



PHOTO BY CLARICE HICKMAN/PHOTOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS

Wildcats Win Softball Crown

The Wildcats won the Lockwood Folly Dixie Youth softball championship this year with a 7-3 record. Pictured (front row, from left) are Rhonette Phillips, Lakelia Bryant, Amanda Hickman, (middle row, from left) Trazia Holmes, Kristine Doster, Tara Holden, Summer Todd, Candice Bryant, (back row, from left) Coach Jetty Gore, Misti Gore, Jennifer Hickman, Amanda McKeithan, Kortney Bradsher and Coach Rhonda Phillips.

DRAFTED BY DODGERS

North's Black Opt's For Louisburg

BY DOUG RUTTER

Adrian Black, a recent graduate of North Brunswick High School, plans to attend Louisburg College for a year before entertaining an offer to play professional baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization.

The Dodgers selected Black in the 30th round of the Major League Baseball amateur draft earlier this month, making him the first local ball player drafted out of high school in five years.

Black said he talked with a Dodgers scout at the Seashell Invitational high school baseball tournament in April. "He told me to work hard and I had half a chance. I really wasn't expecting anything."

Instead of signing a minor league contract with Los Angeles, Black will attend Louisburg for a year before he considers a professional contract. Black can re-enter the draft next year if the Dodgers don't sign him.

"He and the Dodgers both felt playing a year of college would be good for him before he went into the minor leagues," said Black's mother, Mary Corbett of Acme.

At 6-feet-1-inch and 180 pounds, Black is a versatile athlete who can play third base and outfield. He is in his third year with the Brunswick County Post 68 American Legion baseball team.

Black said the Dodgers haven't indicated what position he might play in the pros. "I've played a little bit of

both off and on. I guess it would be to my advantage that I've played both."

Black was recently named to the All-Brunswick County High School Baseball Team after an outstanding senior year for the North Brunswick Scorpions. He had a .367 batting average with three doubles, two home runs and 16 RBI.

Wes Coward, who coached Black this year at North and is an assistant coach with Post 68, said Los Angeles scouts advised their draft choice to go the college route.

Coward sees Louisburg as a "stepping stone" to the minor leagues. "I think that will really help Adrian. He's got a big frame and he should mature physically as well as mentally."

Coward expects Black to excel in college, and thinks he has the potential to make it the pros.

"He's the kind of kid who will help out wherever he goes. He's willing to learn and he does what's asked of him. With his size and natural ability, plus the refinement he's going to get, I think he's got a great shot."

Black is the county's first baseball player to be drafted out of high school since 1988, when the Oakland Athletics selected South Brunswick's Wynn Beck with the 31st pick overall.

Beck, a catcher, hit .505 with eight doubles, seven home runs and 48 RBI for the 1988 Cougars, who won the state 2-A baseball championship and finished the season 29-0.

"With his size and natural ability, plus the refinement he's going to get, I think he's got a great shot."

—Coach Wes Coward

Brunswick County Whips Warsaw 16-1

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County Post 68 scored eight runs in the third inning Saturday night as part of a 16-1 blowout of visiting Warsaw Post 127 in American Legion baseball.

Jared McGee pitched four scoreless innings for the victory, giving up three hits and striking out five. Mike Hewett, Glen Hildreth and Matt Mintz pitched in relief.

Demetrius Bell and Jeremy Child had two hits apiece to lead the Post 68 offense, and McGee added a two-run double. Adrian Black and Casey McBride also had RBI singles.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak for Brunswick County, which had lost to Whiteville and Burgaw earlier in the week. Post 68 entered this week 8-2 in the Area II Eastern League and 10-3 overall.

Brunswick County scored in each of the first five innings, taking a 1-0 lead in the first when Bell led off with a bunt single and scored from third on a dropped third strike.

Post 68 started pulling away in the second inning with four runs. Child singled and later scored on a wild pitch and Randy Coleman walked and scored on an error. McGee drove in two more runs with a double to left field.

Warsaw's wheels came off in the third inning, when Post 68 sent 12 batters to the plate and scored eight runs on three hits and five walks. Warsaw pitchers issued 14 walks in

the game.

Bell and McBride had RBI singles, and Child belted a run-scoring double to highlight the inning. Three runs scored on errors, and two more scored on a wild pitch.

Black had an RBI single as Brunswick County added two more runs in the fourth. Post 68 ended the scoring in the bottom of the fifth when it scored its fifth run via the wild pitch.

Relievers Hewett, Hildreth and Mintz held the Duplin County squad to one run and two hits over the final five innings.

Brunswick County's 16 runs was the club's second-highest run production of the season and marked the fifth time in 13 games Post 68 has scored in double figures.

Game Summary
Warsaw 000010000—155
Brun. Cty. 14821000X—16113

header with Cary Saturday and plays at Post 10 Sunday.

Last Thursday, Brunswick County rallied from a three-run deficit to beat Bladenboro Post 268 5-3 in Leland.

McBride, a rising junior at North Brunswick High School, pitched a five-hitter and struck out 13 batters to improve his pitching record to 3-0 on the season.

Post 68 overcame a 3-0 deficit with four runs in the third inning. J Lewis had a leadoff single, and Brunswick County got three straight doubles from Hatchell, McGee and Adrian Black.

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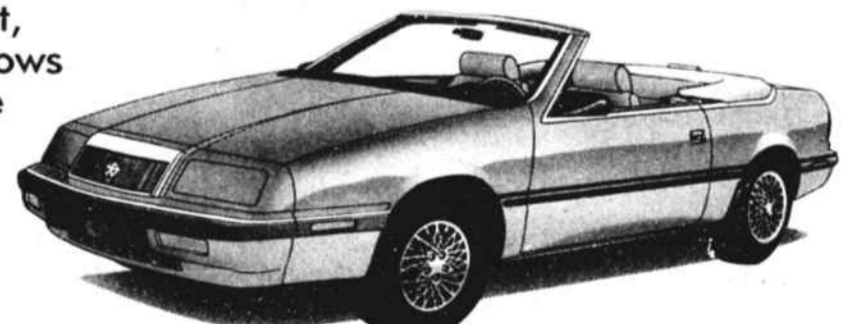
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