

Graham Bumps Lady Cougars From Playoffs

BY DOUG RUTTER

Graham's Lady Red Devils scored 10 unanswered points in the fourth quarter and went on to a 47-43 win over host South Brunswick in the state 2-A basketball playoffs last Wednesday.

The Lady Devils' victory ended a highly-successful season for South Brunswick's girls, who entered the game ranked as the top 2-A team in North Carolina with a 26-0 record.

Graham won with a pair of six-footers who scored inside, controlled the boards and forced the Lady Cougars to take outside shots that were off the mark more often than not.

"You've got to hand it to them. They drove four hours down here and beat us," South Brunswick Coach Mike Isenberg said after consoling his team.

Despite the long road trip, Graham Coach Don Amos said his squad was loose and in the right frame of mind going into the game. "They didn't have anything to lose, and I think all the pressure was on South Brunswick."

"You just can't imagine how it feels," Amos added. "We've been struggling to get back to the top the last couple of years and this really helps to beat a top-ranked team and an undefeated team."

Amos said his two big girls, 6-3 Julie Hunter and 6-0 Jan Foushee, were a major factor in the game. They combined for 24 points and challenged the Lady Cougars to shoot over their outstretched arms.

"Our big girls helped us," said Amos, who has coached girls' basketball for 20 years, including 15 at Graham. "They are our first two six-footers we've had in 20 years so we love them."

Hunter, a sophomore, led the Lady Red Devils with 15 points and Foushee and guard Terry Mann added nine each. Senior Jenny Fullwood paced South with 13 points, and LaTonya Hankins and Erika Bryant each scored eight.

"We knew they were going to play zone and we worked on that for two days," Isenberg said. "We prepared for them. We knew they were big and they were going to pack back in that zone."

In the first quarter, South Brunswick's girls took a 10-8 lead but came up empty on several excellent scoring opportunities that could have given them a bigger lead.

The Lady Cougars made three steals on defense but missed layups at the other end. South also missed five of nine free throws in the first quarter and hit just 13 of 22 in the



SOUTH'S ERIKA BRYANT (with ball) is closely guarded by Graham's Julie Hunter during last week's playoff game at Boiling Spring Lakes.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

Graham's lead to three. South was down 45-40 with 30 seconds left when Hankins made another three to cut the Devil lead to two.

After a Lady Cougar timeout, Graham beat South Brunswick's full-court press and created an easy basket for Hunter at the other end to wrap up the victory.

South Brunswick, plagued by injuries all season, was without senior point guard Stacy Isenberg for the playoff game. She re-injured her left knee while practicing the day before the game.

Coach Isenberg, Stacy's father, said her absence hurt the Lady Cougars' chances. "I know they lost a point guard and losing one of those is like losing a front tooth," Amos said.

South's Tasha Sellers, one of the team's best outside shooters, was in foul trouble most of the game and was held scoreless before fouling out with 3:05 remaining.

South Brunswick went undefeated in capturing the Waccamaw Conference regular-season and tournament championships. "It might have been good for us to have lost one along the line," Isenberg said following the playoff game.

Graham (19-8), the number two seed from the Central Tar Heel Conference, defeated Fuquay-Varina 64-43 in the first round of the playoffs to set up the game in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Score By Quarters

Graham	8	11	8	20—47
South Brunswick	10	9	11	12—43
Graham scoring:	Hunter, 15;	Mann, 9;	Foushee, 9;	Boggs, 8;
Clapp, 4;	Wilson, 2.			
South Brunswick scoring:	Fullwood, 13;	Bryant, 8;	Hankins, 8;	Davis, 7;
Brown, 5;	Lee, 2.			



SENIOR JODIE BROWN squares up for a jump shot during the Lady Cougars' 47-43 loss last Wednesday. South Brunswick finished the season 26-1.

Waccamaw Sign-ups End Saturday

This Saturday is the final day of registration for the Waccamaw Athletic Association Dixie Youth Baseball League. Registration was canceled last Saturday due to the weather.

In addition to baseball sign-ups, the newly-formed association will be selling barbecue and chicken bog

dinners Saturday starting at 11 a.m. at Waccamaw Township Park. The cost is \$3.50 per plate.

Children ages 4 1/2 to 12 are eligible to participate in the league. All kids must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have a birth certificate to register. The fee is \$15.

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