

BACK IN THE SADDLE

North Scorpions Return To Gridiron Friday



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

BY DOUG RUTTER

It's been 657 days since North Brunswick High School has participated in a varsity football game.

The Scorpions, who did not play in 1992 due to a lack of upperclassmen, will make their long-awaited return to the gridiron Friday night against the Topsail Pirates.

No more watching from the sidelines. The Scorpions will button their chin strap and butt heads with the host Pirates at 7:30 p.m.

"I think they're looking forward to it," North Coach Gary Baldwin said Monday. "I think they'll be ready. I hope so."

Although Topsail won just two games last year, Baldwin said he expects a tough ball game Friday night.

"They have a lot of guys returning," he said. "They're expecting good things. They feel like this is one of the best teams they've had there in a long while."

Baldwin said he hopes North Brunswick gets some early breaks to help build the confidence of the young players that the team will depend on this season.

"A lot of it's going to depend on going in there real positive," he said. "I expect it to be a good ball game. Both teams are in need of a good start. I think it's going to be a tough game."

Baldwin said North Brunswick's strengths are the size and strength of its players and the fact that only three or four will be called on to play both offense and defense.

"That will help us, especially early in the season," Baldwin said.

North Brunswick will start a lot of young players. "We're counting on these sophomores to grow up real quick and contribute. If we can get them going things will look real good for the future."

North is starting fresh this fall, moving from the Waccamaw Con-

ference to the new Three Rivers 1A/2A Conference. Other members are Fairmont, East Bladen, Tar Heel, St. Pauls, Bladenboro, Red Springs and South Robeson.

Baldwin said switching leagues should allow the Scorpions to be more competitive on the football field. In seven years in the Waccamaw Conference, North had a record of 4-45 against league opponents.

Although North Brunswick has the student enrollment of a small 2A school, the Scorpions will "play down" to the 1A level. That means teams will only be eligible for the state playoffs every other year.

Topsail, a member of the Coastal Plains 1A Conference, was 2-8 last year. However, Coach Ron Howard has 16 returning lettermen this fall, including eight starters on offense and nine on defense.

North Brunswick and Topsail have squared off on the gridiron three times since 1987, and all three games have been shutouts. The Scorpions won 21-0 in 1987 and 26-

0 in 1991. Topsail was a 25-0 winner in 1988.

Other games involving Three Rivers Conference teams this week include St. Pauls at South Brunswick, Hobbton at South Robeson, South Columbus at Bladenboro, Whiteville at East Bladen and Fairmont at East Columbus.

Red Springs and Tar Heel will open the regular season next week. North Brunswick takes next Friday off before entertaining Dixon in the Scorpions' home opener Sept. 10.

1993 NORTH BRUNSWICK FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Aug. 2 |at Topsail |
| Sept. 3 |OPEN |
| Sept. 10 |Dixon |
| Sept. 17 |at Lejeune |
| Sept. 24 |at Fairmont |
| Oct. 1 |East Bladen |
| Oct. 8 |at Tar Heel |
| Oct. 15 |St. Pauls |
| Oct. 22 |at Bladenboro |
| Oct. 29 |Red Springs |
| Nov. 5 |at South Robeson |

NORTH BRUNSWICK Coach Gary Baldwin hopes he has his team pointed in the right direction when the Scorpions take the field Friday at Topsail.

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West Brunswick High School



1st row (l-r): 40-Ty Brown, 31-Greg Gause, 4-Corey Hill, 77-Darius Vaught, 22-William Stanley, 55-Jonathan Faulk, 53-Walter Salano, 62-Jamison Gore, 35-Ricky Hill, 21-Dexter Bass. 2nd row (l-r): 42-Jamal Stanley, 63-Blake Hobbs, 2-Wayne Branch, 75-Charlie Peele, 44-Neil Warren, 65-Kelley Wooten, 66-Kip Young, 56-John Robinson, 11-Michael Johnson, 15-Dominique Hewett, 52-Brian McDowell. 3rd row (l-r): 50-Kwabena Green, 80-Leon Johnson, 89-Eric Andreis, 3-Eric Johnson, 5-Steve Holmes, 47-Timmy Vaught, 32-Michael Lance, 83-Terrell Thomas, 10-Timothy Daniels. 4th row (l-r): 85-Heath Inman, 46-James Morgan, 67-Phillip Johnson, 82-Derek Frink, 34-Todd Pruitt, 73-Steve Brooks, 45-Chris Brown, 78-Marcus McCray. Back row (l-r): Trojan Coaching Staff: Mike Alderson, Joe Noble, Head Coach Jim Brett, Charlie Stevens, David Arrowood.

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