

REGULAR SEASON ENDS

Local Prep Wrestlers Ready For Eastern Regional Tourney

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County high school wrestlers are hoping for a good showing when they compete in the North Carolina Eastern 1-A/2-A Regional Tournament Friday and Saturday at Williamston.

A strong finish at regionals means a ticket to the state wrestling championships next week at the Greensboro Coliseum. The top four finishers in each weight class will advance.

"We're looking forward to the regionals," South Brunswick Coach Don Millwood said Monday. "We think we have several young men that will do real well and go on to the state meet."

The county's prep grapplers will have to go a long way to top last year's performance, when 12 of them qualified for the state tournament.

West Brunswick finished fourth in the 18-team regional tournament last year and sent five of its wrestlers to Greensboro. Four qualified from North Brunswick and three from South Brunswick.

Five of the 12 state qualifiers from last year will return to the regional tournament this year, including three-time county tournament champion Eric Andreis of West Brunswick. Andreis is the county's top 152-pounder.

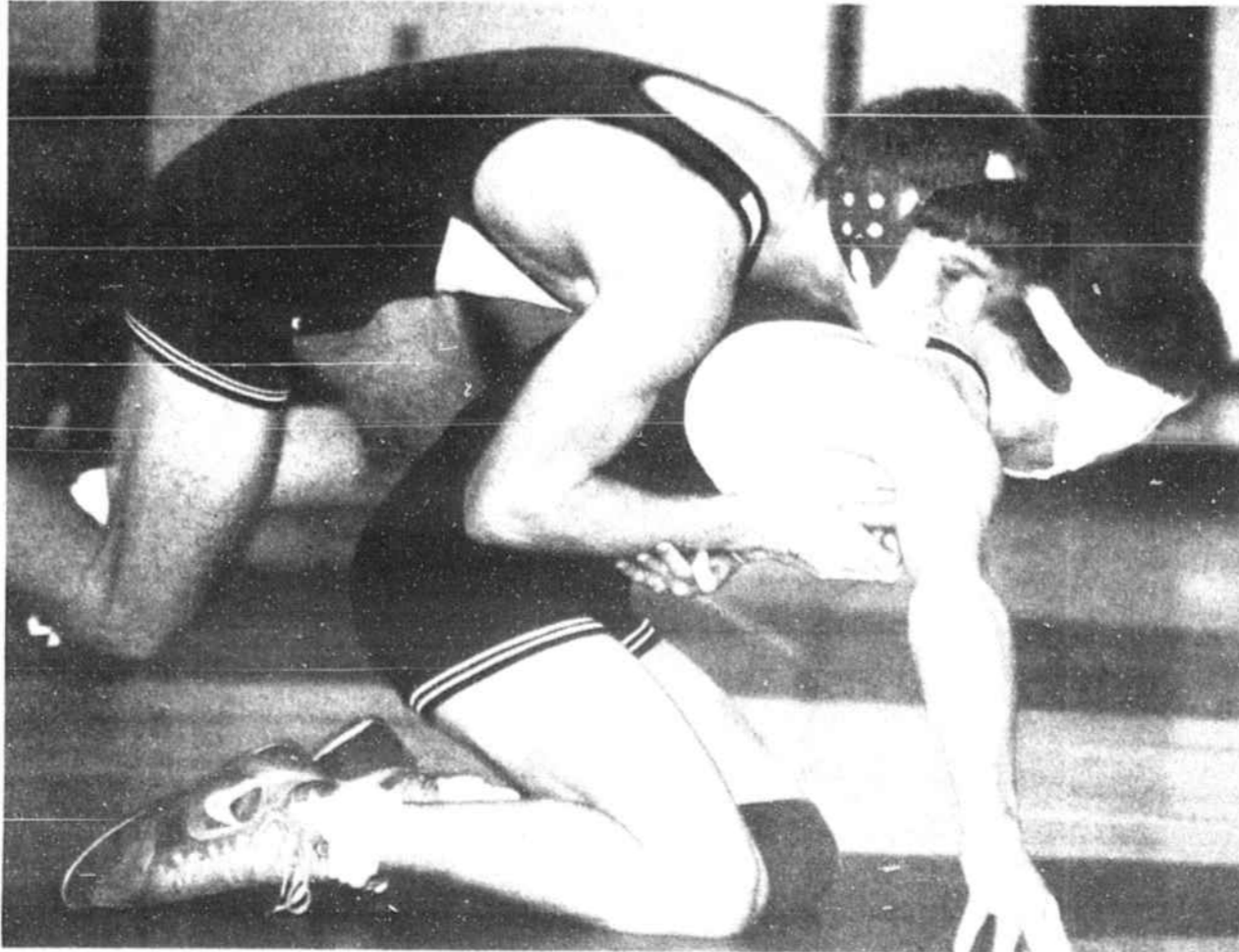
Also returning to Williamston will be North sophomore Casey McBride, who was the big surprise at last year's eastern regional when he placed fourth at 135 pounds. McBride won the county championship this season at 145.

South's three state qualifiers in 1992 captured individual county titles this season as the team's senior tri-captains. Ty Haughn, Phillip Craven and Craig Frazier led South to the county regular-season and tournament titles.

Coaches were expected to meet Wednesday night in Williamston to set the seedings for the regional tournament. Competition will be held Friday night and all day Saturday.

North Brunswick Coach Mike Dumas said Tuesday he's hoping three or four of his wrestlers are seeded high and do well enough at the regional meet to qualify for states.

"I believe I've got two that could go, possibly three or four," he said. "If I get three or four I'll be super happy."



WEST BRUNSWICK WRESTLER Eric Andreis (top) will be one of the favorites to place high at this weekend's N.C. Eastern Regional Tournament. The photo was taken during a recent match with Aynor's Brandon Carroll.

Dumas said North Brunswick's match Saturday at Myrtle Beach wasn't much of a match at all. Myrtle Beach only fielded about six wrestlers and forfeited the rest of the weight classes.

Conway was scheduled to wrestle but was compet-

ing in a regional tournament. St. James High of Charleston had transportation problems and didn't show up for the match.

"We got all souped up to go down there and didn't get anything out of it," Dumas said. "We'll go into the

regionals this weekend without any real mat experience for two weeks. That may work to our advantage and it may not."

North Brunswick ended the regular season 6-17-1.

South Bumped in Playoffs

South Brunswick crushed first-round opponent Edenton Holmes but fell to Dixon in the state 1-A/2-A dual team wrestling playoffs last Tuesday at Dixon High School.

The Cougars defeated Edenton's Aces in the opening round 58-8 before losing a tough match to the Dixon Bulldogs 33-24. The Cougars finished the season 20-6, with three of the six losses to Dixon.

"We were a little frustrated with that," Coach Millwood said. "We felt like we had a chance to beat them Tuesday night but we didn't quite do it. They have a good team."

After defeating Currituck 33-27 Thursday, Dixon lost its fourth-round playoff match 42-16 to eventual state champion East Davidson.

Despite the losses to Dixon, Millwood said he was happy with his team's performance. "I'm really, really tickled with the way they got after it and pulled together. We did real well for as long as we've been wrestling."

Braves Scalp Trojans

West Brunswick's wrestling squad saw its regular season come to a disappointing conclusion last Wednesday in a 41-26 loss to visiting Socastee.

The Braves recorded just two pins compared to three for the Trojans, but Socastee picked up 18 free points by winning three divisions by forfeit.

West Brunswick was without the services of 125-pounder Barry Johnson and 130-pounder Al Johnson, who sat out for disciplinary reasons. The Trojans finished the regular season 10-12-1.

West-Socastee Results

103 pounds: Holmes (S) won by forfeit; 112: Cokerley (W) def. Boyd, 11-2; 119: Jackson (W) def. Williams, 13-1; 125: Perez (S) won by forfeit; 130: McDonald (S) won by forfeit; 135: Sawicky (S) def. Woodard, 17-2; 140: Radecke (S) pinned Lewis, :28; 145: Mitchell (W) pinned Hickman, :48; 152: Walker (S) def. Andreis, 4-3; 160: Young (S) def. Stanley, 4-2; 171: Sinclair (S) pinned Register, :56; 189: Crawford (W) pinned Deichelbor, 2:52; Hwt: Brooks (W) pinned Dishneau, 1:06.

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- Brunswick County Men's Basketball League at Charlotte Middle School: Cars of Distinction vs. Natural Lites, 7 p.m.; UCB Nets vs. Young Guns, 8:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- West Brunswick hosts South Robeson in basketball, 5 p.m.
- North Brunswick at East Bladen in basketball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts West Columbus in basketball, 5 p.m.
- N.C. Eastern Regional High School Wrestling Tournament, Williamston.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Basketball League at Waccamaw Elementary School: Jennies Branch vs. Zion Baptist, 6:30 p.m.; Mount Olive vs. Ocean View, 7:30 p.m.; Emanuel Outreach vs. Camp Methodist, 8:30 p.m.; Shallotte Presbyterian vs. Friendship Baptist, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- N.C. Eastern Regional High School Wrestling Tournament, Williamston.
- Shallotte Babe Ruth League holds youth baseball and softball registration, Shallotte American Legion Building, 10 a.m. until noon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- North Brunswick hosts Whiteville in basketball, 5 p.m.
- West Brunswick at West Columbus in basketball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick at South Robeson in basketball, 5 p.m.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Basketball League at Waccamaw Elementary School: Friendship Baptist vs. Camp Methodist, 7 p.m.; Seaside Methodist vs. Zion Baptist, 8 p.m.; Calvary Baptist vs. Shallotte Presbyterian, 9 p.m.
- Brunswick County Co-Rec Volleyball League at Shallotte Middle School: Kari's Team vs. Rita's Team, 7 p.m.; Roberto's Pizza vs. Richard Jones Construction, 7:50 p.m.; Richard Jones Construction vs. Gene's Auto Body, 8:40 p.m.; A&A Auto Rentals vs. Brunswick Community College, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- Brunswick County Men's Basketball League at Charlotte Middle School: Young Guns vs. Natural Lites, 7 p.m.; Turntables vs. UCB Nets, 8:15 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

SPORTING SCENE

The Russians Are Coming To Play America's Game

The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming! With apologies to Paul Revere, the Russian Olympic Baseball Team will be coming to Shallotte this spring to take on West Brunswick's baseball team in what will probably be the biggest exhibition game ever played in these parts.

Mark it on your calendar, folks, in black Magic Marker. The Russians will invade Shallotte Friday, April 9.

West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson assures me this isn't a junior national team or anything bogus. "This is the real thing," he said. "We're going to be playing a bunch of 22-year-olds."

Wow! The Russian Olympic Baseball Team coming to Shallotte of all places. The high school, and the community in general, should really go out of its way to do something special for the visitors.

"I think playing them, no matter what the score is, will create a lot of community interest here," Alderson said. "We're going to try to build it up real big and get a lot of people out here for that night game."

"It's something the kids will be able to look back on when they're our age and say, 'We played the Russians.' It's going to be good for the community and the kids."

So how will the Trojans stack up against the Russian Olympic squad? Well, practice doesn't officially start until Monday, but West Brunswick should have a good baseball team this year.

"We should be decent," Alderson said. "We only lost three starters last year and everybody else is back. But baseball's funny. You never really know what might happen."

The Trojans have been to the state playoffs each of the last two years, and advanced all the way to the Eastern N.C. Championship last season.

Returners will include last year's co-county players of the year, ace pitcher Scott Gore and power-hitting catcher Bryan Fleming.

Baseball season begins in mid-March. West will have pre-season scrimmages with New Hanover and South Columbus. The Trojans have two games with Waccamaw Academy and one with Dillon, S.C., before opening the conference slate against Whiteville.



Doug Rutter Sports Editor

New Press Box

A new press box is under construction at the West Brunswick baseball field, and from all appearances it's going to be a real nice one when it's completed.

The second floor of the building is about 30 feet long and 12 feet wide. That includes a press box area and conference room.

Below will be a concession stand, and possibly restrooms.

Folks sitting in the press box this year won't have to look through chain-link fence like they have in the past. The fence has been cut out. The press box crew will watch the game through large windows this year.

The new building also will be loved by concession stand operators. They'll actually be able to watch the games this season. In the past, the snack stand has faced away from the field.

"We've had a lot of support here. A lot of people have donated materials and labor. We only have about \$1,400 in it now," Alderson said last week.

Windows, vinyl siding and shingles were donated, and press box project coordinators Howard Benton and Danny Gore have been able to get good prices on cinder block and lumber.

There's even a phone line from the press box to the Trojan dugout. It should be great for stealing signs (just kidding) or alerting the coach when one of his outfielders has dozed off.

Alderson says the new box will be the best in the Waccamaw Conference. I'd like to say I'll miss the old one, but I'd be lying. Of course, it did provide easy access to the popcorn machine.

Turntables Drop Guns In Men's Hoop League

The Turntables improved to 10-0 in the Brunswick County Men's Basketball League last Thursday night at Shallotte Middle School with a 69-65 victory over the third-place Young Guns.

Jeff Johnson scored 21 points to lead the Turntables, which presently hold a two-game lead in the league standings. Chris Johnson had 30 points for the Young Guns, who fell to 6-4.

In other action Thursday, Greg White scored 28 points to lead the Natural Lites to an 87-82 win over the Warriors. Joe Vereen had 27 points in a losing cause for the Warriors.

Last Wednesday, the Lakers im-

proved to 8-2 with a 109-91 victory over Cars of Distinction. William Johnson led the Lakers with 34 points, and Shelton Vereen had 29 for the Cars.

Also on Wednesday, Jeff Register scored 18 points to lead the UCB Nets to a narrow 72-69 win over the Natural Lites. White again led the Lites with 23 points.

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Turntables	10	0
Lakers	9	2
Young Guns	6	4
UCB Nets	3	5
Cars of Dist.	3	7
Warriors	2	7
Natural Lites	2	8

Ball Honored For Walking

Robert Ball of Ocean Isle Beach has been awarded a "SilverStriders" lapel pin for walking 100 miles in the North Carolina "SilverStriders" Walking Program.

SilverStriders is an individual walking program for adults 50 years and older. It was developed by North Carolina Senior Games to help senior citizens stay healthy and active.

Free log books are available to record miles or minutes walked so walkers can receive special gifts and awards. Log books also contain tips and helpful information about walking.

For more information on SilverStriders, call Tina Pritchard at the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

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