

This Week In Brunswick Sports

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

□ Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League: Southport A vs. Shell Point, 7 p.m.; Southport B vs. Supply, 8 p.m.; Town Creek vs. Calvary, 9 p.m., at Lockwood Folly Township Park. Oak Island-Bethel vs. Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands, 7 p.m.; Faith vs. Soldier Bay, 8 p.m.; Mount Olive vs. Jennies Branch, 9 p.m., at Smithville Township Park.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

□ Brunswick County Parks and Recreation holds an organizational meeting for its youth soccer league at the county offices, Bolivia, 7 p.m. All site coordinators and coaches should attend. Call Joe Rosselli, 253-4357.

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

SPORTING SCENE

Brunswick Needs One Legion Baseball Team

Both of Brunswick County's American Legion baseball teams did very well this summer. Both finished with winning records, and one advanced to the area finals.

Brunswick County Post 68 made its third straight trip to the playoffs and won its first Area II Eastern Division title in 12 years. Brunswick Shores Post 445, in just its third year, had its best season yet.

Combined, Brunswick County and Brunswick Shores had a record of 36-23. That's pretty good, but not spectacular.

Imagine for a moment what kind of summer could it have been if the best players from Brunswick County and Brunswick Shores had played on the same team. It might have been a state championship summer.

Seriously. Imagine a pitching staff of Casey McBride, Jared McGee, Scott Gore, Brett Tabor and Eric Johnson. Those would have been some pretty good arms taking the hill every game.

Imagine the offense that could have been generated by a lineup featuring a top five like Demetrius Bell, Gregg Mott, Mike Clewis, Bryan Fleming and Adrian Black. That group would have scored some runs.

Oh, what could have been if it weren't for politics. Three years ago, it was politics that caused a split in the county's American Legion baseball program.

Until then, Brunswick County Post 68 was the only team in the county. It drew kids from North Brunswick, West Brunswick and South Brunswick high schools and a few from Acme-Delco High.

In 1991, Brunswick Shores Post 445 established a baseball program solely for the kids at West and South. Post 68 was left with the kids from North and Acme-Delco (now East Columbus).

Three years later, both clubs had winning seasons. But what will next year hold when both teams lose a lot of their top players? The fact of the matter is this county is not big enough to field two competitive American Legion teams year in and year out.

Strange as it sounds, administrators from both posts have told me this summer that the county would be better off with one team. It would be more competitive and more representative of Brunswick County.

As for the reasons we still have two teams, it depends who you talk to. The Post 68 folks say Post 445 acted selfishly in creating a second team. Post 445 folks say Post 68 never gave the kids from West and South a fair shake.

It doesn't really matter how we arrived where we are. What matters now is correcting the problem and forming one team. We shouldn't continue to let politics interfere with what was intended to be a game for little boys.

To remove the politics as much as possible, the sponsoring American Legion post could hire a coach from outside the county—somebody like Post 68 Coach Ed Lewis who lives in Wilmington. That coach could hold open tryouts for any kids interested in playing, whether they starred on their high school team or not.

Instead of county commissioners giving \$5,000 each to two Legion teams, they could give \$10,000 to one county team. It would provide for better uniforms, equipment and maybe even enough cash to travel out of state.

To accommodate everyone, a baseball field could be built somewhere in the central part of the county. Brunswick Community College has tons of land suitable for a really nice ball field. The field could be used for other activities when it's not being used for American Legion baseball. In the future, BCC may even have its own baseball team like Southeastern Community College in Whiteville.

There are so many things that divide Brunswick County—politics, culture, geography, economics...

Having one American Legion baseball team is one thing that would help unify the county.

O'Sullivan Rolls 257 Game

Mimi O'Sullivan rolled a 257 high game and 584 series to lead the women last Friday in the Woodmen of the World League at Brunswick County Bowling Center in Shallotte.

Other top finishers among the women were Pam Clardy with a 219 game and 546 series; Bobbi Hardee, 203, 578; Jeanette Sabiston, 200, 557; and Becky Roundtree, 184, 522.

High rollers among the men included Ken Freeman with a 247 game and 572 series, Lee Harris with a 234 game and 621 series and Mike Clardy with a 230 game and 625 series.

Also Eric Varnam, 222, 500; Mike Hardee, 219, 584; Chris Chappell, 214, 607; Bob Fluegel, 213, 550; B.J. Gaither, 212, 579; Alan Freeman, 208, 529; Jimmy Robinson, 204, 558; Kevin Williams, 203, 527; and Jimmy Pierce, 201, 563.

Stevenson Helps East Beat West

West Brunswick High School graduate Shawn Stevenson helped lead the East to a 10-7 victory over the West in the annual East-West All Star Football Game last Wednesday in Greensboro.

Stevenson, who will play football on scholarship at Elon College this fall, started at linebacker for the East squad. Whiteville's Damien Hall caught a touchdown pass for the East.

Aaron Butler, a teammate of Stevenson's on West Brunswick's 1992 state 2A championship team, also was selected to the East All Star team. He did not play because he is taking summer classes at N.C. State University.

Tennis Practice To Begin Monday

The West Brunswick High School girls' tennis team will start practicing for the 1993 fall season next Monday, Aug. 9.

Coach Martie Gillis said practices the first week will run from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. All girls must have physical examinations in order to participate.

Wrestling Clinic Has Been Canceled

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department has canceled the youth wrestling camp that was scheduled Aug. 16-19 at South Brunswick High School.

County athletic coordinator Joe Rosselli said the camp cannot be held due to installation of the new gymnasium floor at South Brunswick.

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