# Benton Hurls West Past Waccamaw Academy

#### BY DOUG RUTTER West Brunswick's Jason Benton

overcame a shaky first inning to pitch the Trojan baseball team to a 6-2 victory last Friday over the visiting Waccamaw Academy Warriors.

Bryan Fleming and Aaron Butler each hit two-run home runs to provide all of the offense the Trojans needed. "The two home runs were big hits." West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said.

After yielding hits to the first four Warrior batters he faced, Benton settled down and gave up just one more hit over the next four innings. The

senior right-hander recorded eight strike outs and issued just one walk. "Jason Benton did a good job on

the mound," Alderson said. "He could have gone the whole game I believe. I don't like to let them go the whole game when it's this cold."

Yates Gupton and Scott Gore pitched the final two innings for West, which evened its record at 1-1 after a season-opening 13-9 loss to Dillon last Thursday.

Waccamaw Academy, a private school in Whiteville, jumped on Benton early. Andy Osborne doubled to lead off the game and scored on a Jason Beck single that gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead.

The visitors looked like they might score several more first-inning runs after Adam Thompson singled to load the bases with no outs. But Benton struck out the next two hitters and got out of the jam with a fly ball.

West Brunswick took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first when Fleming belted a Heath Long pitch over the left-field fence. Scoring ahead of Fleming was Wayne Branch, who had reached base on a fielder's choice.

West added two more runs in the third inning. Fleming doubled to center field, and Butler followed with a two-out homer to left-center that put the Trojans up 4-1.

Waccamaw Academy cut the lead to 4-2 in the sixth inning when Thompson drove a Gupton pitch to left field for a single. The Warrior center fielder, who was 3-for-4 on the day, later scored on a wild pitch.

West's Gore relieved Gupton with two outs and the bases loaded in the sixth and promptly ended the Warrior rally by striking out Osborne.

The Trojans scored their final two runs in the bottom of the sixth off Warrior reliever Anthony Hammonds.

Eric Johnson reached base on an error, stole second and scored on Willie Gore's double to left. Keane Bellamy, who had walked ahead of Gore, scored from third on a passed ball with two outs.

After committing six errors in their season-opening loss, the Trojans didn't commit any errors against Waccamaw Academy, "We played a little better defense tonight than we did last night," Alderson said.

Through two games, Butler is leading the Trojans in hitting. The senior left fielder is 4-for-7 with a home run and five RBI. Fleming is 3-for-6 with two doubles, one home run and four RBI.

"Aaron Butler is really hitting the ball," Alderson said after Friday's win. "He's really gotten out of the blocks quickly.

West Brunswick lead-off hitter Gregg Mott has reached base on five of his seven plate appearances. The senior first baseman has one hit, two walks and has twice been hit by a pitch.

The Trojans were scheduled to face Waccamaw Academy again Thursday in Whiteville. West Brunswick opens the Waccamaw 2-A Conference season Friday night against the visiting Whiteville Wolfpack.

Game Summary Wac. Acad 1 0 0 0 0 1 0-2 7 2

## Dillon Dumps Trojans In Baseball Opener

### BY DOUG RUTTER

Dillon pounded out 12 hits and took advantage of six West Brunswick errors to beat the Trojans 13-9 in their high school baseball season opener last Thursday in Shallotte.

The South Carolina team never trailed in the game, racing out to a 9-3 lead through four innings before the Trojans mounted a comeback. West scored three runs in the fifth and sixth innings to cut the lead to 10-9.

But Dillon added three runs in the top of the seventh and held West Brunswick scoreless in their final at-bat. Trojan Coach Mike Alderson said poor defense cost his team the victory.

the other Dillon run on a botched infield fly. Trailing 9-3, West Brunswick started its comeback with three runs in the fifth inning.

With one out, Fleming belted a two-run double to right-center field, scoring Mott and Mike Johnson. Butler singled up the middle to knocked in pinch runner Steve Holmes.

West sophomore pitcher Eric Johnson relieved Mike Johnson in the fifth, and Dillon added one run in the sixth on Stanta's RBI double down the left field line.

The Trojans answered with three runs in the bottom of the sixth to cut the Dillon lead to 10-9. Two hit batsmen and a bunt single by Wayne Branch loaded the bases with no outs.

with three runs in the top of the seventh. With runners on first and third and one out, West committed two costly infield errors that resulted in two runs.

Sawyer doubled and later scored on a wild throw to first base. Grice reached on a bloop single and then scored on a double steal that was botched by the Trojans.

Bohasic, who had reached base on an error, scored the final Dillon run on Stanta's single to center field.

The Trojans drew a pair of walks in the bottom of the seventh but couldn't get the runs across



STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

JASON BENTON pitched five strong innings in the Trojans' 6-2 win over Waccamaw Academy Friday. The senior recorded eight strike outs.

### **Boxers Compete In Wilmington**

Four members of the Brunswick County Boxing Team competed Saturday at an amateur boxing tournament in Wilmington.

The county team, formerly Joyner's Boxing Club, joined teams from Durham, Camp Lejeune, Scotland County and Wilmington at the event, according to team director Larry Joyner.

Among the local participants were three newcomers to the boxing club, Travis Murrell and Chris Jordan, both of Bolivia, and Ezekiel

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Wedderburn of Southport. Jordan lost his 125-pound bout to teammate Darnell Hill of Southport. Corry Walker of Wilmington defeated Murrell in the 135-pound weight class, and Wilmington's Donnell Williams beat Wedderburn in the 90-pound class.

Martin Ray of Southport, one of the local team's top boxers, was not able to compete Saturday because there were no boxers in his weight class. Ray won a state championship in January.



MARCH 27-28, 1993

BRYAN FLEMING (right) is congratulated by his West Brunswick teammates after hitting a two-run home run Friday. W. Bruns. 202002X-650

"If you score nine runs you should win the ball game," he said. "It was understandable though. They had six or seven games under their belt and that was our first.'

Harris Stanta, Derrick McLellan and Jason Turner had two hits and two RBI apiece for the visitors. Dillon's Brad Sawyer pitched a complete game and helped his own cause with two doubles

at the plate. The big right-hander gave up nine Trojan hits while striking out 12 and issuing nine walks.

For West Brunswick, senior left fielder Aaron Butler went 3-for-4 with three RBI. Starting pitcher Michael Johnson and catcher Bryan Fleming each knocked in two runs.

Dillon jumped on West's sophomore pitcher early, scoring three runs on four hits in the first frame. Sawyer led off with a double to center field and later stole third and scored on a wayward pickoff throw to first base.

Stevie Grice, who had walked, scored from second on Mikey Bohasic's single to left field. William McLean scored Dillon's third run on a two-out base hit by McLellan.

West Brunswick got two of the runs back in the bottom half of the inning. First baseman Gregg Mott drew a lead-off walk, stole second and later scored from third on a wild pitch.

Mike Johnson also walked, stole second and scored on Butler's twoout RBI double to right-center field that cut Dillon's lead to 3-2.

The Trojans tied the score at 3-3 in the second inning on senior shortstop Keane Bellamy's inside-thepark home run to left-center field.

The score didn't stay tied for long. Dillon responded in the top of the third inning, scoring four runs with two outs thanks in part to a pair of Trojan errors.

Bohasic reached base on an error and scored from second on Mc-Lellan's line single to center field. McLellan stole second and scored on an infield error. Turner knocked in two more runs with a double to leftcenter field to give Dillon a 7-3 lead.

The visitors added two more runs in the fourth. Bohasic singled, advanced to third on a walk and wild pitch and then stole home. William McLean walked and scored

Marty Earwood and Mott scored on Mike Johnson's ground single to left field, but Branch was tagged out running to third base. Mike Johnson stole second, and with two outs, Butler picked up his third RBI of the game with a sharp single to right field.

Dillon squashed the Trojans' comeback bid

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West's Mike Johnson yielded nine runs and seven hits in four innings of work, striking out six. Eric Johnson gave up four runs on five hits in three innings of relief. He struck out four and walked two.

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