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THURSDAY, MAY 20

South Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in JV baseball, 5 p.m.

North Brunswick hosts Fairmont in JV baseball, 5 p.m. South Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in softball, 5 p.m.

Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Lockwood Folly Township Park: Camp Methodist vs. Old Shallotte, 7 p.m.; Shallotte First vs. Seaside Methodist, 8 p.m.; Letties Grove vs. Emanual Outreach, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 21

- North Carolina Girls 1-A/2-A High School Track & Field Championships will be held today at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- North Carolina 1-A/2-A High School Boys Tennis Championships will be held today and Saturday at N.C. State University, Raleigh.
- North Brunswick hosts Fairmont in softball doubleheader, 4 p.m.
- West Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- North Brunswick at Fairmont in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Township Park: Friendship Baptist vs. Mount Olive, 7 p.m.; New Britton vs. Supply Baptist, 8 p.m.; Zion Baptist vs. Calvary Baptist, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

- The South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a captain's choice golf tournament at Brierwood Golf Club, 9 a.m. For information, call the chamber at 754-6644.
- The South Brunswick Islands Optimists Club will hold a Bike Safety Rodeo at Shallotte Middle School, 10 a.m. until noon. For information, call Currie Batchelor, 579-9073, or Lisa Winfree, 754-5884, after 6 p.m.
- North Carolina Boys 1-A/2-A High School Track & Field Championships will be held today at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League: Calvary vs. Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands, 7 p.m.; Shell Point vs. Jennies Branch, 8 p.m.; Supply vs. Soldier Bay, 9 p.m., at Lockwood Folly Township Park. Southport B vs. Southport A, 7 p.m.; Faith vs. Oak Island-Bethel, 8 p.m.; Mount Olive vs. Town Creek, 9 p.m., at Smithville Township Park.

MONDAY, MAY 24

Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Township Park: Ocean View vs. Jennies Branch, 7 p.m.; Soldier Bay vs. Dixon Chapel, 8 p.m.; Old Shallotte vs. Shallotte First, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

- North Carolina 2-A high school baseball and softball playoffs begin today.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Lockwood Folly Township Park: Camp Methodist vs. Seaside Methodist, 7 p.m.; Mount Olive vs. Emanual Outreach, 8 p.m.; Letties Grove vs. Friendship Baptist, 9 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the Beacon. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, The Brunswick

Trojan Track Star To Compete In Barcelona

BY DOUG RUTTER Irene Johnson is just like every other West Brunswick High School senior. She can hardly wait for graduation night, June 9.

But Irene has a lot more to look forward to this summer than most of her classmates. While they get ready for college or start looking for work, Irene will be preparing for the opportunity of a lifetime.

The West Brunswick track and field standout will join a select group of Americans competing this summer in Barcelona, Spain-the site of the last year's Summer Olympics.

"I'm very excited and really overwhelmed," Johnson said last week of the upcoming trip. "It's going to be a huge experience. I can't wait."

Every year, an organization called World Sports Exchange takes American teams abroad for international competition, the opportunity to learn about foreign culture and meet and share ideas with foreign athletes.

Johnson, a three-time Brunswick County and Waccamaw 2-A Conference triple jump champion, will be part of an 80-member American track team competing in the Cata-Ionian Junior Track & Field Games July 3 and 4 in Barcelona.

All of the athletes selected for the team are high school students who have excelled in district, regional or state competition. This will be the first trip to Barcelona for the World Sports Exchange program.

Irene, the 18-year-old daughter of Curtis and Ella Johnson of Shallotte, is looking forward to her first trip out of the country and first trip on an airplane.

"The farthest I've ever been was Indianapolis and Mississippi," she said. "I'm just excited to go. I'm going to do my best."

Johnson first went out for the West Brunswick track and field team as a 10th-grader and has been one of the stars on the girls' team for the last three years.

"My sophomore year I just made up my mind I wanted to run," she said. "I just went out there and discovered all these hidden talents I had. I didn't know I had it in me. It's worth a try. You never know until you try.'

Johnson has won the Brunswick County and Waccamaw Conference triple jump titles each of the last three years. She also won the county and conference long jump and 200meter dash titles this spring.

On Saturday, Johnson won the triple jump at the regional championships in Whiteville. She also placed second in the long jump and 200 meters and will compete in the state championship meet this Friday in Chapel Hill.

Johnson plans to keep training after the high school season ends so she'll be in shape in Barcelona. The Americans will compete against Spanish team at the same track and field stadium used in last year's Olympic games.

Irene will triple jump in the same pit used by American stars Carl Lewis and Mike Powell, who holds the world long jump record.

The World Sports Exchange team, made up of athletes from 35 states, will leave the United States July 1 and return July 9.

Each team member must pay his or her own way-which amounts to \$1,985 for round-trip airfare, accommodations, meals, sightseeing excursions, team uniforms and other expenses.

During the trip, Johnson and her teammates will have time to see the sights in Barcelona and visit the Picasso Museum and the medieval French city of Perpignan.

The Americans also will tour Christopher Columbus' ship, the Santa Maria, and travel to the mountains of Catalonia to visit the 1,000-year-old monastery of Mont Serrat.

After high school, Johnson said she plans to attend UNC-Charlotte.

BEACON FILE PHOTO WEST BRUNSWICK SENIOR Irene Johnson will be one of 80 American high school track and field athletes competing this summer in Barcelona, Spain.

Locals Qualify For State Track Championships

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County will send 24 student athletes to the North Carolina 1A/2A High School Track & Field Championships this week in Chapel Hill. The girls' meet is Friday, and the boys compete Saturday.

Twelve local girls and 12 boys qualified for states by finishing in the top four in their events at Saturday's regional meet in Whiteville. West and South will send nine students each, and North will send six.

Individual qualifiers from West Brunswick were Irene Johnson, Catherine Bell and Christy Thorpe in girls' competition, and Philip Johnson

In boys' competition, West Brunswick junior Philip Johnson took first place in both the shot put and discus events. He threw the shot put 48 feet, one-half inch, and tossed the discus 140 feet, 3 inches.

Brett said Johnson has a good chance to place high or win both events at the state meet. However, he hadn't seen results from other regions to compare Johnson's distances with those of other qualifiers

Reeves, the Brunswick County and Waccamaw 2-A Conference boys triple jump champion, finished second at the regional meet Saturday with a jump of 43 feet 9 inches Also advancing to state competition was West Brunswick's 3200-meter relay team of Chris Brown, Timmy Vaught, Bobby Barnes and Greg Hewett. They won the regional in 8:41.30. The foursome won the conference championship two weeks ago in 9:02.22. "It's amazing. They've cut about 21 seconds off their time, Brett said. "They're taking a lot of pride in what they're doing.'

800-meter run, and Stone placed third in the 3200-meter run.

Also advancing from South Brunswick was Andrea Knight, who placed second in the 800 meters. South's 1600-meter girls relay team of Robin Shaw, Wendy Fowler, Shannon Elliott and Sharon Einfeldt placed fourth.

State qualifiers from North Brunswick include Keith Stroman, who placed fourth in the 1600meter run, and Redderick Johnson, who was fourth in the pole vault.

North's 800-meter girls relay team finished fourth at the regional event with a time of 55.40. Team members are Valerie Smith, L'Kisha Pretty, Treja Evans and Crystal Davis.



Beacon, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

SPORTING SCENE New Coach Will Inherit Strong Basketball Team

Talent and youth. That's the inheritance awaiting whoever is selected to replace Billy Mims as boys basketball coach at West Brunswick High School.

Principal Ed Lemon fired Mims two weeks ago, presumably because of

his two straight losing seasons and the third in his five years as head coach.

Fair enough. But whoever Lemon chooses to fill Billy's shoes will have no excuses if he can't produce a winner

Quite frankly, West is loaded with young, talented players-Anthony Moody, Eric Johnson, Timmy Daniels, Ty Brown and Derek Frink to name a few.



Those are student-athletes that Mims and junior varsity coach Chris Sanders helped develop into potential high school stars. Unfortunately for coaches Mims and Sanders, they won't be around to reap the rewards.

West Brunswick showed a lot of promise last season by going 7-7 in the rugged Waccamaw 2-A Conference, a league that produced a pair of state quarterfinalists in Fairmont and South Brunswick.

From my point of view, it looked like the Trojans were ready to turn the corner next year and enjoy several successful seasons. They still might, only Mims won't be stalking the sidelines.

A 12-35 overall record the last two seasons wasn't enough to convince Lemon that Mims deserved another shot next year. The principal decided that new leadership was needed, and he's the boss.

With nearly everyone returning next season from this year's basketball squad, expectations will and should be high at West Brunswick. A conference championship isn't out of the realm of possibility.

West Brunswick has joined the state's football elite with two straight trips to the state championship game. The Trojan basketball program may be on the rise as well.

It wasn't that long ago that West Brunswick High was known far and wide for great basketball. The strong cage tradition dates back to the first year of the school. The Trojans were 19-5 in 1972.

Under the late Coach Gary Taylor, West Brunswick was 153-25 in the school's first seven years. Included in that incredible run were back-to-back 27-1 seasons and the state 3-A championship in 1974-75.

The tradition continued long after the Taylor era. West's string of 13 straight winning seasons was finally snapped when the Trojans went 7-16 during the 1985-86 campaign.

West Brunswick has only had three winning seasons in the last seven years. Two of those winning seasons were under Mims, but the Trojans couldn't help win with all-world player Ricky Daniels on the floor.

That's why Lemon felt a change was needed. He didn't see the type of progress he wanted in the basketball program.

To help turn West's basketball fortunes around, Lemon hopes to lure an experienced and successful coach to Shallotte. He wants someone who can bring the great hoops tradition back to West Brunswick.

Last year's selection of Jim Brett to take over as athletic director and head football coach certainly bodes well for Lemon's ability to hire quality people in the athletic department.

The search is on again.

and Calvin Reeves in boys' events.

Senior Irene Johnson was the county's only athlete to qualify in three different events. She placed first in the triple jump with a leap of 37 feet, 5 inches, and was second in both the long jump and 200-meter dash.

"I think she's going to win the triple jump," West Brunswick Boys' Track Coach Jim Brett predicted Monday. "I think she's really getting serious about this thing."

West's Thorpe placed second in the girls' discus with a throw of 94 feet, 11.5 inches. Bell finished fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.96 seconds.

Finishing second in the boys 3200 relay and qualifying for states was South Brunswick's team of Sidney DeJesus, Shawn Stone, Brian Beheler and Thomas Jones. They finished in 8:42.98.

Individually, DeJesus finished third in the

North Coach Bob Grimes said the boys 800meter relay team would have advanced to states but was disqualified for a bad exchange. Stroman, one of the area's best distance runners, didn't enter the 800 or 3200 due to illness.

"It wasn't one of our better days, but we're hoping to do better at states," Grimes said Monday.

As a team, West Brunswick's girls tied Lejeune for third place in the region behind East Carteret and Swansboro. West's boys placed fourth behind Whiteville, West Columbus and Ayden-Grifton.

