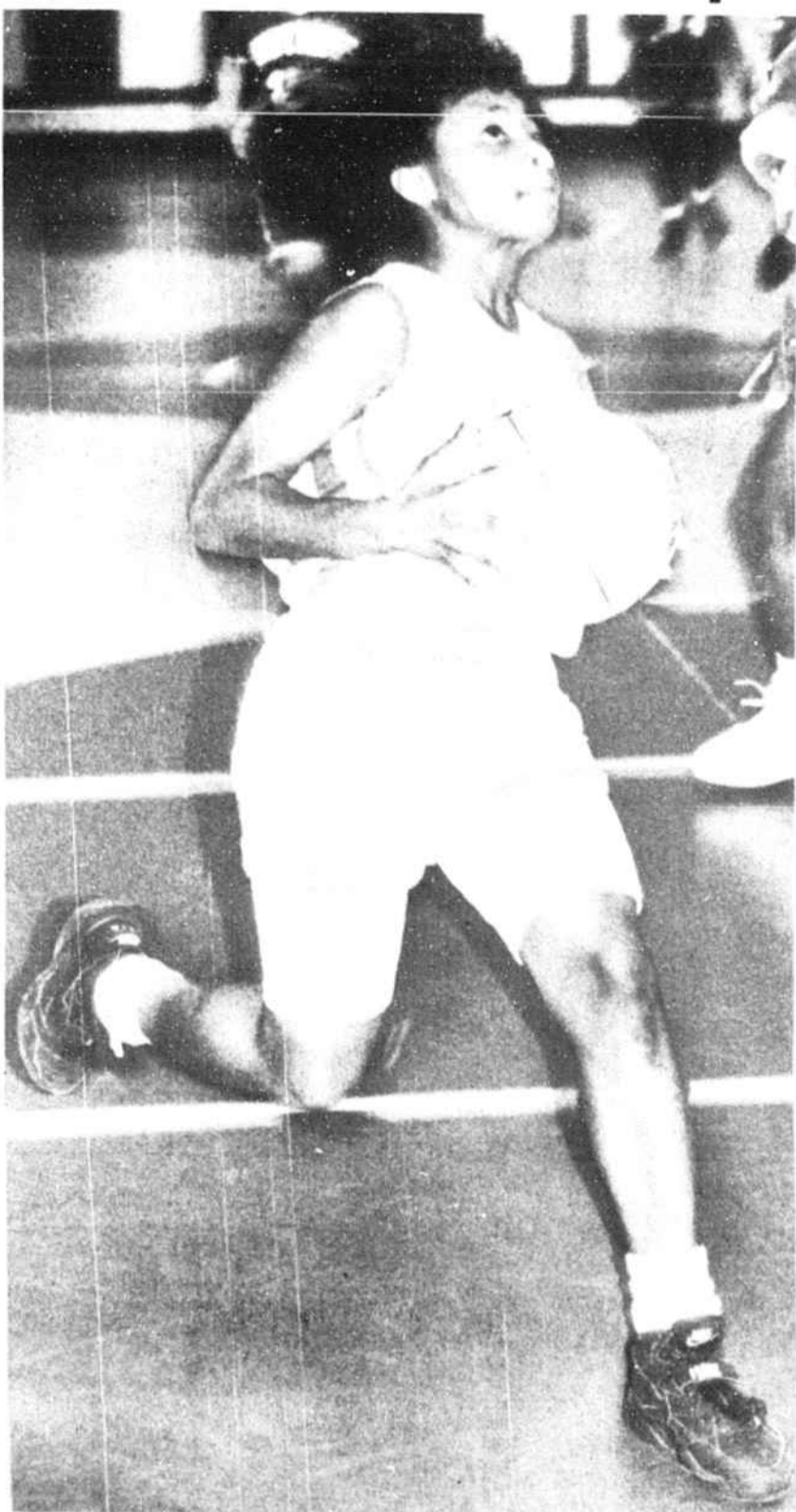


WEST WINS AT FAIRMONT

Third-Quarter Spurt Boosts Lady Trojans Past Mustangs



WEST GUARD KANEKA GRISSETT drives for two points during Friday's home win over South Robeson. Grissett has developed into a good outside shooter and a threat from three-point range.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's Lady Trojans parlayed a 21-point third quarter into a 51-46 victory over visiting South Robeson Friday in Waccamaw 2-A Conference girls' basketball.

Leading 17-16 after a sluggish first half, West unleashed its full-court press on the Lady Mustangs at the start of the third quarter to create steals and turnovers that led to easy baskets.

West Brunswick junior center Nicole Norris led all scorers in the game with 16 points. Guard Kaneka Grissett hit three three-pointers and finished with 13 points for the Lady Trojans. Monique King added 10 points.

South Robeson's Linda Ladson scored nine of her team-high 15 points in the fourth quarter. Tameka Reaves added 13 points and Amelia Oxendine made two three-pointers and scored 10 for the Mustangs.

"The first half we were sloppy and sluggish," West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council said. "We were just standing around. It was turnover after turnover after turnover."

"I thought we played a much better ball game the second half," she added. "We got a few steals right at the start of the third quarter. That boosted our confidence and really helped us out."

The five-point home win avenged an earlier 33-32 overtime loss at South Robeson. The victory also lifted West Brunswick to 7-3 in the Waccamaw Conference and 9-9 overall.

"This is the first week all season that we have won all of our games so hopefully we're on the right track," Council said.

Going into this week's play, West Brunswick and Whiteville were tied for second place in the league standings behind undefeated South Brunswick.

In Friday night's contest, South Robeson trailed 6-2 late in the first quarter but a three-pointer by Oxendine and a Reaves layup gave the Lady Mustangs a 7-6 advantage after one period.

A steal and layup by Oxendine gave South Robeson a 14-11 lead with 3:50 left in the first half. West

Brunswick scored six of the quarter's final eight points to take a 17-16 lead at intermission.

After two free throws by Reaves gave the visitors an 18-17 lead at the start of the second half, West Brunswick's girls went to work.

Grissett swished a three-pointer from the right corner and followed it up with a layup created by a King steal to give the Lady Trojans a 22-18 lead 46 seconds into the third quarter.

A jump shot by South Robeson's Annette Bethea cut West's lead to 22-20, but the Lady Trojans scored six straight points off a Mustang turnover and two steals to lead 28-20.

West Brunswick outscored South Robeson 21-12 in the third period and led 38-28 going into the fourth period. The Trojan run was keyed by Grissett with seven points and Norris with six.

South Robeson pulled to within five points with one minute left in the game but couldn't score in the final 60 seconds.

In Waccamaw Conference action this week, West Brunswick was scheduled to play at West Columbus Tuesday. The Lady Trojans entertain county rival North Brunswick Friday.

Score By Quarters

South Robeson 7 9 12 18—46

West Brunswick 6 11 21 13—51

South Robeson scoring: Ladson, 15; Reaves, 13; Oxendine, 10; Bethea, 6; Meekins, 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Norris, 16; Grissett, 13; King, 10; Morgan, 6; Gause, 4; Hewett, 2.

West Tops Fairmont

In a key Waccamaw Conference contest last Tuesday, Monique King scored 17 points to lead a depleted West Brunswick girls' squad to a 55-51 win over host Fairmont.

Only seven Lady Trojans dressed for the game due to injuries, illness and disciplinary reasons.

"We played real hard up there," Coach Council said. "We knew we only had seven girls, but we were pumped up for that game."

The host Golden Tornadoes jumped out to a 14-8 lead in the first quarter, but West Brunswick came back in the second period and tied the score at 27-27 at halftime.



CENTER NICOLE NORRIS (30) scored 16 points to lead West Brunswick to a 51-46 win over South Robeson Friday. Also pictured are Annette Bethea (42) and Tameka Reaves.

The Lady Trojans led 43-38 going into the fourth quarter and held on for the win. King, who made two three-pointers in the game, scored eight of her 17 points in the final period.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 8 19 16 12—55

Fairmont 14 13 11 13—51

West Brunswick scoring: King, 17; Grissett, 14; Gause, 8; Morgan, 8; Norris, 8.

Fairmont scoring: Butler, 20; Taylor, 16; Gaddy, 9; Barber, 4; Nealy, 2.

South Brunswick Takes Two From Scorpions

BY DOUG RUTTER

The South Brunswick boys' and girls' basketball teams invaded Leland last Tuesday and left town with Waccamaw 2-A Conference wins over the homesteading North Brunswick Scorpions.

In the boys' game, Josh White scored 24 points as the Cougars slipped past the Scorpions 76-63. South's Jenny Fullwood scored 22 to lead the undefeated Lady Cougars to an 84-30 win in girls' action.

White, a flashy senior point guard, scored 10 second-quarter points to help the Cougar boys break open a 19-17 game and take a 41-29 lead into the locker room at halftime.

North stayed close to the Cougars in the third quarter, but never cut the lead below 10 points. South led 57-43 going into the final quarter and scored nine of the period's first 12 points to pull out to a 20-point lead.

In addition to White's 24 points, junior forward Scooter Moore scored 16 points, including 10 in the first quarter to help give the Cougars an early 19-7 advantage.

North Brunswick, led by Ronnie Ballard's 17 points, put together a 10-0 run at the end of the first quarter and start of the second to cut the Cougar lead to 19-17 before South took command.

Coach Gene Doane's Cougars outscored North Brunswick 22-12 in the final 5:46 of the first half to take a double-digit halftime lead that they never relinquished.

Doane said following the game he knew the struggling Scorpions, still seeking their first league win, would be psyched to play South. It was up to the Cougars to "grind out" the victory.

"We were flatter than a pancake," Doane said. "We are their emotional game for the year. They will always play us tougher. We needed to play like we did at home against them and we didn't."

Earlier this year at Boiling Spring Lakes, the Cougars turned back the Scorpions 91-49. On its home floor last week, North Brunswick trailed the entire game but stayed within striking distance until the fourth quarter.

Scorpion Coach Cliff Gibson was proud of his team's effort. North was coming off a home loss against West Columbus in which the Scorpions scored just 11 points in the first half. "They played good tonight. They hustled and played good defense. We just ran out of juice," Gibson said.

"The thing about this team is they haven't won a conference game but they're still trying. Maybe things



SCORPION CENTER RONNIE BALLARD (32) drives for two of his 17 points during North Brunswick's 76-63 loss last Tuesday to county foe South Brunswick. Also pictured is Scooter Moore, who had 16 points for the Cougars.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

Score By Quarters

South Brunswick 19 22 16 19—76

North Brunswick 12 17 14 20—63

South Brunswick scoring: White, 24; Moore, 16; Smith, 9; Johnson, 8; Roberts, 6; Simon, 5; Vaught, 4; Kennedy, 2; DeJesus, 2.

will turn around for us. You got to have faith."

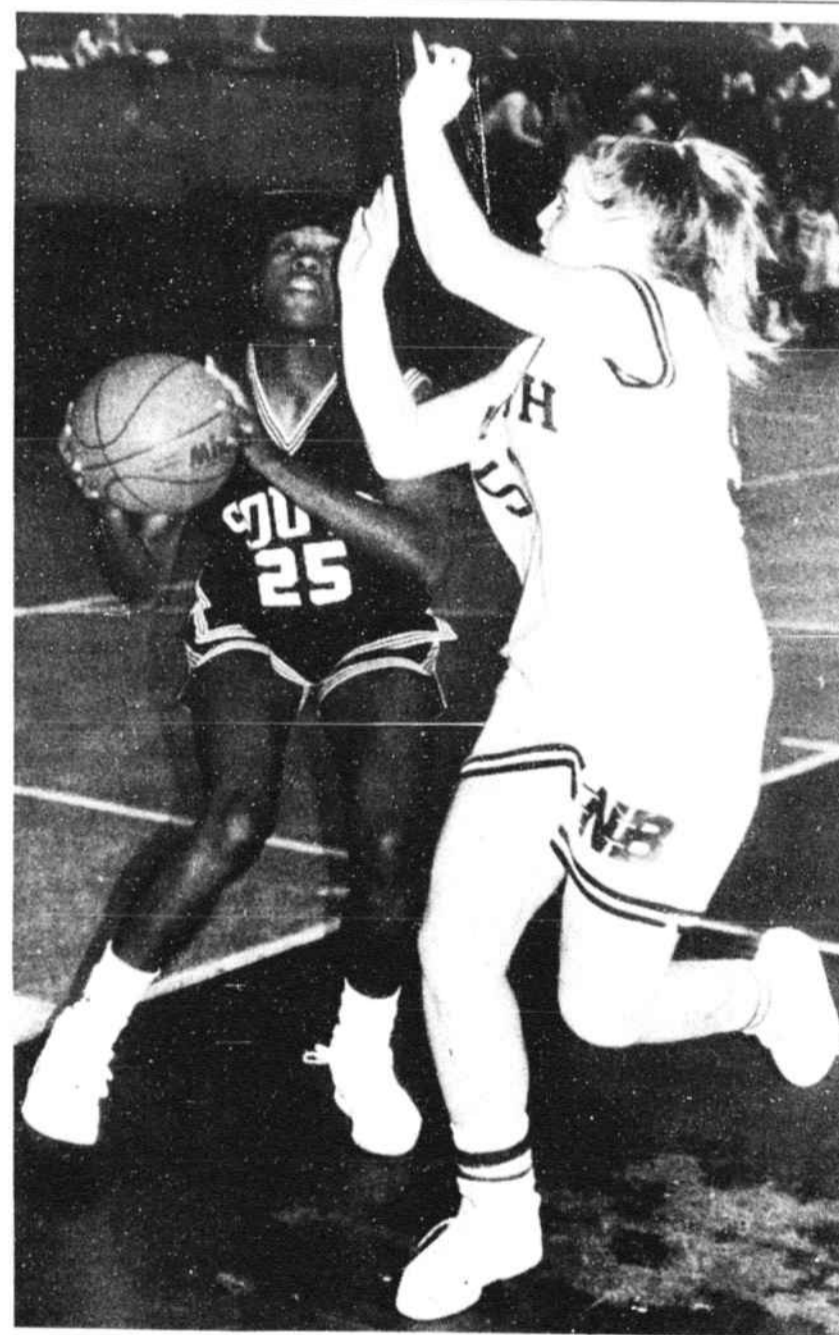
Gibson, a 24-year high school coaching veteran in his 13th season at North Brunswick, said this is the longest any of his teams have gone without a conference win.

With the loss to South, the Scorpions dropped to 0-9 in the conference and 3-10 overall. Counting last year, North Brunswick has lost 20 straight Waccamaw Conference games.

South Brunswick improved to 7-2 in the conference and 12-6 overall.

In the junior varsity boys' game, North's Anthony Williams made a pair of free throws with two seconds remaining to lift the Scorpions to a 58-57 win.

Williams finished with 10 points for North and Andre Mosely scored 12. South was led by Devon Johnson with 20 points and Charles Blue with 13.



SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S JENNY FULLWOOD (25) prepares to shoot over North Brunswick's Angie Gidley during their Waccamaw Conference contest last week in Leland.

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