

SPORTING SCENE

Football Season Returns Not A Moment Too Soon

It will probably be a blistering 90 degrees at kickoff and more humid than a health club sauna. There will probably be thousands of mosquitoes swarming the sidelines, buzzing around ears and biting ankles without mercy.

Bring on the heat. Bring on the bugs. It won't matter as long as high school football is played Friday night in Shallotte.

West Brunswick's Trojans, last year's state 2A football champions, make their long-awaited return to the gridiron Friday. Conway's Tigers will provide the opposition.

I've been looking forward to this season opener since last December—Dec. 12 to be exact. That was the day West Brunswick defeated the Maiden Blue Devils 14-6 to capture the school's first state football title.

It's hard to believe eight months has passed since that incredible day in Chapel Hill.

Looking back, it was West's total team effort that decided the game. The offense took advantage of its two scoring opportunities while the defense stuffed the state's all-time leading high school rusher, Antoine Ikard.

I'll never forget sprinting onto the Kenan Stadium turf with the players and coaches as the final seconds ran off the clock. I was there to snap photos and take notes, as tempting as it was to simply join in the celebration.

Sports writers are supposed to be impartial observers. But when you watch a group of kids develop into a tight team and drive hundreds of miles to watch them play every week, you can't help but feel like one of the gang.

The last two years have been incredible for Trojan fans. West has been on the winning side in 24 of its last 29 games, claiming two straight Eastern North Carolina championships in the process.

The 1991 and 1992 football teams were excellent, and this year's edition is nothing to sneeze at either. This squad has all the potential of the last two teams. Whether the 1993 Trojans reach their potential remains to be seen.

The journey starts Friday night at 7:30. And if M.H. Rourke Stadium isn't rocking when the Trojans take the field, something is dreadfully wrong.

West Brunswick's veteran players take a lot of pride in what they have accomplished the last two years. These kids have worked extremely hard to earn the respect they have gained across the state.

The community needs to start filling the bleachers and supporting a group of young men who have garnered more positive publicity for the South Brunswick Islands than anything else this decade.

As for me, the lucky underwear that saw the sights in cities like Rowland, Clinton, Farmville and Chapel Hill last year is washed and safely tucked away in the dresser drawer.

It's tattered, but ready for whatever lies ahead.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



SOUTH BRUNSWICK ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Grade
1	Matt Legrande	DB	5-8	155	10
2	Rodney Joyner	WR	5-8	150	11
3	Jeff Simon	QB	6-3	185	12
4	Lewis Vaught	DB	6-1	175	12
7	Ralph Morin	LB	6-0	175	11
9	Jeremy Baker	QB	6-1	175	10
20	Jerry Galloway	DB	6-1	185	12
21	Adam Frazier	HB	5-11	175	11
22	Eric Lanier	DB	6-1	176	11
23	Justin Rohde	DB	5-11	171	12
25	Kevin Smith	HB	6-2	237	12
30	Matt Lennon	FB	5-10	178	11
32	Stephen Lanier	TE	6-0	210	9
33	O.J. Morris	HB	5-10	196	11
34	Terry Galloway	FB	5-10	226	12
51	Kyle Sellers	C	6-1	204	11
52	Wesley Warren	G	5-10	170	10
53	Kendrick Caine	G	6-2	249	11
54	Rodney Willoughby	LB	6-0	196	12
60	David Jones	DE	6-0	181	11
62	Danny Osborne	LB	5-11	172	9
63	Carnell Jones	MG	5-10	155	12
65	Larry Brock	C	6-1	210	9
66	Kevin Cole	T	5-11	230	10
70	Roland Vereen	T	5-10	267	10
71	Bradley McLain	T	6-2	230	9
73	Brian Bellamy	G	5-10	195	11
74	Shane Vaicz	T	6-1	175	11
75	Oscar Roberts	T	6-3	268	12
76	Charles Blue	G	6-1	270	11
77	Terrance Randolph	T	6-1	271	12
80	Izesta Brown	SE	6-0	180	10
82	Will Rabon	DE	5-11	174	11
85	Mike Bethal	TE	6-2	180	11

South Team Ready To Tackle Bulldogs

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick will be looking for its first season-opening football win in three years when it takes the field Friday night against the visiting St. Pauls Bulldogs.

"For our program it's real important to get a win," Cougar Coach Bill Hewett said Tuesday. "Our kids are still trying to learn how to win."

Hewett will rely heavily on a defense that features 11 players who have started at least one game for South Brunswick. The less-experienced offense will open the season running the triple option.

"We've just got to play some football," Hewett said of the St. Pauls game. "We feel like we're capable of beating them if we play the type of football we're capable of playing."

Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. at Jack Campbell Stadium.

"I feel like we've got some guys who can play some football," Hewett said. "I just don't know if we're ready to play football. Right now things aren't falling into place for us."

South Brunswick's last playoff appearance came in 1990 when the Cougars finished 6-5. South Brunswick has been 5-5 each of the last two seasons.

The Cougars haven't won a season opener since a 35-6 blowout of

Hallsboro in 1990.

This will be the second straight year that South opens the season against St. Pauls. The Bulldogs beat the Cougars 25-7 in last year's opener en route to a 13-1 season and trip to the Eastern North Carolina 2A finals.

St. Pauls, a 2A school, won the Southern 1A/2A Conference championship last year. The Bulldogs are expected to contend for the league title in the new Three Rivers 1A/2A Conference this season.

Coach Richard "Yogi" Hickman has 12 lettermen back from last year's squad, including three offensive starters and four on defense.

One of the Bulldog starters is Tony Robinson, a 6-2, 235-pound running back and linebacker who Hewett says is one of the top high school prospects in the state.

1993 SOUTH BRUNSWICK FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Aug. 27	St. Pauls
Sept. 3	at East Duplin
Sept. 10	Lejeune
Sept. 17	Laney
Sept. 24	at Clinton
Oct. 1	West Columbus
Oct. 8	at East Columbus
Oct. 15	Whiteville
Oct. 22	at Pender
Oct. 29	at South Columbus
Nov. 5	West Brunswick

IN COED LEAGUE

Jennies Branch Wins Tourney

Jennies Branch, seeded 10th out of 12 teams, captured the Brunswick Baptist Assoc. Coed Softball League Tournament championship Saturday at Smithville Park in Southport.

Jennies Branch, which was 5-11 during the regular season, defeated Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands two games in a row to win the double-elimination tournament.

Gospel Center-Brunswick Islands finished second in the tournament after posting a 13-3 record during the regular season and finishing tied for first in Division 1.

Calvary, also 13-3 in the regular season, placed third in the tournament. Mount Olive was fourth in the tournament after winning 14 of its 16 regular-season games.

Town Creek Plans Saturday Cookout

The Town Creek Dixie Youth League will hold its annual awards ceremony and cookout Saturday, Aug. 28, at Town Creek Township Park in Winnabow.

The awards ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the election of officers for the 1994 season and the cookout.

League president Bert Walls encourages all coaches, players and family members to attend.

Middle Schools Set Football Practice

Seventh and eighth graders at Shallotte Middle School and Waccamaw Elementary School interested in playing football this fall are asked to report to practice next Tuesday, Aug. 31.

Practice will be held at Shallotte Middle from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., said Coach Richard Hubbard.

Rec Department Announces Fall, Winter Classes, Activities

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is concluding its summer water fitness classes, resuming its low-impact aerobics schedule and planning canoeing and skiing trips for the fall and winter.

Water Fitness
Water fitness classes conclude this week at both Ft. Caswell and the Gauntlet. Classes at Lockwood Folly Golf Links will end the week of Sept. 6-9.

Low-Impact Aerobics
Low-impact aerobics classes will begin Oct. 5 at the Lockwood Folly Community Building and will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. There will be a \$15 per month participation fee, or \$3 per class to drop in.

Classes at Town Creek Community Building will begin Monday Sept. 1 and will take places Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. The fee will be \$20 per month or \$3 to drop in.

Canoeing
A canoe trip has been scheduled for Nov. 6-7 on Shelter Creek. The group will camp out Saturday night at Holland's Fish Camp near Burgaw.

Skiing
Three downhill ski trips will be offered in 1994. The trips are open to anyone 21 or older. Costs will be determined by number of participants.

Trips planned are:
■ Timberline/Caanan Valley, W.Va., Jan. 21-24, at an approximate cost of \$175 per person;
■ Seven Springs, Pa., Feb. 6-9, approximate cost, \$275;
■ Snowshoe, W.Va., March 4-7, approximate cost, \$220.

All three ski trips have an Oct. 10 deposit due date.

For more information or reservations, call Emma T. McGraw at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

Brave Fever Wins League

Brave Fever finished atop the team standings in the Woodmen of the World Summer Mixed Bowling League, which recently completed play at Brunswick County Bowling Center in Shallotte.

Other top teams included Just Bowlers, Sandbaggers, Four Barrel and Mike's Pro Shop.

Finishing sixth through 14th were Hit & Miss, Inlaws & Outlaws, Southern Comfort, Haley's Comets, Lucky Strikers, Where's It At, Rolling Woodmen, Natural Swingers and Hot Shots.

Team awards included high handicap series, Four Barrel, 2591; high handicap game, Just Bowlers, 937; high series scratch, Just Bowlers,

2291; and high game scratch, Just Bowlers, 842.

Individual awards for the men went to Ken Freeman, high handicap series, 734; Waddell Evans, high handicap game, 298; Lee Harris, high series scratch, 709; and Kevin Williams, high game scratch, 262.

Female winners were Bobbi Hardee, high handicap series, 698; Jeanette Sabiston, high handicap game, 295; Pam Clardy, high series scratch, 605; and Mimi O'Sullivan, high game scratch, 257.

High averages were posted by Mike Hardee with 195.58 and Pam Clardy with 184.70. Most improved bowlers were Eric Varnam with a 15-point increase and Karen Stanley, who improved 10.75 points.

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