brunswick Scoring: Bryant 10, Lance 20, Mintz 2, Bernard 10, Timmy Bellamy 3, Gore 14, Terrance Bellamy 10, Morgan 2, Graham 3, Cheers 10, Joyner 1.

Shoots Continue

Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department will continue its turkey shoot series through Saturday, Dec. 21, Fire Chief Mike Potts said.

The shoots are held each Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the fire station, starting at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$2 a shot, with turkeys and hams offered as prizes.

Light concessions are available.

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