

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

# West Brunswick To Host Powerful Purnell Swett Rams

BY DOUG RUTTER

One down. Four to go. West Brunswick High School survived its battle with the Conway Tigers, the first of the five 4A schools on the 'Trojans' non-conference football schedule this fall.

Up next are the Purnell Swett Rams, a powerful team from one of North Carolina's toughest and most balanced conferences.

Following last week's 25-21 loss to visiting Conway, West Brunswick will be looking for its first win of the season when the Rams visit M.H. Rourk Stadium in Shallotte Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"They're another one of those big 4A schools we're trying to compete against," West Brunswick Coach Jim Brett said Monday.

"They're a very good football team. I think they may be better than the team we played last week."

Brett described the Rams as a physical team with good size and speed. "They're aggressive. They really come at you. They're very well-coached and disciplined."

History will be made Friday as the Trojans and Rams have never before met on the gridiron. Purnell Swett will enter the game with a 1-0 record after its 14-6 win over Fayetteville Westover in the season opener.

Brett said he thinks the Trojans have a chance to pick up their first win of the young season this week.

"We'll have to be very sharp and play very well to have a chance. I think we'll be ready," he said. "We had a very hard, difficult practice today. I feel like we got a lot accomplished. I feel like we're very hungry for a win."

Senior halfback Steve Holmes is expected to play Friday night. Holmes, who rushed for more than 1,500 yards last year while scoring 26 touchdowns, played just one down last week due to an injured ankle.

Brett said he doesn't plan to change the basic game plan from last week, but will make some personnel changes in the defense Friday night.

"We're not going to make any

major changes," he said. "We're just trying to improve what we are doing."

Last Friday, the Trojans had their six-game winning streak snapped as well as a state-best string of 14 consecutive games in which they held opponents to less than 20 points.

Purnell Swett, located in western Robeson County, is a member of the Southeastern 4A Conference, which is considered one of the most balanced and strongest conferences in the state.

The league includes powers such as Anson County and Richmond County, which won three consecutive state championships starting in 1988.

"I think it may be one of the toughest 4A conferences in the state," Brett said.

Last year, Purnell Swett was 6-1 in conference play and 9-2 overall. Raleigh Millbrook's Wildcats defeated the Rams, 10-7, in the first round of the state playoffs.

Rams' Coach Mark Heil has 16 lettermen back from last year's club,

including five offensive starters and four on defense.

Top players include senior lineman Aaron Godwin (6-1, 265), full-back/linebacker Harold Godwin (5-10, 218) and split end/defensive back Derrick Vaughn (6-6, 198).

After Purnell Swett, the Trojans will play three more non-conference games against Hoggard, Georgetown and Lumberton. All three are 4A schools and have more students than West Brunswick.

Brett said playing the big schools will make West a better team when it gets into the Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference schedule later this month.

"To me that's what's most important this time of year," Brett said. "The part of the schedule that counts

comes later. Now we're just trying to improve as a football team."

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	O'all	PS	PA
W. Colum.	0-0	1-0	49	0
S. Colum.	0-0	1-0	20	14
Whiteville	0-0	0-0-1	14	14
W. Bruns.	0-0	0-1	21	25
S. Bruns.	0-0	0-1	19	20
Pend. Cty	0-0	0-1	0	3
E. Colum.	0-0	0-1	36	7

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Conway 25, West Brunswick 21  
St. Pauls 20, South Brunswick 19

- Whiteville 14, East Bladen 14
- Southwest Onslow 3, Pender 0
- Fairmont 37, East Columbus 36
- West Columbus 49, Laney 0
- South Columbus 20, Bladenboro 14

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES

- Purnell Swett at West Brunswick
- South Brunswick at East Duplin
- James Kenan at Pender
- South Robeson at East Columbus
- Whiteville at Lumberton
- West Columbus at Clinton
- South Columbus at Loris

All games start at 7:30 p.m.

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**Friday Night-7:30 PM**

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Trojan Defensive Line: Front Row (l-r): 67-Phillip Johnson, 2-Wayne Branch, 83-Terrell Thomas, 22-William Stanley, 45-Chris Brown, 66-Kip Young, 75-Charlie Peele. Back Row (l-r): 73-Steve Brooks, 78-Marcus McCray, 31-Greg Gause, 55-Jonathan Faulk, 85-Heath Inman, 34-Todd Pruitt.

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