

TORNADOES BOUNCE TROJANS

West Brunswick Cagers Rally Past South Robeson 58-55

BY DOUG RUTTER
West Brunswick rallied from a six-point, fourth-quarter deficit Friday to post a 58-55 victory over visiting South Robeson in Waccamaw 2-A Conference boys' basketball. The Trojans overcame shaky play at times to avenge a 55-50 loss earlier this year at South Robeson. The home win also kept the Trojans' state playoff hopes alive.

"I didn't feel like we really outplayed them tonight but we did when we had to," West Brunswick Coach Billy Mims said. "I feel very fortunate that we won the game."

West Brunswick junior Anthony Moody led the fourth-quarter comeback with eight points and finished with a team-high 16 in the game. Lonnie Mitchell added 14 and Timmy Daniels tossed in 11 for the Trojans.

South Robeson center Dennis

Hunt played an outstanding game for the Mustangs, leading all scorers with 23 points. Steven Fletcher added 12 for the visitors.

West improved to 5-5 in the conference. The Trojans opened this week's play tied with Whiteville for fourth place in the league and very much alive in the chase for one of the Waccamaw's four playoff berths.

"For us to make a run at the end we're going to have to win our home games," Mims said. The Trojans, 4-3 at home this season, have home games remaining against North Brunswick and South Brunswick.

West was scheduled to travel to Cerro Gordo Tuesday night for a league game with third-place West Columbus. The Trojans will host North Brunswick Friday.

On Friday, West Brunswick

trailed 4-2 early but scored 10 unanswered points to lead 12-4 with two minutes left in the first quarter. Mitchell started the run with three straight baskets, and had seven of his 14 points in the first period.

West led 15-5 with 52 seconds in the quarter, but South Robeson scored 12 straight points to take a 17-15 lead with 5:36 remaining in the first half. Hunt led the charge with nine points, and Fletcher added a three-pointer.

The Trojans tied the score at 22-22 on a three-point play by Daniels with 3:28 left in the half. West then scored six of the quarter's final nine points to lead 28-25 at intermission.

South Robeson opened the second half with a 6-0 flurry, but West came back to tie the score at 33-33 on a Mitchell free throw at the 3:15 mark. Hunt's layup at the buzzer gave the Mustangs a 39-35 lead going into the fourth quarter.

After South Robeson bumped its lead to 41-35 early in the final period, West Brunswick started coming back from its fourth and largest deficit of the contest.

The Trojans scored four points off four straight Mustang turnovers to cut the South Robeson advantage to two. Eric Johnson's three-pointer with 5:16 remaining cut the Mustang lead to 43-42.

After a three-pointer by Robeson's Fletcher, West tied the game at 46-46 on Daniels layup. The Mustangs pushed their lead back to three points, 51-48, on a three-pointer by Dontavid Graham with 3:04 to play.

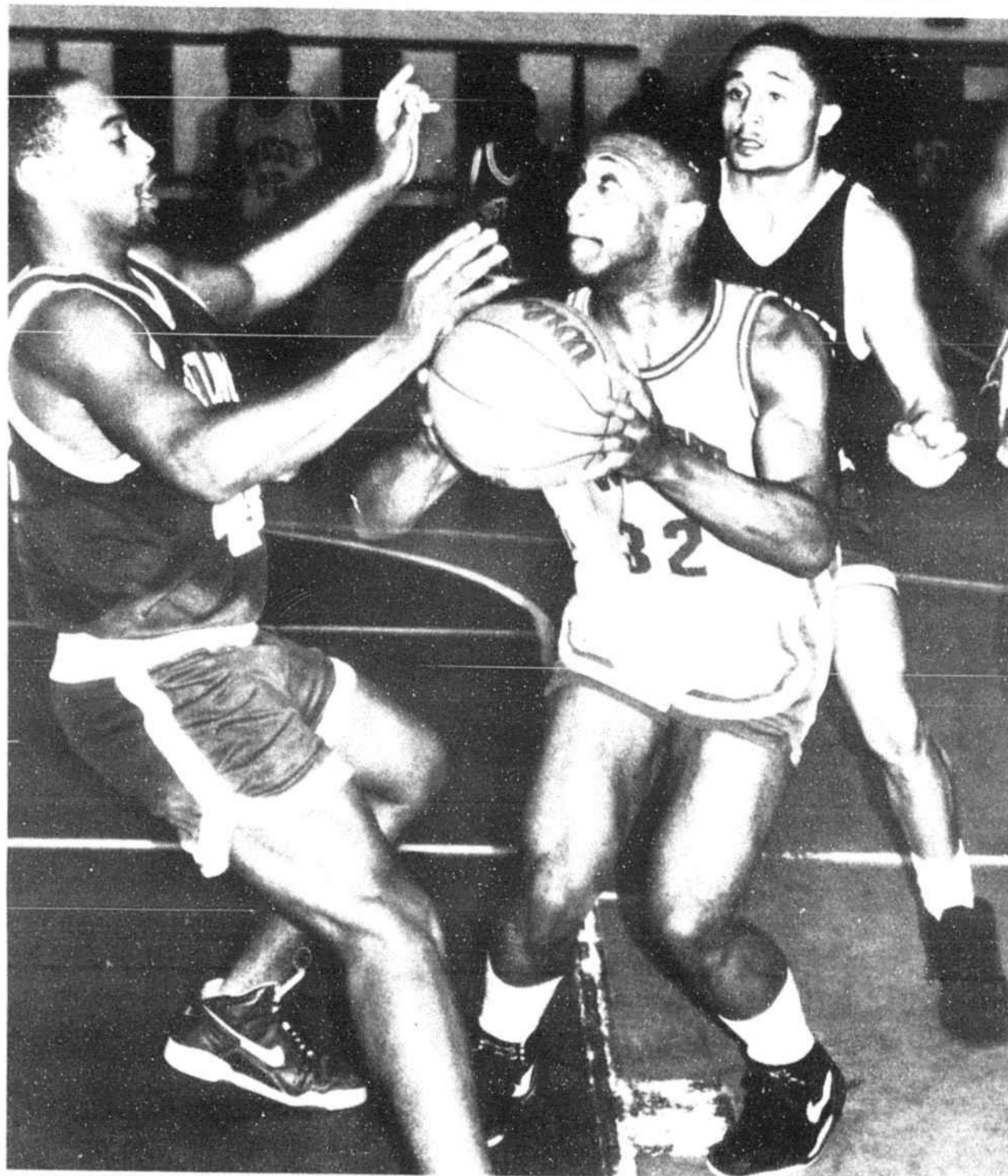
Following a finger roll by Mitchell, the Trojans took the lead for good on a Moody bucket with 1:58 remaining. Mitchell added another layup to give West a 54-51 lead.

West's Johnson then brought the home crowd to its feet with a steal at midcourt and a spectacular, behind-the-back pass to Moody who finished the play with a layup at the 1:05 mark.

South Robeson got a quick basket from Hunt, and then cut the Trojan lead to 56-55 on a baseline jumper by Fletcher with 25 seconds on the clock.

Following a timeout, West Brunswick beat South Robeson full-court press and Daniels converted a layup with 19 seconds left to bump the Trojan lead back to three points.

West Brunswick missed four of four free throws in the final 32 seconds, but South Robeson couldn't take advantage of the poor shooting.



TROJAN TIMMY DANIELS (32) takes the ball to the basket against South Robeson Friday. Defending are Vaughn Alford (left) and Keith Hunt.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER



WEST'S ERIC JOHNSON (20) looks to pass to a teammate while being defended by South Robeson guard Dontavid Graham.

South Cougars Sweep Vikings

South Brunswick swept visiting West Columbus Friday night in Waccamaw 2-A Conference high school basketball action.

The Lady Cougars, ranked second in the state 2-A class, improved to 10-0 in the league and 19-0 overall with a 42-29 win. LaTonya Hankins and Jenny Fullwood scored nine points each to lead South Brunswick.

In the boys' game, Josh White scored 25 points to lead the Cougars to a 74-69 win over the Vikings.

Kevin Smith added 15 points and Jeff Simon scored 14 as South notched its fourth straight conference win and improved to 8-2 in the league and 13-6 overall.

South Brunswick led 23-17 after one quarter and held a 37-32 advantage at halftime. Coach Gene Doane's Cougars led 57-50 going into the final quarter. The game wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

South led 71-59 with 27 seconds remaining. The Cougars were whistled for two technical fouls with 18 seconds left and the Vikings also converted a three-point play in the closing moments.

"We're getting better doing the little things," Doane said. "The team play is much better."

White, the region's leading high school scorer at better than 23 points per game, netted 25 Friday despite an off night from the perimeter.

"You've got to understand," Doane said. "He's a marked man every time he goes out on the court."

In the junior varsity game, South defeated West Columbus 75-66. Paul Pelham scored 21 points and Devon Johnson added 20 to lead the Cougars.

South Brunswick was scheduled to play at South Robeson Tuesday night. The Cougar boys and girls will entertain Fairmont Friday.

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS As of Monday, Feb. 15

BOYS		
Team	League	Overall
Fairmont	10-0	17-0
South Brunswick	8-2	13-6
West Columbus	6-4	10-4
West Brunswick	5-5	6-13
Whiteville	5-5	10-6
South Robeson	4-6	10-9
East Bladen	2-8	5-11
North Brunswick	0-10	3-11

GIRLS		
Team	League	Overall
South Brunswick	10-0	19-0
Whiteville	7-3	15-4
West Brunswick	7-3	9-9
Fairmont	6-4	7-8
West Columbus	5-5	9-5
South Robeson	3-7	3-13
North Brunswick	1-9	2-12
East Bladen	1-9	3-15

The Mustangs had the ball under their own hoop with two seconds remaining, but West's Calvin Reeves picked off a long inbounds pass to seal the win.

"It was just a well-fought game," Mims said. "They have the makings of a good team, and I knew it would be a tough game."

Mims said a key to the game was the play of freshman Brandon Hill and sophomore Jonathan Williams. The reserves played much of the third quarter to rest West's starters and helped keep the Trojans within striking distance going into the final period.

"I was really pleased with the work Lonnie Mitchell did in the second half," Mims added. "Timothy Daniels also played a good all-around game. He does a lot of the little things well."

In the junior varsity contest, freshman Derek Frink scored 18 points to lead West Brunswick to a 58-47 win. Caleb Steedly added 13 points and James Morgan chipped in 11 for the Trojans. Ronald Hunt scored 20 points to lead the Mustangs.

West Brunswick scoring: Moody, 16; Mitchell, 14; Daniels, 11; Reeves, 6; Williams, 6; Johnson, 5.

Tornadoes Top Trojans

In Waccamaw Conference action last Tuesday, West Brunswick proved no match for the undefeated Fairmont Golden Tornadoes, the top-ranked 2-A team in the state.

The Tornadoes led 20-12 after one period and never looked back. Fairmont outscored West Brunswick by at least six points in every quarter.

Montrell McNair led five Fairmont scorers in double figures with 28 points. Corry Addison added 16, Wesley Hinson scored 13, Damion Page had 12 and Jimmy Stephens chipped in 11.

For West Brunswick, Lonnie Mitchell and Anthony Moody scored 14 points apiece. Timmy Daniels added 12 for the Trojans.

Fairmont's junior varsity squad posted a 78-62 win over West Brunswick. Dexter Bass led the Trojans with 16 points. James Morgan and Caleb Steedly added 11 each for West.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 12 13 19 18—62
Fairmont 20 25 25 24—94

West Brunswick scoring: Moody, 14; Mitchell, 14; Daniels, 12; Johnson, 7; Reeves, 7; T. Brown, 3.

Fairmont scoring: McNair, 28; Addison, 16; Hinson, 13; Page, 12; Stephens, 11; Floyd, 7; Harley, 3; Bobian, 2; Burnette, 2.

East Bladen Stings Scorpions

North Brunswick's Scorpions—seeking their first Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball win in 21 games—squandered a 15-point, fourth-quarter lead Friday night and lost 59-56 at East Bladen.

Trailing 48-33 after three periods, the Cougars outscored the Scorpions 26-8 in the final quarter to post their second league win of the season. Marcus Monroe led the way with 13 points.

North's Ronnie Ballard led all scorers with 20 points. Angelo McKenzie added 12 and Torrance Shaw

scored 11 for the Scorpions, who fell to 0-10 in the conference and 3-11 overall.

In the girls' game, East Bladen got 26 points from Farrah Johnson in a 57-40 victory over the Lady Scorpions. East Bladen and North Brunswick are both 1-9 in the conference.

North Brunswick's boys and girls had home games with Whiteville scheduled Tuesday night. The Scorpions will travel to West Brunswick this Friday.

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