

**COUGARS EARN PLAYOFF BERTH**

**South Brunswick Pins West To Clinch County Wrestling Title**

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick's Cougars clinched the regular-season county high school wrestling championship last Friday night with a 42-21 victory over host West Brunswick.

The match was tied 21-21 after the 152-pound bout, but South Brunswick swept the final four weight classes with three pins and a decision to win going away.

"It's a super win for us," South Coach Don Millwood said. "The kids have worked hard and things have come together for them. Right now it puts us in the driver's seat to go into the dual team state tournament."

The victory actually clinched a South Brunswick berth in the state playoffs, which begins Feb. 2. South is 3-0 in county matches, while West Brunswick is 1-1-1 and North Brunswick is 0-3-1.

The Trojans and Cougars were scheduled to meet again today (Thursday) at South Brunswick High School. The teams will square off one more time Jan. 30 in the county tournament.

Millwood, in his first season coaching at South Brunswick, said his Cougars went into Friday's match with the goal of winning every weight class and not thinking about pinning their opponent.

"We felt like we were outmanned in places. We felt as long as we kept it close we had a chance to win," Millwood said.

Not only did South Brunswick stay close, the Cougars never trailed after taking a 12-0 lead with a forfeit win at 103 pounds and a Josh Larson pin at 112 pounds.

West Brunswick's Chris Jackson, Barry Johnson and Al Johnson won the next three matches by decision to cut the South Brunswick lead to 12-9. But a win by Justin Rohde at 135 and forfeit at 140 rebuilt the Cougar lead to 21-9.

West tied the score at 21-21 with back-to-back pins by Ja Mitchell and Eric Andreis before South took over. The Cougars won the final four weight classes, getting pins from Phillip Craven, Jerry Galloway and Terry Galloway and a win by Craig Frazier.

Millwood said he was particularly proud of freshman Brian Bracey, even though he lost his 125-pound match to West's Barry Johnson. "He did a super, super job not getting pinned. He wrestled the whole six minutes."

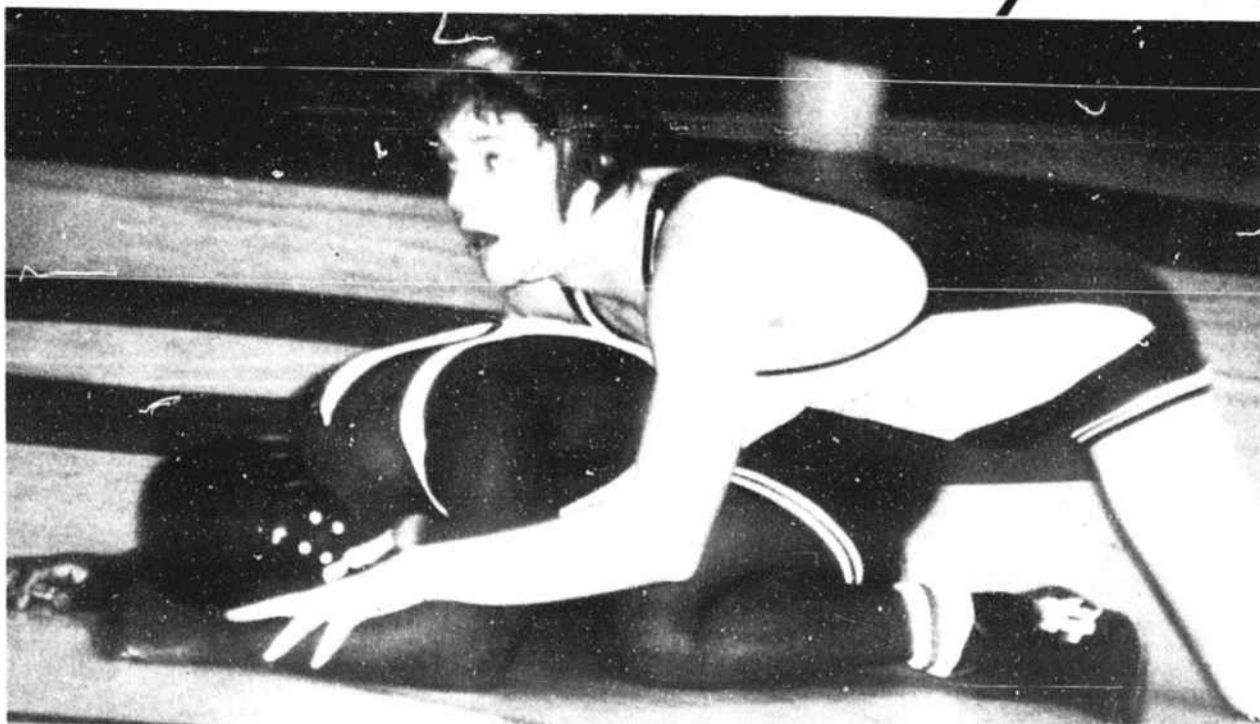
West Brunswick Coach Joe Noble said he was generally pleased with his team's effort. He said the match was closer than the final score indicated, but South deserved to win.

"They've got a real good team. I thought both teams wrestled extremely well," Noble said. "You can tell they've learned from the extra matches they've had."

Noble predicted a closer score between West and South when the teams meet in the county tournament next Saturday at North. "It's going to be a better match next time. By the time it gets to the county tournament, it's going to be a battle."

With the victory, South Brunswick improved its season record to 15-4. West Brunswick fell to 7-8-1.

In other county matches last week, South posted a 44-24 win



WEST BRUNSWICK'S Ja Mitchell (top) looks to Coach Joe Noble for advice during his match Friday with South Brunswick's Carnell Jones.

over North Brunswick last Thursday, and West's Trojans defeated the visiting Scorpions 43-24 last Tuesday.

West Brunswick will host the North Carolina/South Carolina Challenge this Saturday starting at 10 a.m. The three county schools will wrestle Socastee, Aynor and Myrtle Beach, with the winner determined by total points.

**West-South Results**

103 pounds: Cordle (SB) won by forfeit; 112: Larson (SB) pinned Cokeley, 2:32; 119: Jackson (WB)

def. Folding, 12-10; 125: B. Johnson (WB) def. Bracey, 13-7; 130: A. Johnson (WB) def. May, 13-11; 135: Rohde (SB) def. Woodard, 9-4; 140: Haughn (SB) won by forfeit; 145: Mitchell (WB) pinned Jones, 2:47; 152: Andreis (WB) pinned A. Frazier, 3:27; 160: Craven (SB) pinned Stanley, 1:10; 171: C. Frazier (SB) def. Hobbs, 17-13; 189: J. Galloway (SB) pinned Crawford, 1:45; Hwt: T. Galloway (SB) pinned Brooks, 4:53.

**South-North Results**

103 pounds: Arnold (SB) pinned Alston, 4:32; 112: Cordle (SB) won by forfeit; 119: Larson (SB) won by

forfeit; 125: Folding (SB) won by forfeit; 130: Kennedy (NB) def. Bracey, 15-5; 135: Gancy (NB) def. May, 9-1; 140: Rohde (SB) def. Rivenbark, 12-4; 145: Haughn (SB) def. Chadwick, 15-0; 152: McBride (NB) pinned A. Frazier, 1:48; 160: Craven (SB) pinned Beasley, 1:32; 171: Dorsey (NB) pinned Jones, 4:47; 189: C. Frazier (SB) pinned King, 1:20; Hwt: Gibbs (NB) pinned Sellers.

**West-North Results**

103 pounds: Alston (NB) won by forfeit; 112: Cokeley (WB) won by forfeit; 119: Jackson (WB) pinned Sweeny, 5:24; 125: B. Johnson



JOSH LARSON of South Brunswick (top) puts the squeeze on West's Dexter Cokeley in their 112-pound bout Friday night.

**Southport Boxer Wins Title**

Martin Ray of Southport won a state boxing title in the 125-pound novice division last week at the North Carolina State Boxing Championships in Morehead City.

The 19-year-old Ray, who fights out of Joyner's Boxing Club in Southport, was unopposed in his class, according to boxing club president Larry Joyner.

"This state championship was something very special Martin because he celebrated his 19th birthday January 15th, the same day as Martin Luther King Jr.," Joyner said. "Martin is a special individual, and I'm proud of him."

The state title is the third for Joyner's Boxing Club. James Scott and Manuel Williams won state titles in 1990.

Other boxers from Joyner's club who made the trip to Morehead City last week were Nasir and Hakim Clemmons of Southport. They did not compete at the state championships.

The Southport club was joined in Morehead City by boxers from Greensboro, Durham, Wilmington, Charlotte, Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Rutherfordton, Asheville and Cherry Point.

(WB) def. Kennedy, 6-4; 130: Cox (NB) def. A. Johnson, 8-6; 135: Gancy (NB) def. Woodard, 8-3; 140: Mitchell (WB) pinned Rivenbark, 1:16; 145: Chadwick (NB) pinned Lewis, 1:27; 152: Andreis (WB) def. McBride, 16-7; 160: Stanley (WB) pinned Beasley, 5:52; 171: Hobbs (WB) pinned Dorsey, 3:20; 189: Gibbs (NB) pinned Jones, 1:03; Hwt: Brooks (WB) won by forfeit.

**Scorpion Wrestlers Sweep Lejeune Meet**

North Brunswick's wrestling team rebounded from consecutive losses to South Brunswick and West Brunswick last week with a tri-meet sweep Friday night at Lejeune.

North pounded Rosewood 66-6 and whipped host Devilpups 54-18. Leading the way for the Scorpions were Dante Alston, Kevin Cox, Mike Gancy, Dennis Rivenbark, Josh Chadwick, Casey McBride, George Beasley, Shannon Dorsey and Dwaun Gibbs, all of whom finished the match 2-0.

The Scorpions will compete in the North Carolina/South Carolina Challenge Saturday at West Brunswick. North Brunswick hosts this year's Brunswick County Tournament Jan. 30.

**West Trojans Lead Wachovia Standings**

West Brunswick High School leads the Waccamaw 2-A Conference standings in the annual Wachovia Trophy competition after the fall sports season.

The trophy, sponsored annually by Wachovia Bank and sanctioned by the N.C. High School Athletic Association, recognizes high school sports programs that achieve the best overall performance within their respective conferences.

Points are awarded based on participation and standings in conference play. West Brunswick has 22.5 points after winning league titles in volleyball and girls' tennis and finishing second in football.

Next is conference football champ Whiteville with 19 points, Fairmont with 16.5, South Brunswick with 15, West Columbus with 13, East Bladen with 12, South Robeson with five and North Brunswick with two.

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