

SPORTING SCENE

North Brunswick To Host Waccamaw Tourney Finals

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

For the first time in over a decade, Brunswick County will be the host site for a conference basketball championship.

The Waccamaw 2-A Conference boys' and girls tournament final and semifinal rounds will be held at North Brunswick during the last week of February.

The opening round of the WC tourney will be Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25-26, at two different sites for both the boys' and girls' divisions.

The first and second-place regular season finishers will serve as host sites for the opening round. South Brunswick is one likely choice for one of the boys' tourney sites while Fairmont looks to have a lock as one of the girls' hosts.

Second-place West Brunswick still has the inside track for the second boys' site with a one-game lead over Fairmont and a two-game edge over Whiteville.

The second girls' tournament site remains wide open with four teams—West and South Brunswick, Whiteville and West Columbus—all within a half-game of the other as the regular season heads for the home stretch.

Don't look for many major upsets in the WC tournament. The top four boys' and girls' regular-season finishers will all advance to the state playoffs unless one of the fifth through eighth-place teams wins the tourney.

There has been a clear division of talent among both boys and girls in the Waccamaw Conference this season. Both divisions have four or five teams battling for a top-four finish. There is a considerable drop to the next three or four teams in the eight-member league.

The East Bladen boys might be the biggest surprise in the tournament. The Cougars, although only 4-5 in the league and 7-7 overall this year, have long been an excellent tournament and playoff team under veteran coach Sam Boger.

Young Lady Cougars Challenge For Top

Several weeks ago the youth movement of West Brunswick female athletics was mentioned here.

It looks as though Lady Trojans teams in tennis, volleyball, basketball, track and softball aren't the only young squads in the neighborhood after all.

The South Brunswick girls' basketball team, under the direction of first-year coach Mike Isenberg, might be the youngest of any girls' athletic team in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

The Lady Cougars feature five freshmen and six sophomores on a 14-player roster.

And not only is the South girls' team young, they are headed toward what will likely be their best cage season in school history with a current 6-3 league mark and 10-8 overall record.

"Some coaches say I substitute too much," said Isenberg following his team's win over West Columbus last Friday. "But anytime I can get all of them into a game and get the experience I try to let them in."

The improvement of the girls' cage team at South as come quickly as a young squad and new coach have worked well together.

"With a new coach I think they are getting more and more used to what I want them to do," said Isenberg. "I don't have a complicated gameplan but just ask them to give 100 percent all the time."

"There was never an attitude problem on the team when I began," said Isenberg, who is also a Southport attorney. "It's just they have never been used to winning and you have to teach them that they can win."

The Lady Cougar front court is beginning to show improvement as the

regular-season winds down. It is that aspect of the game that Isenberg considers to be his team's weak spot.

"We also starting to get a little better play from the big girls because that's where we've really been inexperienced. Blocking out and rebounding are still our weaknesses but we're improving."

"On given nights our defense can really look good but we're having to work hard to hit the boards and get the rebounds. Sometimes when we block out good under the basket, we let the ball get away."

WACCAMAW 2-A CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS AS OF MONDAY, FEB. 11

Boys			Girls		
Team	Conf.	Overall	Team	Conf.	Overall
South Brunswick	10-0	16-3	Fairmont	10-0	15-1
West Brunswick	8-2	16-3	West Brunswick	6-3	13-4
Fairmont	7-3	17-3	South Brunswick	6-3	10-8
Whiteville	6-4	13-5	Whiteville	6-4	12-7
East Bladen	4-5	7-7	West Columbus	7-5	13-7
North Brunswick	2-8	6-12	South Robeson	2-6	4-9
South Robeson	1-8	5-14	East Bladen	2-7	3-11
West Columbus	1-10	6-12	North Brunswick	0-10	1-16

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'88 Mazda Pickup	'86 Dodge Ram 50 Pickup	'86 Buick Estate Wagon
'89 Pontiac Grand-Am	'87 Ford Crown Victoria	'86 Chevy Cavalier
'85 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera	'87 Chevy Pickup	'85 Dodge Work Van
'85 Chevy Monte Carlo SS	'87 Oldsmobile Cutlass Cruiser	'86 Plymouth Colt Wagon

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This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- Brunswick County Middle School Basketball Tournament, boys' and girls' finals at Shallotte Middle School

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- North Brunswick at West Brunswick; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.
- North Brunswick in 1-A—2-A Eastern Regional Prep Wrestling Tournament at Dixon High School, continues through Saturday

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- West Brunswick Spring Sports Booster Golf Tournament at Brick Landing Plantation, 9 a.m.
- Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League at Shallotte, Leland and South Brunswick Middle Schools; ages 8 and under, 9-11 a.m.; ages 9-13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- Men's Church Basketball League Tournament at Waccamaw School, opening-round games at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- West Brunswick at East Bladen; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.
- South Robeson at North Brunswick; JV, girls' and boys' basketball, 5 p.m.
- Brunswick County Co-Ed Volleyball League at Shallotte Middle School
 Roberto's Pizza vs. Milliken's, 7 p.m.
 Larry's Bar vs. Beach Bums, 7:45 p.m.
 Gene's Body Shop vs. Brunswick C. College, 8:30 p.m.
 Tar Heels vs. Richard Jones Construction, 9:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- Brunswick County Men's Basketball League at Shallotte Middle School
 Sonics vs. Warriors, 7 p.m.
 Rockets vs. Igloo Freeze, 8:15 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list your sporting contest call or write the *Beacon* with schedules and details.

Calvary Remains On Top In Church League Hoops

Calvary Baptist ripped Zion Baptist 85-40 last Monday at Waccamaw School to remain in first place in the Brunswick County Men's Church Basketball League.

In other league games last week, Shallotte Presbyterian maintained a firm grip on second place with a 47-45 edging of Longwood Baptist. Also, Shallotte First Baptist defeated Camp Methodist 43-37.

The league's post-season tournament begins Monday at Waccamaw following this week's final regular-

season games. Two games will be played in the opening round at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Tournament pairings won't be known until the end of the regular season.

Brunswick County Men's Church Basketball League Standings

Prior to games Monday, Feb. 11

Team	W	L
Calvary Baptist	8	1
Shallotte Presbyterian	7	2
Zion Baptist	5	4
Shallotte First Baptist	3	6
Longwood Baptist	2	7
Camp Methodist	2	7