## Sea Shell Starts Monday

West Brunswick, North Brunswick and South Brunswick will be among the eight high schools participating in next week's Sea Shell Invitational baseball tournament in Wilmington.

Play begins Monday with four games scheduled at Hardee Field on Carolina Beach Road. In the opener, North Brunswick's Scorpions take on Jacksonville of the Mideastern 4-A Conference at 11 a.m.

At 2 p.m., South Brunswick takes the field against Laney. The Cougars opened the week seeking for their first win of the season after five losses. South had games scheduled Tuesday against South Robeson and Thursday at Fairmont.

West Brunswick, which carries a 5-1 record into Friday's game with the Russian National Team, opens Sea Shell play Monday with a 5 p.m. game against the Hoggard Vikings.

In the final game Monday, New Hanover will face Marion, S.C., at 8 p.m. Tournament play continues Tuesday, with the finals scheduled Wednesday. Each team will play at least two games.

SPORTING SCENE

## Former Trojan Daniels Ready For Next Level

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor

Ricky Daniels is taking his basketball game to another level, again. First he dominated the local high school scene, then made a name for himself in the junior college ranks.

Next up, the Big Time. Daniels made a verbal commitment last week to play ball at N.C. State University next school year. All he needs to do now is sign the papers on April 14.

That's right, the former West Brunswick High School superstar will be joining the Wolfpack in the Atlantic Coast Conference next season if all goes according to plan.

Daniels, a two-time county player of the year in high school, has had two excellent seasons at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College. The 6-6 forward averaged 18 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists, 2.3 steals and 2 blocks per game this year.

With Ricky's help, the Anderson Trojans finished 25-6 and were ranked as high as 11th in the nation in the junior college poll. Anderson finished the season ranked in the top 20.

Ricky will graduate from Anderson this spring with an associate degree in liberal arts. From there, it's on to State where he'll face some of the best college basketball players in the nation over the next two years.

Ricky will be playing against guys he's been reading about in newspapers and watching on television—guys like Duke's Grant Hill, North Carolina's Eric Montross and Florida State's Charlie Ward.

Ricky was a phenomenal high school player and had an outstanding career at Anderson. But is he really ready for competition he'll face in the ACC, perhaps the toughest basketball conference in the nation?

"Most definitely he's ready," Anderson assistant coach Warren Riley said. "Ricky's got the talent, speed, strength. He's got all the skills for the ACC. He's also ready mentally and academically."

Ricky shot 55 percent from the field and 70 percent from the free throw line this season. He also knocked down 40 percent of his shots from three-point range.

"He's most definitely ready," Riley says without hesitation. "He'll do a very good job for them. Everybody at Anderson is really happy for Ricky because he's getting to go where he wants. He's reaching his goals."

Besides N.C. State, Ricky was recruited by Wake Forest of the ACC as well as South Florida, South Carolina, Texas A&M, Mississippi State and Georgia.

Ricky settled on N.C. State because he liked the Wolfpack coaching staff and players and the Raleigh campus. N.C. State also is pretty close to his Longwood home, which was another deciding factor.

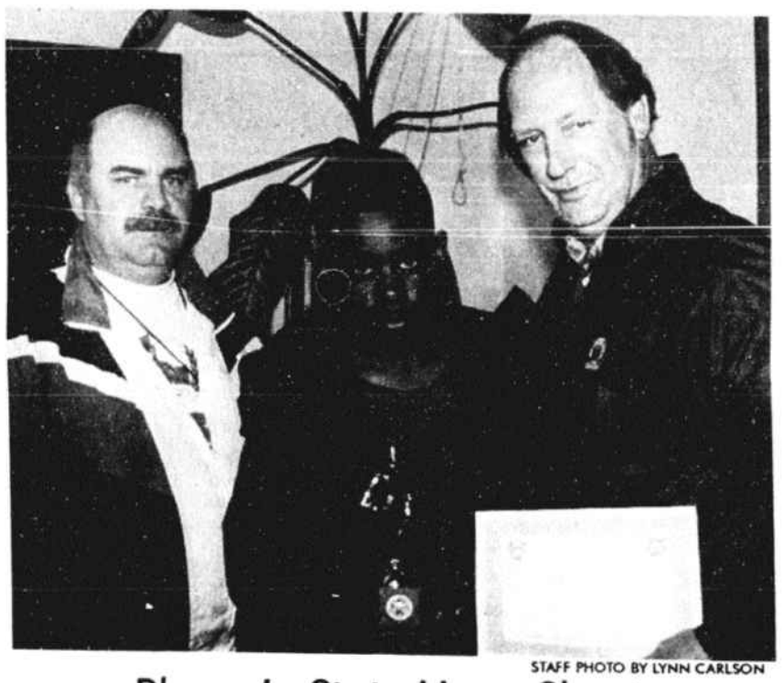
The multi-talented Daniels averaged 29 points and 12 rebounds per game as a senior at West Brunswick, leading the Trojans to a 21-6 record. He also holds the school's single-game scoring record of 48 points.

West Brunswick's Billy Mims, who coached Daniels his last two seasons, is excited for his former pupil. Not because he's getting a chance to play big-time college ball, but because he's getting a chance at a good education.

"I would like to see the young man get a degree at the school of his choice," Mims said. "I think he could have more of an impact on his community by graduating than being all-ACC in basketball."

"So far he's made some major strides," Mims said of Daniels, his greatest talent in five years as a high school coach. "But his work is not done. His work is still ahead of him."

Personally, I think the best is yet to come.



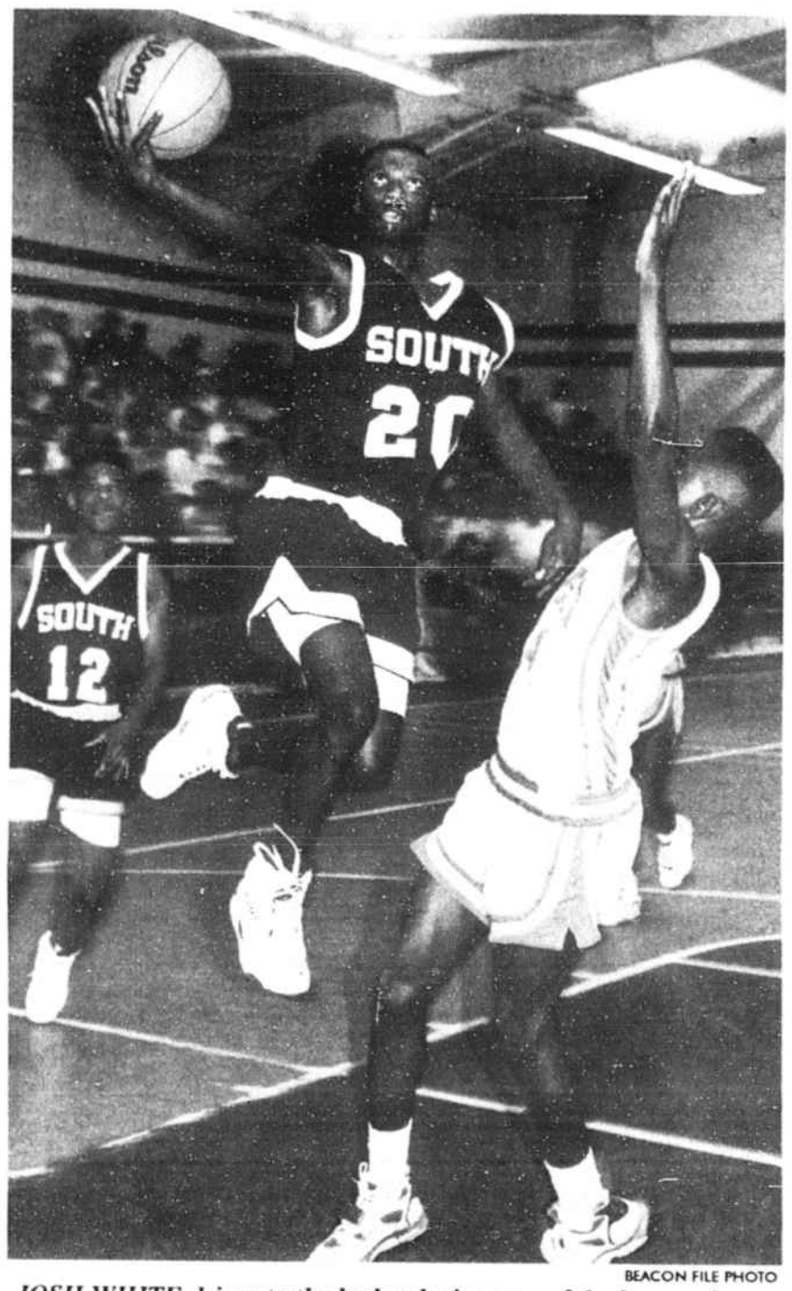
STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

### Places In State Hoop Shoot

*Landis Morgan, a Shallotte Middle School student, accepts a trophy and certificate for placing third in the Elks Club State Hoop Shoot in the 12-13-year-old category. The trophy was presented by Ted Acton (right) of the Calabash Elks Lodge 2679, as Coach Phil Wemyss (left) looked on.*

ALL-COUNTY HOOPS TEAM

## South's White Named County Player Of Year



BEACON FILE PHOTO

*JOSH WHITE drives to the basket during one of the best performances of his senior season, a 44-point outburst against county rival West Brunswick.*

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick's Josh White has been named Brunswick County high school boys basketball player of the year after leading the Cougars to a 20-9 record during a brilliant senior season.

Other selections to the 1992-93 all-county prep basketball team are Kevin Smith of South Brunswick, Lonnie Mitchell and Anthony Moody of West Brunswick and Ronnie Ballard of North Brunswick.

White, a three-time selection to the all-county squad, scored 24 points per game from his point guard spot while directing the offense and leading the Cougars to within three wins of a state basketball championship.

On the defensive end, the 5-11 guard utilized his superior quickness and basketball savvy to make steals and force turnovers that often led to easy baskets.

South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane, named county coach of the year after his club reached the eastern semifinals of the state playoffs, has described White as the "heart and soul" of the team.

"Josh was a good leader," Doane said following the playoff loss. "He kept after these guys. He played with fire in his eyes. You could tell he had it, and the other guys responded to it."

White helped lead the Cougars to a 66-19 record over the last three seasons. South Brunswick was 25-4 in 1991 and 21-6 last year.

As a sophomore and junior, White averaged around 15 points per game in an offense built around 6-11 center Preston McGriff.

With McGriff gone, South Brunswick relied more on White's offensive talents this season and the silky-smooth guard responded with nearly 25 points per game.

With the exception of his career-high 46 points in an early-season win over East Columbus, White saved his best performances of the season for the biggest games.

In the regular-season finale at West Brunswick, White scored 44 points to lead the Cougars to a 91-80 overtime win. White hit 19 of 19 free throws in the game and scored nine points in OT.

The Cougar guard also was instrumental in leading South to the Waccamaw Conference Tournament championship. On consecutive nights, White scored 34 points against Whiteville and 35 against Fairmont.

The 34 points in the tournament semifinal against the Wolfpack included a game-tying basket in the closing seconds that sent the game into overtime, where the Cougars prevailed.

In the tournament final, White tossed in 35 points to lead the Cougars back from a 19-point, first-quarter deficit. South went on to an 81-70 win over previously-undefeated Fairmont, which was ranked first in the state.

White's only South Brunswick teammate selected to this year's all-county squad was Smith, a 6-1 junior guard/forward who averaged 13 points per game for the Cougars.

West's Mitchell, a 6-5 senior, is a two-time, all-county selection who scored 14.5 points and grabbed 5 rebounds per game this season for Coach Billy Mims' Trojans.

Moody, a 6-2 junior forward, averaged 10.3 points and 4 rebounds per game for West Brunswick, which was 7-7 in the Waccamaw Conference and 8-16 overall.

Ballard, a 6-6 senior center, led North Brunswick in scoring this season with 17 points per game. The Scorpions were 0-14 in the conference and 3-16 overall.


**Congratulations!**

*Emily Pritt* on your 1st place win in the acrobatics category at the Showstoppers Competition April 3. Emily attends Waccamaw School and is under the instruction of Wanda's in Whiteville.

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