

SOUTH ROBESON'S PETE GRAHAM scrambles back to first base while West Brunswick's Gregg Mott awaits a pickoff throw from the pitcher.

West Trojans Pound Mustangs For Third Straight 2-A Win

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick rode the strong pitching of Mike Turner to a 10-1 win over visiting South Robeson Friday night in Waccamaw 2-A Conference high school baseball.

Turner yielded three hits to the Mustangs, struck out three and walked none in the complete-game victory. The senior right-hander threw just 55 pitches, averaging less than eight throws per inning.

"Mike did a heck of a job," Trojan Coach Mike Alderson commented. "The thing about Mike is he's going to throw strikes and keep the ball low. When you don't walk anybody, you've got a chance."

Turner also benefited from West Brunswick's greatest offensive production since April 12. The Trojans scored their 10 runs on nine hits and two South Robeson errors.

"We put the bat on the ball a little bit," Alderson said following his club's third straight victory. "Our bats are coming around. I just hope they don't go cold on us."

Leading the Trojan assault were sophomore shortstop Mike Johnson with three hits and two RBI and senior catcher Bryan Fleming with a double and two-run home run.

The Trojans, winners of four of their last five games, took a 1-0 lead in the first when Wayne Branch singled and scored on Johnson's triple to right field.

South Robeson tied the game at 1-1 in the third when Pete Graham singled and later scored from third on a wild pitch. Graham had two of the Mustangs' three hits.

West Brunswick took the lead for good in the bottom of the third. Marty Earwood drew a leadoff walk, moved to second on Gregg Mott's sacrifice bunt and scored on a single by Johnson.

Following an intentional walk to Fleming and a wild pitch that put runners on second and third, Aaron Butler hit a grounder through the legs of Mustang shortstop Graham that allowed two runs to score.

Leading 4-1, the Trojans struck

for four more runs with a two-out rally in the fifth. Fleming and Butler hit back-to-back doubles, Eric Johnson had an RBI single and two runs scored when South Robeson misplayed Keane Bellamy's liner to center fielder.

With New York Yankees and UNC-Greensboro scouts looking on, Fleming blasted a two-run homer to center field in the sixth. It was Fleming's fifth of the season and third in the last 11 days.

While West Brunswick padded its lead, Turner was most effective in the late innings. He faced the minimum number of batters over the final four frames. One Mustang reached base on an error, but was immediately wiped out on a double play.

South Robeson starter Dennis Hunt yielded eight runs on seven hits and struck out three in 4 2/3 innings. Reliever Keith Hunt gave up two runs on two hits.

Three weeks ago, it looked like the Trojans were going to miss out on the state playoffs when they lost three straight conference games and dropped into fifth place in the league standings.

In the last two weeks, however, West Brunswick has won four out of five league contests and pulled back into the playoff hunt. The top three

teams from the Waccamaw will qualify.

Going into this week's play, West Brunswick was in fourth place at 6-4. Whiteville leads the league at 9-0, followed by East Bladen at 7-2 and West Columbus at 5-3.

"We put our backs against the wall and when you get your backs against the wall you got to fight," Alderson said. "We're fighting for a playoff berth. So far we're fighting pretty good."

Alderson said this year's Trojan club has followed the same pattern as his teams of the previous two years, battling late in the season to make the state playoffs.

West Brunswick (12-6 overall) was scheduled to travel to West Columbus Tuesday will host North Brunswick Friday in continued league play. The Scorpions can earn the county championship with a win Friday.

West Brunswick will wrap up Waccamaw Conference play next week with a Tuesday night game at East Bladen and a Friday night home game against South Brunswick.

Game Summary

W. Bruns. 1 0 3 0 4 2 X—10 9 2
S. Robeson 0 0 1 0 0 0—1 3 2

Trojans Beat Fairmont 9-3

West Brunswick's baseball team collected eight hits and played flawless defense in a 9-3 Waccamaw 2-A Conference victory over visiting Fairmont last Tuesday.

Sophomore Eric Johnson was the winning pitcher for West Brunswick, yielding eight hits to the Golden Tornadoes. Johnson struck out four and walked two in seven innings of work.

After giving up three runs in the first three innings, the right-handed Johnson settled down and gave up just two hits over the last four frames.

Senior catcher Bryan Fleming had

two doubles and three RBI to lead the Trojan offense. Marty Earwood had a pair of hits, and Aaron Butler singled and scored twice for West.

Fairmont's Vince Gray had two hits, including a two-run home run in the first inning, and Al Leggett also picked up two hits for the Tornadoes. Pitcher Junior Freeman suffered the loss.

West Brunswick improved its record to 5-4 in the conference and 11-6 overall. Fairmont fell to 3-6 in league play.

Game Summary

W. Bruns. 1 3 0 0 2 3 X—9 8 0
Fairmont 2 0 1 0 0 0—3 8 2



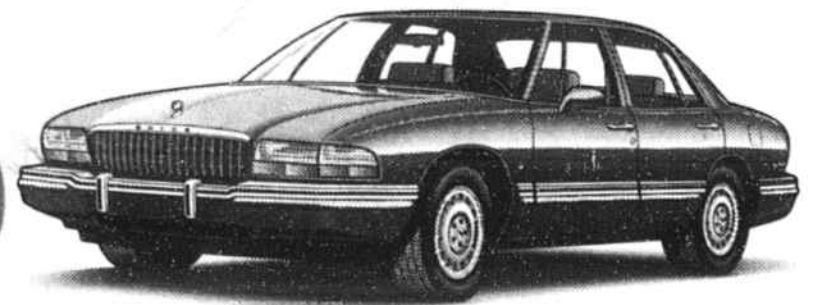
WEST'S MIKE TURNER delivers a pitch during Friday's game against South Robeson. Turner pitched a three-hitter as the Trojans won 10-1.

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