# ...Sent Brunswick County Athletes To Pro Teams

Continued From Preceding Page

the year were Mashall Seay (West football and athletic director), Jim Steed (North football), Gene Doane (South boys basketball) and Paulk Faulk (South baseball).

Brunswick County hosted the N.C. men's statewide basketball championship tournament won by the Speedy Gs of Wilmington.

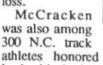
In one of the few black marks in county athletics during the dacade, the Brunswick Dixie Youth baseball league faced financial questions in Leland. Local league officials met with state officers in an attempt to solve the matter.

#### 1987

Three stories topped the year-South's Quentin McCracken, former North and current N.C. State star Chuckie Brown and a state sailfishing record.

McCracken became the first county player named to the annual

Shrine Bowl football game. In the game, he was the secondleading rusher for the N.C. squad in a 24-Tar Heei loss



McCRACKEN athletes honored in Durham for leadership both on and off the field at U.S. Olympic Festival in August.

Brown had career-high 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead N.C. State to a record 10th Atlantic Coast Conference champibasketball onship in a 68-67 win over UNC. The former North star also received second-team all-tourney honors.

Buddy Grooms (Sunset Harbor) shattered the state sailfish record by some 14 pounds with a 100-pound catch five miles off the Brunswick County coast.

West's Paula Smith was named the school's most outstanding student/athlete.

The West boys' basketball team, under first-year head coach Harold Johnson, rallied from a 3-7 record in early January to a 13-12 finish and the finals of the Sectional III tourney at Whiteville. The Trojan cagers also won their second straight county title.

In other fishing news, Carl Beckwith won the N.C. saitwater fishing tournament with an 11pound, 12-ounce flounder caught off Holden Beach. The winning fish was part of a 27-category tourney sponsored by the N.C. Division of Travel and Tourism.

North cheerleaders won the eastern N.C. regional championship and advanced to national championships at Williamsburg, Va.

Golf continued to expand in Brunswick County with the construction of Lockwood Folly and the opening of the Pearl, Brigk Landing & Sandpiper Bay courses.

Former North football standout Jeff Sholar won the coaches award at Wingate College while maintaining a 2.38 grade point average.

Also in the college ranks, former West football standout Mark Jones helps Emory & Henry advance to the NCAA Division III football semifinals.

The spring Special Olympics at West grew to 600 special education particpants-the largest field in the event's history.

The West boys' tennis team won their fifth conference title in seven years and finished seventh in the state 1-A-2-A tournament. The Trojans ended the season with a perfect 20-0 record.

The South baseball team (19-4) won the WC championship and captured its first state playoff berth in school history.

The North girls' softball team (18-6) also qualified for the state

Kelly Stanaland (most outstanding student/athlete) and the boys' tennis team took top honors at West athletic banquet.

South's McCracken and Wynn Beck were named to the all-state baseball team.

Brunswick County hosted the N.C. Dixie Youth baseball tourney (ages 13-14) eventually won by Columbus County.

The World Amateur Handicap Golf Tournament was held in late

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WYNN BECK

August at three Brunswick County courses-Carolina Shores, Ocean Isle Beach and Sea Trail.

North's Laverene Holiday became the first Scorpion player to rush for over 1,000 yards in a single season. South went on to win the county grid title defeating both North and West.

The three-point field goal was added to prep basketball for the first time. The three-point stripe measured 19-feet, 9-inches from the basket.

## 1988

The top story of the year came with South winning the state 2-A baseball championship. For South, it was the school's first state championship in any sport in its history.

The Cougars also won their second straight WC title and earned the right to host the state finals. It was the first time ever that a state baseball title series had come to the

South swept Charlotte Catholic in two games to win the best-of-three series and finished a perfect 29-0. Scott Gales was named tournament most valuable player.

Later in the year, South's Wynn Beck became the highest-selected county player ever in the major league baseball amateur draft when the Oakland A's made him the 31st overall pick.

As a senior, Beck hit .505 with 48 RBIs to lead the Cougars. He was also named N.C. player of the year by Gatorade and Quaker Oats and also by the U.S. Baseball Federation.

The county had a brush with professional baseball itself when a New York Yankees farm team sought to locate near Leland. However, county commissioners declined to spend \$700,000 for a new baseball stadium to house the team.

North's Tammy Ballentine won the girls N.C. 1-A-2-A 100-meter championship at Duke University with a 12.62 time. The local sprinter also won a Junior Olympic meet at New Bern later in the year.

Another product of South's state championship baseball team, Quentin McCracken, signed a football grant with Duke on the opening of the college national gridiron signing

The South senior went on to have an excellent freshman season being one of only two players in the ACC to return a kickoff for a touchdown.

McCracken led the team with a 25.4 yard average kickoff return and was, second played cornerback and helped Duke to a 7-3-1 record, the Blue Devils' best since 1962.

He was also a four-time all-county player and was named to the all-WC, all-east and Shrine Bowl teams as a senior. McCracken also played in the 40th annual East-West all-star game in Greensboro as part of the N.C. Coaches Association convention.

West (10-2) captured the WC football championship, its first league title since 1980 and advanced to second round of state playoffs for the first time since 1975.

Three Brunswick County athletes won medals at the Special Olympics 11th annual southeastern regional

games in Boone. David Hirst (Long beach) won the N.C. Saltwater Fishing tourney with a four-pound barracuda caught in Brunswick County waters.

Lockwood Folly Golf Links opened as the eighth county course and the first to come to the Holden

The county youth wrestling program began its first year under the direction of Joe Rosselli.

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The West boys' tennis team won

a share of WC title but long-time coach Jerry

Small announced his resignation. The veter-Trojan teams to nine conference and two regionships.

coach led champion-In West girls'

Kelly tennis, Ward won the regional singles title and advanced to the state finals

tourney. Kelly Stanaland was named West Brunswick student/athlete of year.

Brick Landing Plantation hosted the first Amateur, the first national golf tournament held in Brunswick County. Fayetteville's Gary Robinson won the 72-hole event.

Brunswick County little league again wins the district VI title and advances to the state championship tournament.

Former North grid standout Jeff Sholar was named honoray captain of the Wingate College football team and received top academic honors as well.

### 1989

The year's top story was again centered around Chuckie Brown.

This time the former North and N.C. State Wolfpack star was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association. Brown was the 43rd player chosen overall in the draft and became the first county player in the NBA since Leland's Sam Pelham in late 70's.

Brown ended his senior year being named to the all-ACC firstteam, averaged 16.4 points and 8.8 rebounds per game to lead N.C. State to final 16 of NCAA tourney.

Kelly Stanaland (West) and Grover Gore (South) were recipients of the first annual Brunswick County student/athletes of year

Former West football star Corey Hankins signed with Catawba College after county player of year honors as a senior.

Hankins was a three-time allcounty, two-time all-WC and allarea performer for the Trojans.

South extended its school- record baseball win streak to 32 games by winning the first three games of the spring season.

South's Gene Doane listed among top 10 winningest b-ball coaches in state and won his 499th career game in the opening round of a Christmas holiday tournament at UNCW.

Former West football standout Gary Gore signed a grant with Lees-McRae JUCO. As a senior, Gore was an all-WC, all-county and allarea perfomer.

Randy Daniels (200-meters) and Jeff Bernard (triple jump) set West track records in their respective

Former West pitcher Matt Gore



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ranked third in the NCAA Division I with a 0.89 earned run average and a 5-0 record.

Also in West baseball, the Trojans captured their first county diamond title in four years.

The West golf team also had perhaps its best year ever finishing fouth in the state tournament in Chapel Hill.

The West softball team won its first conference championship in eight years and advanced to the state playoffs for the first time in four seasons. The Lady Trojans rolled all the way to the eastern 2-A semifinals before bowing.

Frank Bolick (Holden Beach) and his Myrtle Beach partner won the S.C. Volvo tennis league doubles state title. Also, county resident Marlen McWilliams advanced to the national Senior Olympics as a R.J. Johnson was named the top

athlete at North and Kelly Stanaland was a repeat winner as top student/ athlete at West.

Brunswick County hosted the

N.C. Dixie Boys (ages 13-14) baseball tournament won by Stanley.

In other county baseball news. Leland advanced to the state finals of the Dixie Youth Baseball (ages 11-12) tourney in Bessemer City.

The prep football season started with a bang in Brunswick County. During the second week of the season, all three county teams were winners by a shutout for the first time ever.

West won the county football title and went on to the state playoffs for the second straight year.

Jeff Bernard received county player of the year honors while also being the first West gridder selected to the Shrine Bowl football game. He was also only the second county player to receive the honor.

As the year ended, former West basketball coaching great Gary Taylor died at age 45. Taylor compiled a seven-year coaching record of 152-23 and 72-2 at home. He led Trojan teams in the 70's to state, district and conference championships.



JEFF BERNARD



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