

# Brunswick Shores Stops Post 68 For Fifth Straight Legion Win

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick Shores Post 445 rode the strong pitching of Brett Tabor and Scott Gore to a 5-3 win over Brunswick County Post 68 in American Legion baseball Monday night.

It was the fifth straight win for Brunswick Shores, which has clawed its way into playoff contention after opening the season by losing seven of its first 10 games.

Monday's victory at South Brunswick High School left Post 445 with an 8-7 record and a chance to finish fourth in the Area II Eastern League and make the playoffs for the first time in the team's three-year history.

"We've got a shot because we've beaten some of the best teams in the league, everybody but Whiteville," Post 445 Coach Jack Brown said. "I think if we win the rest of them we'll get in."

Brunswick Shores was scheduled to host Beaufort Post 99 Wednesday night in a doubleheader at South Brunswick. Post 445 closes out the regular season Friday in Boiling Spring Lakes against Warsaw Post 127.

On Monday, Tabor and Gore combined on a seven-hitter against Post 68. Tabor allowed three hits

and one run in five innings for the win. Gore pitched well in relief, giving up four hits in four innings and striking out five.

"We got good pitching tonight," Brown said. "Tabor did a good job. He threw about 101 pitches and ran out of gas. That's about his limit. Of course, Scott did a very good job in relief."

For Post 68, starting pitcher Casey McBride suffered his first loss of the season. McBride gave up four runs on nine hits and struck out six. Bryan Bordeaux threw in relief.

Leading the Brunswick Shores offense were Gregg Mott, Wayne Branch, Gore, Jason Bracey and Brad Ricker with two hits each. Robert Hewett and Demetrius Bell had two hits apiece for Post 68, which fell to 11-5 in the league.

Brunswick Shores took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Mott led off with an infield single and later scored on a sacrifice fly by catcher Mike Clewis.

Post 445 bumped its lead to 2-0 in the third when Gore singled, stole second, moved to third on Bryan Fleming's ground out and scored on a wild pitch by McBride.

Brunswick County cut the lead to 2-1 in the fourth when Bordeaux

lifted a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring Jeremy Child from third. Child had reached base on a fielder's choice.

Post 445 got the run back in the bottom of the fourth when Brad Ricker walked and scored from second on a throwing error by Post 68 third baseman Adrian Black.

Brunswick County increased its lead to 4-1 in the seventh when Branch delivered a two-out RBI single up the middle. Bracey scored on the play after reaching base on a dropped third strike.

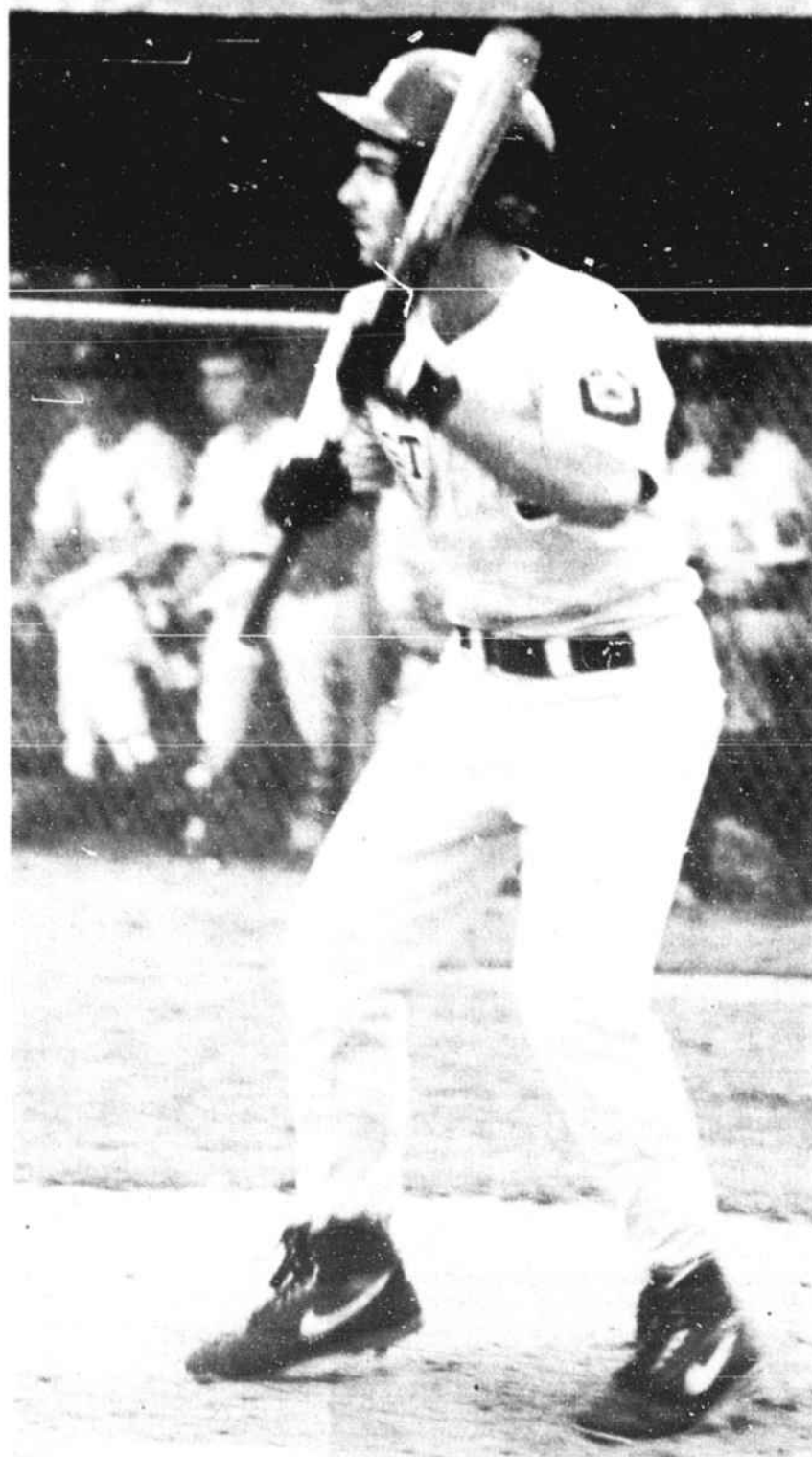
Post 68 rallied for two runs in the eighth on Bert Hatchell's RBI single and a passed ball that allowed Bell to score from third.

In the bottom of the eighth, Brunswick Shores added an insurance run. Clewis was hit by a pitch, moved to second on a hit by Lewis Vaught and scored on Bracey's single.

Brunswick County threatened in the ninth inning, getting three singles to load the bases with one out. But Gore got Bell to line out to third and then struck out Hatchell to end the game.

### Game Summary

Post 68	000	100	020	—3	7	2
Post 445	101	100	11X	—5	12	2



JARED MCGEE of Brunswick County Post 68 squares around to bunt during Monday's game at Brunswick Shores Post 445. Brunswick Shores won 5-3 for its fifth straight victory.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

## LEGION BASEBALL

# Post 10 Sweeps County

Wilmington Post 10 swept Brunswick County Post 68 in an American Legion baseball home-and-home series last week between two of the Area II Eastern League's top teams.

Wilmington posted a 9-7 win Sunday night at Hardee Field, two days after an 11-2 victory at Brunswick County's home field in Leland.

The losses to Post 10, coupled with a 5-3 loss Monday night against Brunswick Shores, left Brunswick County with an 11-5 record in the league and overall mark of 14-7.

Post 68 will close out the regular season this week and should finish as one of the league's top four teams and qualify for the playoffs, which are scheduled to begin Sunday.

Brunswick County was expected to travel to Elizabethtown Tuesday night for a game with Bladenboro Post 268. Post 68 concludes regular season play Friday night at home against Whiteville.

In American Legion play last Thursday, Jeremy Child went 5-for-6 and knocked in three runs to lead Brunswick County to an 18-8 win over host Beaufort Post 99.

Jared McGee and Robert Hewett had three hits apiece for Post 68, while Matt Mintz was the winning pitcher. Mintz threw five innings in relief, striking out six batters and allowing just one hit.

Last Tuesday, Bryan Bordeaux's two-run double in the seventh inning lifted Post 68 to a 5-4 comeback win over visiting Winter Park.

Casey McBride improved his pitching record to 4-0 with a complete-game victory. McBride struck out 13 batters while giving up seven hits and one earned run.

In non-league action last week, Brunswick County split a doubleheader with Cary Post 67 Saturday night in Leland.

Cary won the opener 3-2, but Post 68 came back to win the nightcap 8-5. Brunswick County scored seven runs in the sixth inning to win the second game.

McGee and McBride each drove in two runs for Post 68. Bordeaux pitched four innings of two-hit relief to pick up his first win of the year.

Adrian Black had three hits and drove in one run in the first game for Post 68.

# Post 445 Wins Two At Jacksonville

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick Shores Post 445 evened its record at 7-7 Sunday with a doubleheader sweep of Jacksonville Post 265 in Area II Eastern League American Legion baseball.

After a two-hour rain delay in Jacksonville, Brunswick Shores won the opener 5-2 as Eric Johnson pitched a complete-game, five-hitter. Johnson struck out three and walked

none while going 2-for-3 at the plate.

Gregg Mott went 2-for-4 and Joey Medlin was 3-for-3 with an RBI to help the Shores offense. Lewis Vaught, Wayne Branch and Brad Ricker added RBI singles for Post 445.

In the second game, Mike Clewis went 2-for-3 with a three-run home run and four RBI as Brunswick Shores rolled to a 14-6 victory. Mike Turner and Brian Ricker shared pitching duties.

Jason Bracey was 3-for-5 with two RBI and Johnson was 2-for-3 with one RBI for Brunswick Shores. Eric McMahan and Mott both were 2-for-4.

Brunswick Shores scored 19 runs and had 24 hits in the twin bill while committing just two errors.

### Shores Tops Winter Park

The doubleheader sweep came on the heels of a big, 11-4 victory last Wednesday night at Winter Park. Brunswick Shores and Winter Park are battling for fourth place in the league.

Clewis was 4-for-6 with an RBI. Scott Gore was 2-for-6 with 3 RBI. Bryan Fleming was 3-for-5 with an RBI and Mott was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Branch and Brad Ricker also had two hits each.

Brett Tabor was the winning pitcher, giving up four runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings. Brian Ricker pitched 3 1/3 innings of hitless relief.

Brunswick Shores picked up a forfeit win Friday night when Bladenboro Post 268 didn't have enough players to play.

### Whiteville Beats Post 445

In American Legion action last Tuesday, Post 445 scored three runs in the ninth inning but came up short in a 7-5 loss at Whiteville Post 137.

Brunswick Shores rallied from a 7-2 deficit in the ninth when Eric McMahan singled and later scored on a Whiteville error. Brian Ricker followed with a two-run double.

Post 445 had the bases loaded when Post 137 relief pitcher Clay Boykin struck out Branch for the game's final out.

Frank Merritt pitched 8 2/3 innings for Whiteville and had three hits, including a two-run home run in the sixth inning.

Whiteville took a 5-0 lead into the third inning, but Brunswick Shores trimmed the advantage to 5-2 on a double by Mott and single by Bracey. Gore went the distance on the mound for Post 445, striking out eight batters.

Notes: Entering Monday's game with Brunswick County Post 68, Mott was leading Brunswick Shores with a .438 batting average. He had seven RBI, a team-high 10 stolen bases and a lofty .656 on base average.

Fleming was batting .361 with eight RBI and a .459 on base average, while Bracey was hitting .326 with eight RBI, three doubles and an on base percentage of .435.

Other team leaders through 14 games included Clewis with a .294 batting average and 7 RBI. Branch was hitting .286 with a .491 on base average.

As a team, Post 445 was hitting .267 with 13 doubles, one triple, two home runs and a .426 on base percentage.

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## Clardy Top Bowler In Woodmen League

Pam Clardy rolled a 201 high game and 534 scratch series to lead the women in the Woodmen of the World League last Friday at Brunswick County Bowling Center in Shallotte.

Other top finishers included Ellen Benton with a 201 game and 523 series; Jeanette Sabiston, 185, 484; Gloria Bland, 182, 439; and Joyce Freeman, 176, 515.

Leading the men Friday night was Mike Hardee with a 258 high game and 675 scratch series. Jimmy Robinson had a 251 game and 578 series, and Ken Freeman rolled a 237 game and 624 series.

Other scores included Lee Harris, 226, 549; Waddell Evans, 224, 583; Steve Reynolds, 216, 490; Billy Lewis, 208, 563; Kevin Williams, 204, 569; Alan Freeman, 203, 584; Ervin Stanley, 203, 507; and Dennis Harpster, 201, 521.

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