



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

CHRISTY REGISTER has been one of many leaders for North Brunswick's softball team this season. Register had two hits in last week's 18-4 win over East Bladen.

Scorpion Softball Team Back On Winning Track

After suffering its first conference loss of the season two weeks ago, North Brunswick's softball team returned to its winning ways last week with a pair of league victories.

The Lady Scorpions pounded visiting East Bladen 18-4 last Thursday, two days after beating county rival South Brunswick 11-2 at Boiling Spring Lakes.

North Brunswick's girls entered this week's play firmly entrenched atop the Waccamaw 2-A Conference standings at 8-1.

In the East Bladen game, Tonya Edge and Michelle Bennett led North with three hits and three RBI each. Christy Register had two hits

as the Lady Scorpions improved their overall record to 15-3.

Last Tuesday at South Brunswick, Cindy Holt had two hits and Bennett hit a two-run home run to power North to its second win of the season over the Lady Cougars.

North Brunswick had two key conference games scheduled this week. The Lady Scorpions were expected to travel to Whiteville Tuesday and entertain West Brunswick Friday.

North closes out the conference slate with a May 18 contest at South Robeson and a May 21 doubleheader against visiting Fairmont. State playoffs start May 25.



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Award-Winning Horsewoman

Mary Elizabeth Garner, a 4-H equestrian attending Shallotte Middle School, won two first-place awards and a second place in racking horse competition earlier this month at a Sea Horse Stables show. She is shown with trainer and stable owner D.P. Strickland and her horse, "Jubilee's Black Onyx." Mary Elizabeth, 13, is the daughter of Carolyn and Fred Garner of Boones Neck Road.

West, Whiteville Share Waccamaw Tennis Title

BY DOUG RUTTER

The West Brunswick and Whiteville boys' tennis teams last week were crowned co-champions of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference after both squads finished with 11-1 league records.

On a coin toss Friday, Whiteville advanced to the state 1-A/2-A dual team playoffs as the conference's only representative. The Wolfpack was scheduled to play at St. Pauls Tuesday in first-round action.

West Brunswick and Whiteville split their two head-to-head matches this season for their only league losses. The Trojans lost 5-4 in Whiteville, but won 6-3 at home late in the season to tie for first.

Last year, West Brunswick and Whiteville also split their matches en route to 11-1 seasons. The Trojans were named conference champs after beating Whiteville in a playoff.

Due to several rain outs this spring and the timing of the state dual team playoffs, West Coach Marti Gillis said there wasn't time to hold a conference playoff this year.

The Trojans (12-2 overall) posted nine shutouts this season and lost just 11 singles and doubles matches in the Waccamaw Conference.

West Brunswick closed out the regular season last Thursday with a 7-1 victory over South

Robeson at Southeastern Community College. The match had been suspended April 21 due to rain.

The Trojans, who pounded visiting Fairmont 9-0 last Tuesday, are preparing for this week's individual regional playoffs. They will be held Friday and Saturday at UNC-Wilmington.

West's top player, Lamarr Hardy, is seeded second in the region behind William Swartz of St. Pauls. Swartz handed Hardy his only non-conference loss this season.

Also competing in the regional singles competition will be Caleb Steedley, the number two player from West Brunswick, and Ryan Yount and Santino McLaughlin of South Brunswick.

West's top doubles team, Michael Simmons and Michael Sellars, is seeded fifth in the region. Whiteville's duo of Dave Eichman and Matt Young are seeded seventh.

"All of West's players have very good draws, and if they play up to their capabilities they have an outstanding chance to qualify for the state championships next week," Gillis said.

"Lamarr's number two seed is very much deserved. He's worked very hard this year on improving especially his mental game."

Hardy lost his first conference match of the season last week to South Robeson's Scott

Ransom, who is seeded fourth in the region. Hardy, a junior, is 12-2 overall.

"The loss last week may have been good because it took a lot of pressure off him," Gillis said. "Playing number one has enough pressure, but playing number one and being undefeated is even tougher. I'm sure Lamarr will work even harder this week."

South Robeson Results

Singles: Ransom (SR) def. Hardy, 6-4, 6-2; Steedley (WB) def. Jacobs, 6-0, 6-0; Simmons (WB) def. Michael, 6-2, 6-1; Sellars (WB) def. Hunt, 6-2, 6-1; Carter (WB) def. Green, 6-4, 6-2; Lewis (WB) def. Ford, 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles: Sellars-Simmons (WB) def. Jacobs-Michael, 8-1; Villa-Stanley (WB) def. Green-Ford, 6-1.

Fairmont Results

Singles: Hardy (WB) def. Schofield, 8-6; Steedley (WB) def. Jones, 8-0; Simmons (WB) def. Locklear, 8-0; Wooten (WB) def. Bass, 8-0; Carter (WB) def. Signes, 8-4; Lewis (WB) won by forfeit.

Doubles: Simmons-Sellars (WB) def. Schofield-Jones, 8-1; Wooten-Carter (WB) def. Locklear-Bass, 8-3; Lewis-Stanley (WB) won by forfeit.

Lady Trojans Drop Two Of Three

West Brunswick's softball team continued to struggle at the plate last week as the Lady Trojans dropped two out of three games and hurt their chances of earning a state playoff berth.

West Brunswick's girls lost 6-5 Friday night at South Robeson to fall to 5-4 in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

The Lady Trojans defeated Fairmont 13-2 in other conference action last week, and lost a non-conference contest at Pender 10-0. Both of those games were halted after five innings under the 10-run rule.

Coach Tracey James said the Lady Trojans had just seven hits in their loss at South Robeson and four base hits at Pender.

"We haven't hit the ball all week," James said following Friday's one-run loss at Rowland. "We're just getting behind early and having to dig ourselves out of a hole."

Even in their 13-2 victory over Fairmont last Tuesday, the Lady Trojans had just five hits. Fairmont's porous defense contributed more to the win than West's

hitting.

James said the Lady Trojans have been hitting well in practice, but not during the games. He said West has a young team and the girls get nervous in game situations. "In slow pitch softball you've got to hit it and run and score some runs," James said. "We're not doing enough of that."

Despite the 5-4 conference record, West Brunswick still has a shot at claiming one of the conference's three state playoff berths.

"With only two weeks to go, we're going to have to win the rest and have somebody else lose some," James said. "We're not going to give up. We're going to hang in there."

West Brunswick (8-6 overall) had a doubleheader scheduled Tuesday against visiting West Columbus. The Lady Trojans will travel to Leland Friday to play conference leader North Brunswick.

West Brunswick ends league play with a May 18 game against visiting East Bladen and a May 21 contest at South Brunswick.

Ricker Shines In Cougars' 1-0 Loss

South Brunswick's Brian Ricker pitched a two-hitter last Thursday, but the Cougars lost 1-0 to West Columbus in a Waccamaw 2-A Conference baseball game at Boiling Spring Lakes.

Ricker struck out nine and walked three in seven innings. The Vikings scored the game's only run in the fourth. The Cougars suffered their seventh one-run loss of the year.

South Brunswick (1-8 conference, 2-15 overall) was scheduled to play at South Robeson Tuesday and at West Columbus Wednesday. The Cougars entertain Fairmont Friday.

Duncan Joins Sports Hall Of Fame

BY DOUG RUTTER

Jim Duncan of Calabash was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame last week—joining legends like Charlie

"Choo Choo" Justice, Roman Gabriel, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Arnold Palmer and Dean Smith.

Duncan, one of 15 inductees this year, had outstanding college and pro football careers before going into coaching and leading the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League to a Grey Cup title in 1971.

"Of all the honors that you get in your lifetime, it seems to me when you're honored by your home state that's about the best honor you can get," Duncan said after returning from last Thursday's ceremony in Raleigh.

Duncan said most of his family, several former teammates at Wake Forest University and some of the players he coached attended the in-

duction ceremony at the North Raleigh Hilton. "It was very nice."

Among those attending was Bill Bradley, who played football under Duncan at Appalachian State University. Bradley's late brother, Fred, was a teacher and assistant football coach at West Brunswick High School.

Duncan also got to see old friends like "Choo Choo" Justice, perhaps the greatest running back in North Carolina history. "I've known Charlie for about 50 years now and we've always been real close."

Duncan, one of 157 members of the Hall of Fame, played pro football for the New York Giants from 1950 to 1955. He played end and linebacker for the Giants along side greats such as Tom Landry and Frank Gifford.

A native of Reidsville, Duncan had a brilliant football career at Wake Forest University. He was named an all-conference player three times during his career and was inducted into the Wake Forest Hall of Fame in 1985.

After retiring from professional football, Duncan went into coaching. He was either assistant or head football coach at Appalachian State

until 1965.

Duncan also served as an assistant coach with Regina Roughriders of CFL, which won two Grey Cups during his stint. He was head coach of the Stampeders for five years, winning the Canadian equivalent of the Super Bowl in 1971.

Duncan, a former golf pro, has lived in Calabash for about three years with his wife, Lib.

Reflecting on his success in sports, Duncan said, "I always just looked at it as a game. I've never been one to sound my own horn. I enjoy my peace and quiet here in Calabash."

The Sports Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization that honors men and women who have brought recognition to themselves and the state of North Carolina through excellence in sports.

A new, \$3 million wing is being built at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh to house the plaques, tapes and other memorabilia included in the Sports Hall of Fame.

Scorpions Whip South 12-1

Jared McGee hurled a two-hitter to lead North Brunswick to a 12-1 win over South Brunswick in Waccamaw 2-A Conference high school baseball last Tuesday in Leland.

The Scorpions exploded for nine runs in the second inning. Adrian Black, who is hitting .304 for the season, had two of North's eight hits.

McGee, a senior right-hander, struck out five Cougar batters to reduce his earned run average to 2.47. McGee is North's leading hitter with a .447 average and 17 RBI.

Also leading the Scorpion offense are Demetrius Bell with a .304 average, Jeremy Child at .293 and Matt Mintz at .283. Casey McBride is the team's top pitcher with a 1.33 ERA.

North Brunswick's baseball game Friday at East Bladen was canceled due to a conflict with the East Bladen prom.

The Scorpions (4-5 conference, 6-8 overall) were scheduled to host Whiteville Tuesday. North Brunswick travels to West Brunswick Friday looking to clinch the county championship.

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