

# Hoggard Trounces West Brunswick 78-51

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Two halves and two games with different West Brunswick teams.

Despite how the contest eventually ended, Hoggard and the host Trojans matched up last Friday in what appeared to be "two games for the price of one."

However, visiting Hoggard won the second half of what appeared to be the first half for the Trojans and cruised to a 78-51 nonconference basketball rout of West Brunswick.

The 27-point home-court loss was one of the worst ever suffered by the Trojans (1-1) while Hoggard (1-0) opened its season in impressive form.

The outcome of the game was still up for grabs as late as 5:35 left in the third quarter. Leading 34-32, Hoggard went on a 14-2 tear over a 3:10 stretch to open a 48-34 advantage and the Trojans never got closer.

"We suffered a good case of third-quarter blues tonight," said a disappointed West Brunswick coach Ronnie Champion. "We were only down three points at halftime and were playing rather well."

"We talked in the locker room at

the half about keeping our offense going and staying strong. By midway in the third quarter we looked like a different team.

"Suddenly we weren't executing our offense, we were making terrible passes and weren't getting back on defense. We were doing the type of things that we cannot afford to do and expect to win," added Champion.

The two teams fought on even keel throughout the first half with the score tied five times while the lead changed hands on six occasions.

Hoggard's early four-point 6-2 lead was its biggest of the half as the Vikings managed only a slim 14-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

West Brunswick scored seven unanswered points (four from the free throw line) in the opening 2:30 of the second quarter for a 19-14 lead—its biggest of the game.

By the 3:17 mark of the period, Hoggard regained the lead, 21-19, on four straight points by Tim Parker.

Parker connected on two free throws in the closing seconds of the half to give the Vikings a 29-26 halftime lead.

West Brunswick scored the first four points of the second half for a 30-29 lead just 40 seconds into the third quarter.

However, back-to-back jumpers by Parker gave the Vikings a 34-30 lead and Hoggard never looked back. By the end of the period, the Vikings had mounted a 56-42 lead.

Preventing any West Brunswick rally, Hoggard opened the final period with seven unanswered points for a commanding 63-42 lead with 6:46 to play.

The Vikings maintained a 20 point plus lead throughout the remainder and outscored West Brunswick 10-2 in the closing minutes for their final margin of victory.

Despite the loss, Champion saw some improvement compared to the Trojans' play in their season opener a week ago against Topsail.

"I can see some improvement although we lost by a pretty sound margin," said Champion. "We showed in the first half that we are capable of playing but we are going to have to be more patient. Hoggard really didn't do anything differently

in the second half to open the game up. We just beat ourselves with sloppy play."

"Craig Johnson played well through three quarters and Gary Gore looked much better than he did in the opening game last week," said Champion.

Parker led Hoggard scoring with 32 points while Tony Brown added 19 and Sean Ross 13.

Gore led West Brunswick with 15 points and Craig Johnson followed with 13.

The two teams meet again Friday in Wilmington for a return matchup in next action.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**

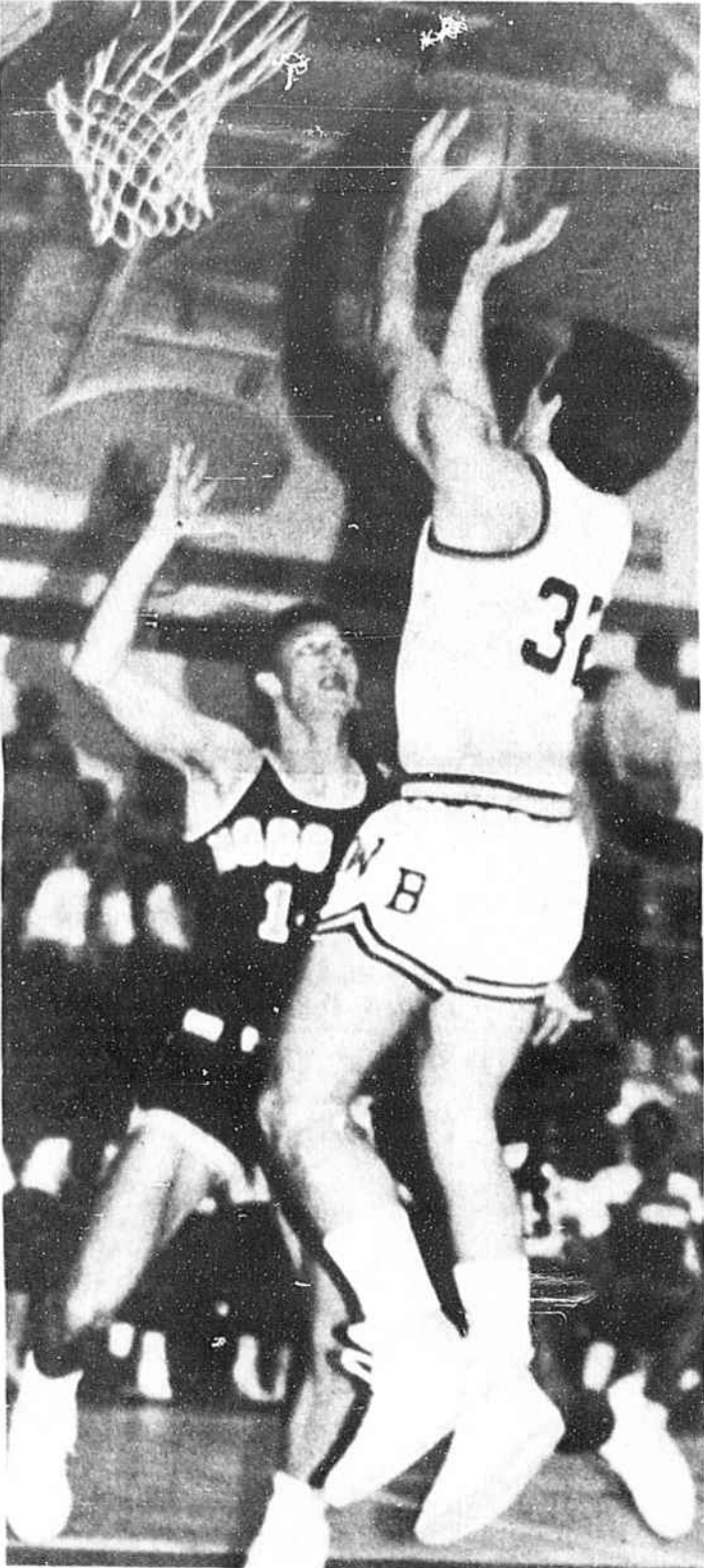
Hoggard	14	15	27	22	78
W. Brunswick	12	14	16	9	51

Hoggard Scoring: Johnson 2, Ross 13, W. Davis 1, Parker 32, Stallings 2, Brown 19, Swan 2, R. Davis 2, Beatty 3, Bierwiler, Murphy, Blanks, Jones, Laughter.

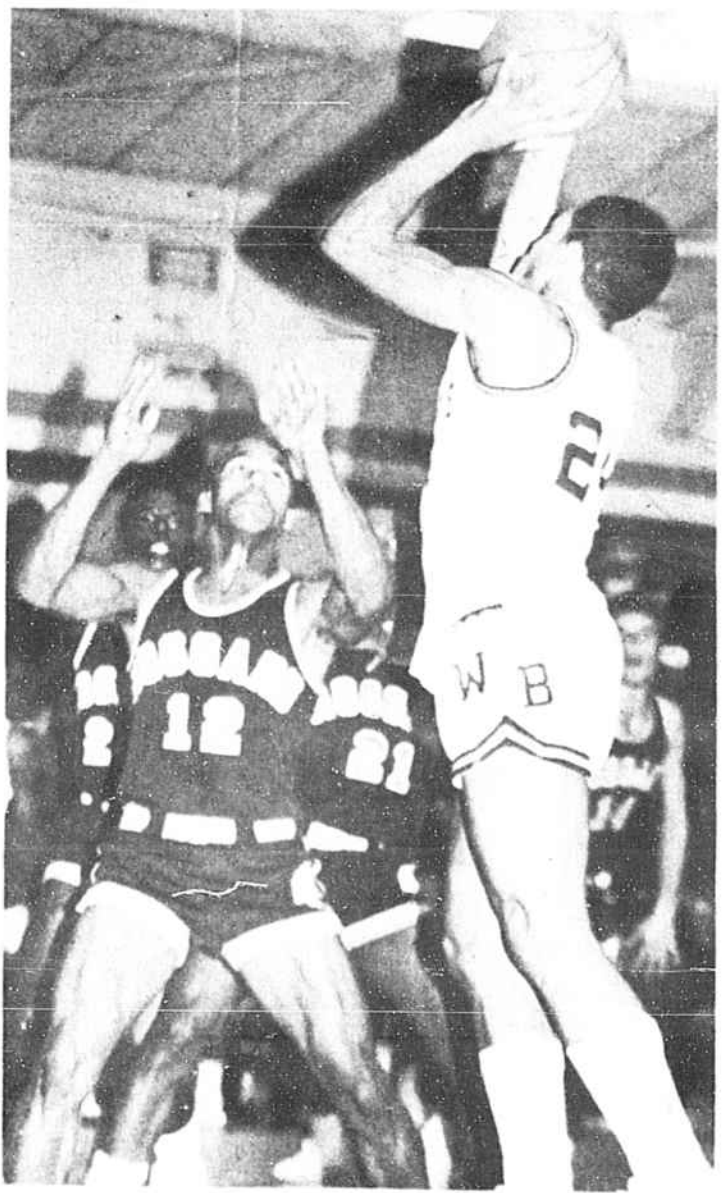
West Brunswick Scoring: Marlowe 1, Street 8, M. Johnson 2, Hill 2, Gore 15, C. Johnson 13, Long 8, Vansteen 3, Hardee, Clemmons, Brown.



**LONG CONTROLS**—Derek Long (with ball) of West Brunswick turns up-court in the Trojans' 78-51 nonconference loss to Hoggard last Friday. Long scored eight points in the loss. Guarding Long is Hoggard's Tim Parker. Parker led all scorers with 32 points to lead the Vikings.



**STREET SCORES**—Scott Street (32) scores on a layup over Hoggard's Tim Parker in last week's nonconference matchup. Hoggard took an easy 78-51 win over the Trojans in the Vikings' season opener. Parker scored 32 points in the win while Street was held to eight for the Trojans.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG

**TROJANS FALL**—West Brunswick's Michael Johnson (24) puts a shot up over Sean Ross (12) of Hoggard during last week's 78-51 loss to the Vikings. Johnson and the Trojans suffered through a cold second half as Hoggard broke from a three-point halftime advantage to a sounding defeat of the Trojans. Ross was one of three Vikings who hit double figures with 13 points.



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