

LADY COUGS ROLL PAST NORTH

South Brunswick Girls Rip West Columbus For Fourth Straight Win

BY JOHNNY CRAIG
The momentum of the South Brunswick girls' basketball team continued to snowball last week as the Lady Cougars ripped North

Brunswick and West Columbus for their fourth straight win. South romped visiting West Columbus 62-29 on Friday after cruising to a 65-35 win over host

North Brunswick last Tuesday. The current Lady Cougar win streak has brought them within a game of second-place of West Brunswick with a 6-3 league record and a 10-8 overall mark.

West Columbus

South Brunswick avenged an earlier loss to West Columbus in relentless fashion Friday dominating the contest in the second half for an easy 62-29 win over the Lady Vikings.

Tasha Sellers scored 15 points and Alison Cumbee 10 to lead South Brunswick.

Jana Bowen led West Columbus (7-5, 13-7) with 10 points and Amy Powell added seven.

"Tonight is the best game we've had since our loss to West Brunswick on Jan. 25," said first-year South Brunswick coach Mike Isenberg. "We opened the second half with a pressing defense and it really worked well. We were only ahead by 11 points at the half and I was a little reluctant about opening the second half with a press. I was afraid that if we didn't run the press just right, West Columbus might get some easy layups."

As result, the Lady Cougars outscored West Columbus 12-2 to open the half with a 40-19 lead. Erika Bryant keyed the early spurt scoring the first four points and by the end of the quarter, South Brunswick held a 42-23 advantage.

As the rout grew more evident in the second half, Isenberg cleared his bench while also giving playing time to senior center Tessa Lee, last year's Brunswick County player of the year.

"We're continuing to work Tessa back into the lineup," said Isenberg. "She had surgery about the time preseason practice began and now she's recovering from the flu. She's good enough to be a starter but she hasn't been back in practice but two weeks now."

"I was very pleased with our man-to-man defense tonight. We really gave West Columbus trouble getting their shots off. Offensively, we fought through their screens well to get some easy baskets."

Tameka Davis (freshman point guard) came in and did a good job when starter Alison Cumbee fouled out.

South Brunswick opened the final period with an 11-0 run that extended its advantage to 53-23.

The Lady Cougars continued to build on their lead at the free throw line during a 1:45 stretch midway in the fourth quarter scoring six of eight points from the charity stripe.

Score By Quarters

West Columbus 6 11 6 6—29
South Brunswick 12 16 14 20—62

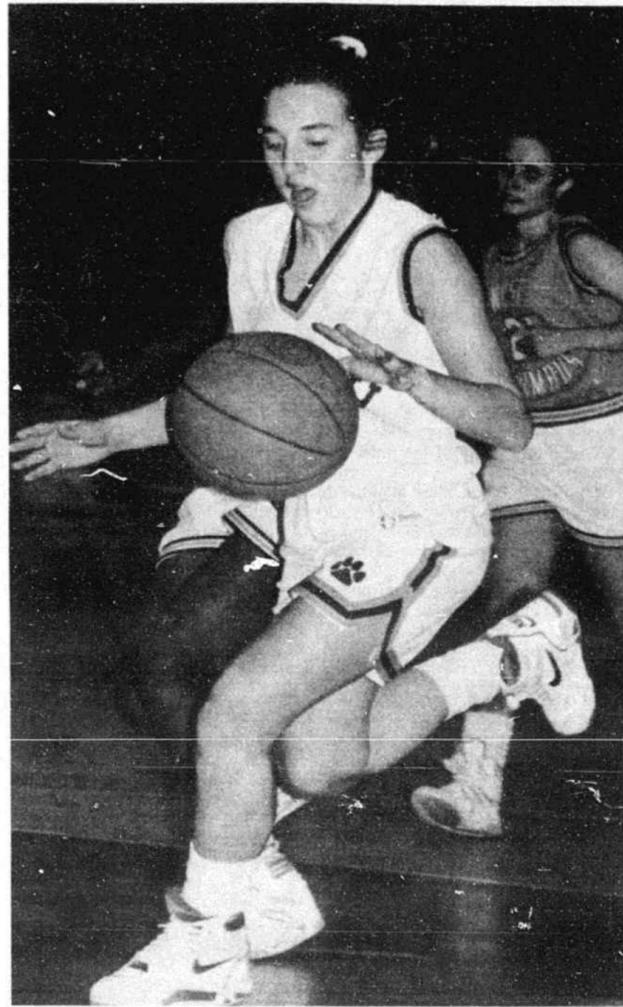
West Columbus scoring: Everette 3, Wooten 2, Hardin 6, Powell 7, Smith 1, Bowen 10.

South Brunswick scoring: Cumbee 10, Hankins 8, Lee 8, Davis 7, Sellers 15, Brown 3, Coates 4, Bryant 7.

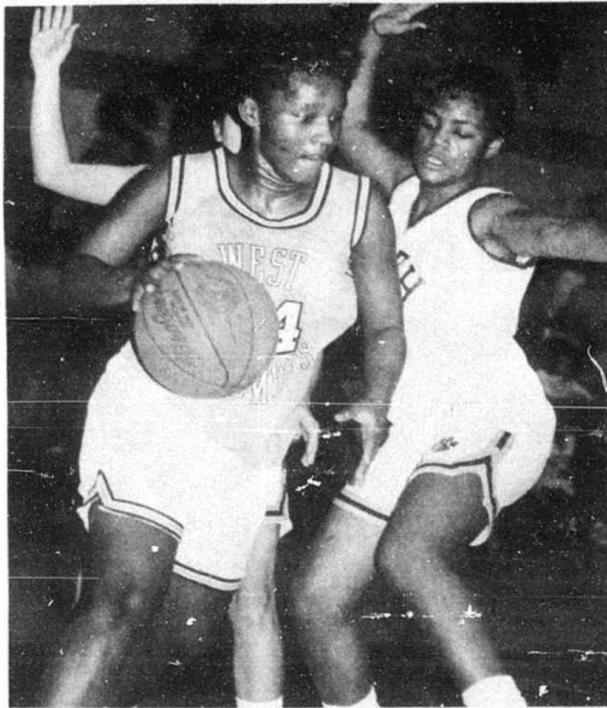
North Brunswick

Lee and Cumbee scored 13 points each in leading the Lady Cougars to their 65-35 win over North Brunswick.

Sellers and Erika Bryant followed with 10 points each as South Brunswick kept the Lady Scorpions (0-10, 1-16) winless in Waccamaw Conference play.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG
CUMBEE DRIVES—South Brunswick guard Alison Cumbee drives down the lane during the Lady Cougars' 62-29 romp over West Columbus last Friday in Waccamaw 2-A Conference play. Cumbee scored 10 points to help the South girls in their fourth straight win.



LADY COUGARS ROMP—Amy Powell controls the ball under the basket for West Columbus last Friday while being guarded by South Brunswick's Erika Bryant (right) in Waccamaw 2-A Conference play. The Lady Cougars rolled to a 62-29 win.

Lady Trojans Drop League Pair To South Robeson, Fairmont

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The West Brunswick Lady Trojans dropped back-to-back basketball games last week for the first time this season to Waccamaw 2-A Conference foes South Robeson and first-place Fairmont.

The West girls lost to Fairmont 64-52 last Tuesday and fell to South Robeson 44-40 on Friday.

The two losses dropped West Brunswick to 6-4 in the WC and 13-5 overall. The West girls are now in a four-way battle for second place in the league standings. South Brunswick (6-3) currently has a half-game edge over West Brunswick, Whiteville (6-4) and West Columbus (7-5).

The Lady Trojans continue league play Friday hosting North Brunswick then travel to East Bladen next Tuesday.

South Robeson

West Brunswick let an early 11-6 lead get away as South Robeson staged a second-half rally to hand the Lady Trojans their second loss of the week.

Chasity Oxendine scored 20 points and Taneta Killins added nine to lead the Lady Mustangs (3-6, 5-9).

"We got off to a good start but let a few bad breaks in the first half get us down," said West Brunswick coach Brenda Council. "We're just not playing with the same intensity as we did early in the season. It seems like we've hit a slump."

"We're going to have to hustle a lot more and reach back and get that desire to win we displayed early in the year. We are also going to have to crash the boards better to improve our rebounding."

South Robeson cut into West Brunswick's first-quarter lead by four points to trail by only 24-23 at halftime.

The Lady Mustangs continued to gain momentum while holding West Brunswick to only six points in the third period for a 33-30 lead.

South Robeson outscored the Lady Trojans 11-10 in the final quarter to hold on for only their third league win of the season.

Becky Buffkin led West Brun-

wick with 14 points and Cynthia Williams added 10.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 11 13 6 10—40
South Robeson 6 17 10 11—44

West Brunswick scoring: Buffkin 14, Williams 10, C. King 7, M. King 2, Detrie 4, Hankins 2, Morgan 1.

South Robeson scoring: Oxendine 20, Killins 9, McKoy 8, McLain 7.

Fairmont

Tonya Watson led three Lady Golden Tornadoes in double figures with 20 points to keep Fairmont unbeaten in Waccamaw Conference play last Tuesday with a 64-52 league win.

Jennifer Renfrow added 17 points and Shalonda Townsend 12 for Fairmont who improved to 10-0 in the WC and 15-1 overall.

Becky Buffkin scored 19 points and Christy King 11 to lead West Brunswick.

"We played a much better game this time around as compared to the last time we played Fairmont," said Council. "We committed some crucial turnovers late in the game which could have been caused by fatigue."

"We forced Fairmont into some

turnovers early which helped us get out to a quick lead. I guess we just ran out of gas."

The Lady Trojans grabbed a 16-12 lead in the first quarter but Fairmont used a 10-point scoring edge in the second period to take a 34-28 halftime advantage.

West Brunswick managed to cut into the Fairmont lead by three points in the third quarter to trail by 47-44 but the Lady Golden Tornadoes pulled away in the fourth period with a 17-8 scoring advantage.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 16 12 16 8—52
Fairmont 12 22 13 17—64

West Brunswick scoring: King 11, Buffkin 19, Detrie 3, Moore 2, Williams 9, Morgan 8.

Fairmont scoring: Watson 20, Renfrow 17, Townsend 12, Taylor 7, Page 8.

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