

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

Streaking West Brunswick Awaits Pender Patriots

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's football team will be looking for its fourth straight win Friday night when the Pender Patriots come to town for a Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference battle.

Trojan Coach Jim Brett says he's not taking the Patriots lightly, despite their 1-4 record. Pender is coming off a 20-3 loss at Whiteville, a game that the Patriots led 3-0 at halftime.

"They played Whiteville tough Friday night," Brett said prior to Monday's practice. "They're a team that has been improving each game. They'll come in here ready to play against us."

The Patriots, paying their first visit to Shallotte in seven years, will play their third straight road game Friday.

"They're another one of those very big football teams," Brett said. "They're very large. Defensively, they're bigger than the team we played last week. They have a 280-pound linebacker."

heavy favorite Friday night, the Patriots have a good history against the Trojans. Pender has won the last five meetings between the schools.

Pender's lone win this season was a 29-0 victory over Wilmington Laney. The Patriots have lost to Southwest Onslow (3-0), James Kenan (21-0) and Wallace-Rose Hill (35-7).

The Patriots' offense has struggled, scoring just 39 points in five games. Brett said Pender's offense is similar to the one used by South Columbus, which employs the Wing-T and Straight-T formations.

Coach Gary Lewis, in his second year at Pender, won six state championships while coaching at Harrells Christian Academy. He has won 160 games in 19 years of coaching.

After losing its first two games of the season, West Brunswick has won three straight games by a combined score of 127-24. The Trojans are the defending state 2A champions.

"We're probably sitting in a position now that everybody is going to

"They played Whiteville tough Friday night. They're a team that has been improving each game."

—Trojan Coach Jim Brett

come in here and give us their best shot," Brett said. "We're going to have to be ready to take their best shot."

West Brunswick's deceptive, three-back offense has been running on all cylinders the last three weeks, when the Trojans have rushed for 1,062 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Brett said he planned to devote a lot of time to the passing game in practice this week. Quarterback Eric Johnson has completed 13 of 28 passes for 271 yards and three touchdowns.

"We haven't needed the passing game a whole lot," Brett said. "I think it would take some pressure off us as far as running the ball. I would

like to be able to pass if we need to."

Brett said the West Brunswick defense is starting to play well after some struggles early in the season. "I think we're getting to the point defensively where the defense can keep us in most games."

West's starting center, Charlie Peele, will not be eligible for this week's game due an ejection in last Friday's South Columbus game. Peele and South's Richie Hinson were ejected after an apparent exchange of blows.

Brett said Kip Young will start in Peele's place, and Blake Hobbs also could see action at center.

Although West Brunswick and Pender haven't met on the gridiron

in seven years, the schools used to be serious rivals in the old Three Rivers 3A Conference.

The Trojans and Patriots played conference games every year from 1981 to 1985, with Pender coming out on top in four of the five contests.

West Brunswick won the first meeting between the schools in 1981, 20-13 in overtime, but the Trojans have not won since.

From 1982 to 1985, the Patriots won all four games by a combined score of 145-22. The wins included a 47-0 drubbing at Pender in 1985, the final year of the Three Rivers 3A Conference.

In 1986, West Brunswick suffered a 19-14 loss when it hosted Pender in a non-conference season opener.

In other Waccamaw Conference games this week, South Brunswick's Cougars host the West Columbus Vikings Friday night in an early-season matchup of state playoff hopefuls.

Elsewhere, Whiteville travels to

South Columbus where the Wolfpack and Stallions will compete for county bragging rights.

East Columbus is idle this week.

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS				
Team	Conf.	O'all	PS	PA
W. Colum.	1-0	4-1	178	35
Whiteville	1-0	3-1-1	128	51
W. Bruns.	1-0	3-2	154	64
S. Bruns.	0-0	3-1	94	59
S. Colum.	0-1	3-2	98	123
E. Colum.	0-1	1-4	84	122
Pender City	0-1	1-4	39	79

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

■ West Brunswick 45, South Columbus 0

■ West Columbus 34, East Columbus 8

■ Whiteville 20, Pender County 3

■ Clinton 47, South Brunswick 27

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES

■ Pender at West Brunswick

■ West Columbus at South Brunswick

■ Whiteville at South Columbus

■ East Columbus idle

All games start at 7:30 p.m.

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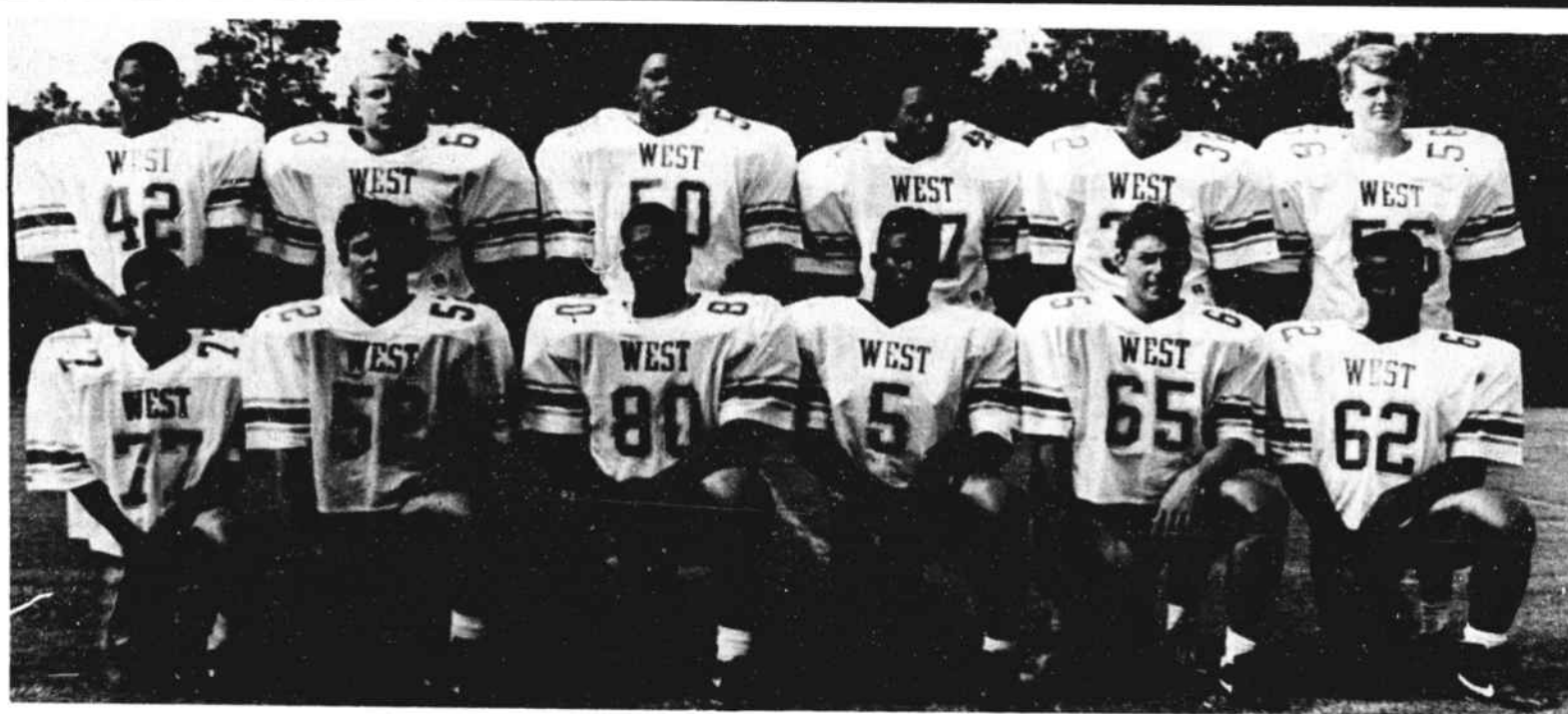
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Trojans -vs- Pender Patriots

Friday Night-7:30 PM
West Brunswick High School



Trojan Linebackers: (front l-r) 77-Darius Vaughn, 52-Brian McDowell, 80-Leon Johnson, 5-Steve Holmes, 65-Kelley Wooten, 62-Jamison Gore. (Back l-r) 42-Jamal Stanley, 63-Blake Hobbs, 50-Kwabena Green, 47-Timmy Vaughn, 32-Michael Lance, 56-John Robinson

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