

STILL IN PLAYOFF HUNT

Daniels Powers West Trojans Past Slumping Scorpions

BY DOUG RUTTER

Timothy Daniels scored 29 points and turned in a huge game on the boards Friday to lead West Brunswick to a 90-63 win over visiting North Brunswick in a Waccamaw 2-A Conference high school basketball game.

The Trojans needed the win to even their league record at 6-6 and stay in the chase for a state playoff berth. West also completed a season sweep of the rival Scorpions, who haven't beaten the Trojans in eight games.

"It was just a great team effort from our starters," West Brunswick Coach Billy Mims said. "Hopefully this will give us momentum to carry us right on into the conference tournament."

In addition to Daniels' 29 points, senior center Lonnie Mitchell pour-

ed in 23, junior forward Anthony Moody added 17 and sophomore guard Eric Johnson scored 16 for the Trojans.

Mims said Mitchell, Moody and Johnson all played great at times Friday night. But it was the awesome performance by Daniels, a sophomore forward, that dominated the coach's post-game comments.

"Timmy Daniels played a great all-around game," Mims said. "He grabbed a lot of offensive rebounds for us. He's strong and he jumps extremely well. Timmy is a work horse. He's an iron man for us."

Mims also commended Mitchell's play on the inside, the outside shooting of Moody and Johnson and the defensive game turned in by senior guard Calvin Reeves.

West Brunswick entered the final week of the regular season 6-6 in the

conference and 7-14 overall. The Trojans still have a chance to finish among the top four teams in the league and qualify for the state playoffs.

The Trojans started the week fifth in the league race, one game behind Whiteville and West Columbus. West was slated to play at East Bladen Tuesday before hosting South Brunswick Friday in the regular-season finale.

The 90 points scored against North Friday was the highest total of the season for the Trojans. The previous high came in a 75-51 victory at North Brunswick.

West entered the contest averaging 55 points per game, but scored a lot of easy baskets Friday by sending as many as three players to the offensive boards on every shot attempt.

West Brunswick never trailed in

the game. The Trojans jumped out to a 4-0 lead and later scored nine straight points to close out the first quarter with a 17-6 advantage.

Leading 18-8, Daniels scored seven straight points as part of an 8-0 run that gave the Trojans a 25-8 lead with 5:44 left in the first half. Daniels had 12 of his 29 points in the second quarter and Mitchell scored 11 in the period to give West Brunswick a 43-25 halftime edge.

The Trojans led 57-31 with 4:35 remaining in the third quarter, before North started cutting into the lead. The Scorpions used a 10-2 run to trim the West lead to 59-41 and pulled to within 66-52 going into the fourth quarter.

The 14-point deficit was as close as the Scorpions would get in the second half. West opened the final period with 10 unanswered points to take a 76-52 lead with 5:15 remaining.

"We were flat tonight. We didn't play good," North Brunswick Coach Cliff Gibson said. "They beat us to death on the boards. They got some easy baskets inside."

The Scorpions played without leading scorer Ronnie Ballard for much of the first half after the senior center picked up two early fouls. Ballard was held to eight points.

Adrian Black, Jeremy Child, David Brew and Shannon Hankins also scored eight points apiece to lead a balanced scoring attack for the Scorpions.

"We let their pressure bother us a little bit," Gibson added. "If you can't shoot it from the outside you can't win this game, and we can't shoot from the outside."

North Brunswick fell to 0-12 in the conference and 3-13 overall. The Scorpions have lost 23 straight Waccamaw Conference games.

Mario Ballard led North Brunswick to a 54-53 win in the junior varsity game. Caleb Steedley scored 19 points to lead the Trojans.

Score By Quarters

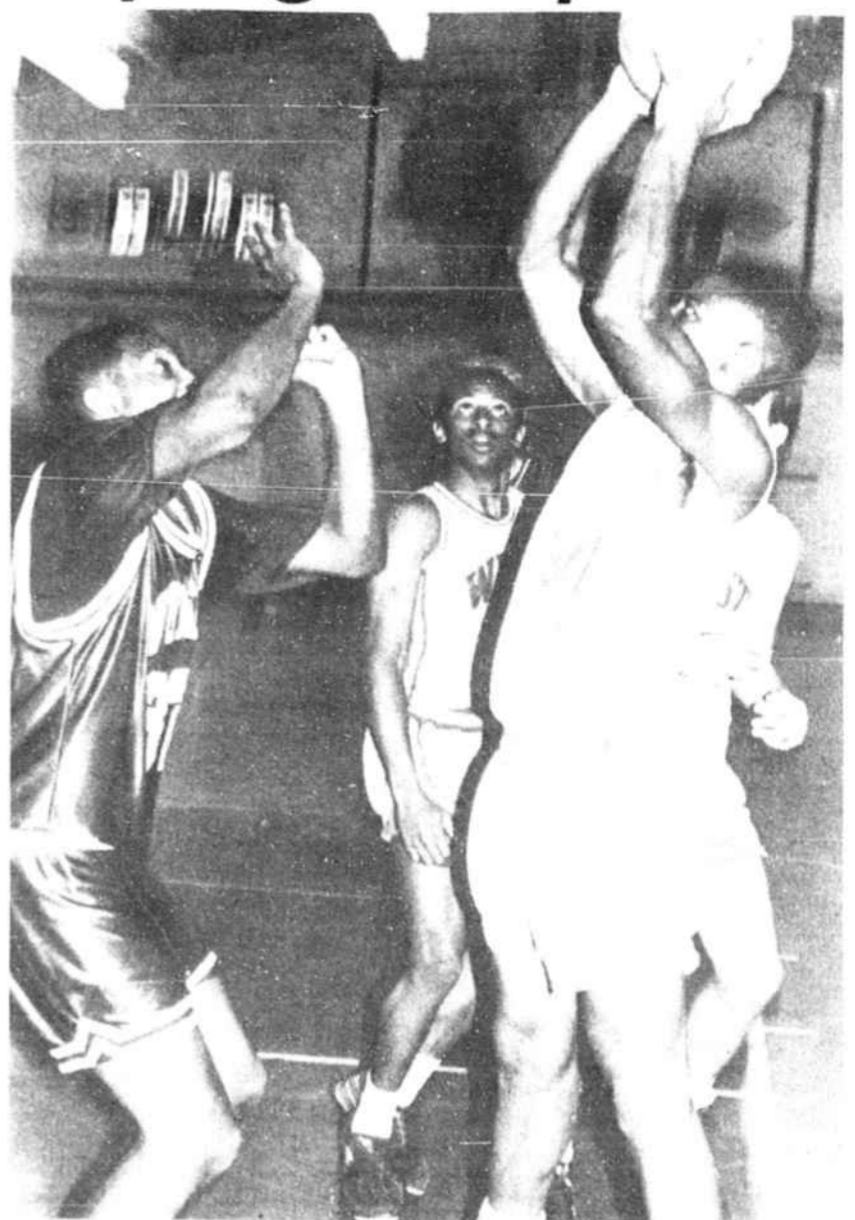
North Brunswick 6 19 27 21—63
West Brunswick 17 26 23 24—90

North Brunswick scoring: Black, 8; Child, 8; Ballard, 8; Brew, 8; Hankins, 8; McKenzie, 7; Bell, 6; Shaw, 5; McKoy, 4; Mintz, 1.

West Brunswick scoring: Daniels, 29; Mitchell, 23; Moody, 17; Johnson, 16; T. Brown, 4; Hill, 1.

Vikings Top Trojans

Last Tuesday, West Brunswick



TROJAN TY BROWN attempts a jump shot over Scorpion center Ronnie Ballard.

led by nine points at halftime but yielded 27 third-quarter points and dropped a key Waccamaw Conference game at West Columbus 63-56.

Dewayne Betts scored 18 points, including 13 in the third quarter, to lead the Vikings. James Green scored 12 and Magellan Powell chipped in 11 for West Columbus.

Junior forward Anthony Moody led the Trojans with 17 points. Lonnie Mitchell and Timothy Daniels scored 12 points each for West, which led 32-23 at halftime.

The Vikings stormed back in the second half, outscoring West Brunswick 27-12 in the third period and holding on for the win. West Col-

umbus swept the Trojans in their two meetings this season.

In the junior varsity contest, West Columbus posted a 55-54 overtime win over the Trojans. Keith Bowen led the Vikings with 12 points, and Derek Frink had 17 for West Brunswick.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 15 17 12 12—56
West Columbus 12 11 27 13—63

West Brunswick scoring: Moody, 17; Mitchell, 12; Daniels, 12; T. Brown, 4; Reeves, 4; Hill, 4; Johnson, 3.

West Columbus scoring: Betts, 18; Green, 12; Powell, 11; Frink, 9; Faulk, 8; Sanderson, 3; Burney, 2.



NORTH'S TORRANCE SHAW drives past West's Timothy Daniels during their game Friday night in Shallotte.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER



CALVIN REEVES helped lead West Brunswick to a 90-63 win Friday over visiting North Brunswick.

Tornadoes Trip Cougars For League Championship

Fairmont's Golden Tornadoes defeated host South Brunswick 74-67 Friday night to capture the school's second straight Waccamaw 2-A Conference boys' basketball championship.

Fairmont, the state's top-ranked 2-A team, got 26 points from Wesley Hinson, 12 from Corry Addison and 11 from Damien Page to improve to 12-0 in the league and 19-0 overall.

Josh White and Kevin Smith scored 21 points each to lead South Brunswick. Scooter Moore added 12 points for the Cougars, who fell to 9-3 in league play and 14-7 overall.

Fairmont led 20-13 after one quarter, but the Cougars trimmed the lead to 40-38 at halftime. The Tornadoes, winners of 46 of their last 47 games, led 57-52 after three

periods and held on for their narrowest win of the year.

For the first time all season, South Brunswick was included in the top 10 in last week's Associated Press high school basketball poll. The Cougars debuted at sixth in class 2-A after winning five straight games.

The Cougars jumped into the poll after beating South Robeson 78-71 last Tuesday in a tough, Waccamaw Conference road game.

Josh White led the Cougars with 26 points. Kevin Smith added 14 points and Antoine Johnson and Lewis Vaught had 13 apiece.

South Brunswick was scheduled to host Whiteville Tuesday night in a key conference game. The Cougars will close out the regular season with a visit to West Brunswick Friday.

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS As of Monday, Feb. 22

BOYS		
Team	League	Overall
Fairmont	12-0	19-0
South Brunswick	9-3	14-7
Whiteville	7-5	12-6
West Columbus	7-5	11-5
West Brunswick	6-6	7-14
South Robeson	5-7	11-10
East Bladen	2-10	5-13
North Brunswick	0-12	3-13

GIRLS		
Team	League	Overall
South Brunswick	12-0	21-0
Whiteville	9-3	17-4
West Brunswick	9-3	11-9
Fairmont	7-5	8-9
West Columbus	5-7	9-7
South Robeson	4-8	4-14
North Brunswick	1-11	2-14
East Bladen	1-11	3-17

Wolfpack Tops North Scorpions

The Whiteville boys' basketball team snapped a three-game losing streak last Tuesday night with a 74-45 win over host North Brunswick in Waccamaw 2-A Conference action.

Terry McCray scored 14 points to lead the Wolfpack, which led 12-10 after one quarter and 32-23 at halftime. Whiteville led 47-34 after three periods and outscored North 27-11 in the final quarter.

Quinnzell McMillian connected on three three-pointers and scored 11 points for the Wolfpack. Whiteville made eight three-pointers in the game, outscoring the Scorpions 24-3 from three-point range.

Senior center Ronnie Ballard led

the Scorpions with nine points. Jeremy Child and Adrian Black scored seven points apiece for North Brunswick, which fell to 0-11 in the conference and 3-12 overall.

In the girls' game, Dawn Threadgill poured in 24 points to lead Whiteville to a 65-42 win. Tonya Jones added 16 points for the Wolfpack. Ayo Robbins led North (1-10, 2-13) with 13.

The Whiteville girls improved to 8-3 in the conference and 16-4 overall. After consecutive losses to West Brunswick, South Robeson and Fairmont, the Wolfpack boys moved to 6-5 in league play and 11-5 overall.

Daniels Denied Hoop Title

Waccamaw Elementary School student Deatury Daniels was denied a second straight Elks Hoop Shoot State Championship Saturday due to a technicality.

Daniels, who made 25 of 30 free throws to apparently win the division for boys ages 10 and 11, was stripped of his title because he was ruled too old for the age bracket.

Daniels turns 12 on March 30. The Hoop Shoot rules say competitors in the 10-11 division cannot turn 12 until after April 1, according to Ted Acton of the Calabash Elks Lodge, which sponsored the local competition.

The only other contestant to survive county and regional competition, Shallotte Middle School student Landis Morgan, placed third in the 12-13 age division at the state event in Gastonia. Morgan made 21 of 25 foul shots.

RANKED FIRST IN STATE

South Girls Clinch League Title

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick clinched the Waccamaw 2-A Conference regular-season girls' basketball championship Friday night with a 48-32 victory over visiting Fairmont.

Jodie Brown scored 12 points and Jenny Fullwood and Tameka Davis added 10 each as the Lady Cougars improved their record to 12-0 in the conference and 21-0 overall.

South Brunswick also climbed from second to first in last week's high school 2-A girls' basketball poll following a loss by previously top-ranked Franklinton.

The climb in the poll came on the heels of South Brunswick's 43-17 win last Tuesday at South Robeson. Erika Bryant scored 13 points to lead the Lady Cougars in that game.

But the big win came before a home crowd Friday night. South Coach Mike Isenberg has said all season his goal for the team was to win the conference championship.

South Brunswick can close out the regular season undefeated with wins this week over rivals Whiteville and West Brunswick. The Lady Wolfpack was scheduled to visit Tuesday, and South visits West Friday.

Isenberg said he isn't concerned about finishing the regular season 23-0. "Our goal was to win those two games last week because that made us conference champions," he said Tuesday morning.

"I don't think there's any pressure to win these last two. I told the girls it doesn't cost them their playoff seeding or conference championship," Isenberg added.

Nevertheless, the coach admits his team will play

hard and do everything it can to win the final two games. Whiteville and West Brunswick are two of the school's biggest rivals.

As the Waccamaw Conference champion, South Brunswick will receive a bye in the first round of the state 2-A playoffs. The Lady Cougars also have the chance to host two playoff games.

Despite the 21-0 record, Isenberg said the Lady Cougars still haven't played the basketball they are capable of playing.

"We're playing sort of inconsistent right now," he said. "I don't think we're playing our best." One of the big reasons has been the absence of two of the team's top starters.

Since the start of the year, South has often been without the services of guard Stacy Isenberg or center Erika Bryant. Both were all-county selections last season but have been slowed by knee injuries this year.

The coach said he's had a hard time keeping both players injury-free and in the lineup at the same time. Stacy Isenberg played about 12 minutes Friday night, but Bryant sat out after aggravating her knee two weeks ago.

"We're just having a hard time getting those two set," Coach Isenberg said. "I think we really need them both back to do any good in the state playoffs."

Isenberg said he gave both players the option of sitting out this week so they would be healthy for the playoffs.

"Neither one wanted to wait. They felt like they would be too rusty. They both want to try to play whatever minutes they can."

"I don't think there's any pressure to win these last two. I told the girls it doesn't cost them their playoff seeding or conference championship."

—South Coach Mike Isenberg

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