

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

West Brunswick To Battle Waccamaw Rival Whiteville

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's football team takes its four-game winning streak to Whiteville Friday night for a game that may ultimately decide the Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference championship.

The Trojans and Wolfpack enter the contest tied for first place in the league standings at 2-0. The winner will leave Legion Stadium with sole possession of first since West Columbus, also 2-0, is idle this week.

West Brunswick Coach Jim Brett admits this week's game is an important one, but says it's still too early in the season to start thinking about conference titles.

"It's an important game, yes. Do or die, I don't think so," Brett said prior to Monday's practice.

"It's too early to say this is for the conference championship because you have two other teams that figure very highly in this thing," Brett said, referring to West Columbus and South Brunswick.

West Brunswick (4-2 overall) is coming off a 42-7 home win over the Pender Patriots. The Trojans, defending state 2A champions, have won eight straight games on the road.

Coach Brian Aldridge's Wolf-

pack, which has won three straight, defeated county rival South Columbus 29-16 last week. Whiteville (4-1-1 overall) is the defending conference champion.

Brett said one of the keys to winning Friday night will be containing Whiteville's explosive senior tailback, Anthony Southern, who has rushed for 879 yards and scored 13 touchdowns this season.

The 6-1, 188-pounder ran for 256 yards and scored twice in the Wolfpack's win last week.

"He is very good," Brett said. "If we don't control him to some extent we're going to be in a world of trouble. He's just taken care of business against everybody he's faced."

Brett said Southern has speed and strength. "He's got the total package. He can outrun you and at the same time he can run over you too. We just have to keep him reasonably under control."

Brett said West Brunswick will continue to use its trademark offense—a deceptive, three-back running game with an occasional play-action pass from quarterback Eric Johnson.

During its four-game winning streak, West Brunswick has scored 42.3 points per game using primarily

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a full-house backfield and an efficient passing attack.

The Trojan offense has rushed for 1,364 yards and passed for 267 yards in the last four weeks, while the defense has held opponents to an average of 7.8 points per game and forced 12 turnovers.

"We're not going to change anything for the most part," Brett said Monday. "We're just trying to improve what we're doing each week."

Besides South Columbus, Whiteville has beaten Pender (20-3), Fairmont (53-0) and Lumberton (27-13). Clinton handed the Wolfpack its only loss of the season, 21-14. Whiteville opened the year with a 14-14 tie at East Bladen.

"They're very quick on defense," Brett said. "They're no bigger than us physically but they're very quick, especially on the corners and in the secondary."

Whiteville, 6-0 in the conference and 11-1 overall last year, was

picked in a pre-season coaches' poll to finish first in the conference, with West Brunswick second.

The West Brunswick-Whiteville rivalry is a strong one that has become more intense over the last five years as both schools have fielded teams with conference championship hopes.

The Trojans and Wolfpack have played 18 games since 1972. Whiteville leads the series 13-5, but the teams have split the last six games. Whiteville won last year's meeting, 16-6, en route to an undefeated regular season.

Whiteville dominated the series through the mid-1980s. The Trojans and Wolfpack each won two of the first four games between the schools before Whiteville reeled off eight straight wins from 1976 to 1987.

West Brunswick snapped the streak with an 8-7 win at Whiteville in 1988, which was the last year the

Trojans won a conference football championship.

After two straight Wolfpack wins in 1989 and 1990, West Brunswick bounced back with two victories at Whiteville in 1991.

The Trojans won the regular season contest, 19-7, and returned to Legion Stadium in late November to battle the Wolfpack in the third round of the playoffs. West won 12-6 en route to the Eastern North Carolina 2A Championship.

In other Waccamaw Conference games this week, South Brunswick travels to East Columbus and South Columbus visits Pender. It will be the first game ever between the Cougars and Gators. The Stallions and Patriots also will meet for the first time on the gridiron.

West Columbus, off to a 5-1 start, is idle this week. Coach Wayne Williamson's Vikings may need the time off as they prepare for their

next three games against South Columbus, West Brunswick and Whiteville.

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	O'all	PS	PA
W. Colum.	2-0	5-1	204	58
Whiteville	2-0	4-1-1	157	67
W. Bruns.	2-0	4-2	196	71
S. Bruns.	0-1	3-2	117	85
S. Colum.	0-2	3-3	114	152
E. Colum.	0-1	1-4	84	122
Pend. Cty.	0-2	1-5	46	121

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

- West Brunswick 42, Pender 7
 - West Columbus 26, South Brunswick 23
 - Whiteville 29, South Columbus 16
- FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES
- West Brunswick at Whiteville
 - South Brunswick at East Columbus
 - South Columbus at Pender
 - West Columbus idle
- All games start at 7:30 p.m.

TIED FOR FIRST PLACE

West Tops Whiteville

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's Lady Trojans pulled into a tie for first place with Whiteville in the Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference girls' tennis standings with a dramatic, 5-4 win Monday.

The match was tied 3-3 after singles play, and West got wins from its top two doubles teams to improve its conference record to 7-1. Whiteville lost its first league match of the season.

"I'm really proud of the girls," West Brunswick Coach Martie Gillis said. "To be able to put us in a position to be able to defend our conference title after graduating so many starters last year is a real accomplishment."

The Lady Trojans have won seven straight conference matches after losing their league opener to Whiteville, 8-0. Monday's match lasted 5½ hours.

Winning singles matches for West Brunswick were Jennifer Simmons, Jessica Robertson and Yarbi Lemon.

Simmons, the team's number one player, dropped the first set to Whiteville's Alysun Singletary, 4-6, but won the next two sets, 6-4 and 6-2, to take the match.

Simmons had lost to Singletary in straight sets earlier this season. "I'm really proud she hung in there," Gillis said. "It was a matter of who cracked first."

Robertson had to pull out of her earlier match at Whiteville because of a muscle pull, but came back with a 6-2, 6-3, win Monday.

"Yarbi did a complete turn-around from her first match to tie us at three all after singles," Gillis added.

West's top doubles team of Blair Milligan and Robertson fell behind 0-4, but rallied for an 8-6 victory over Singletary and Ashley Shelburne.

The number two doubles team of Simmons and JoAnna Barber clinched the victory for West Brunswick with an 8-4 win over Courtney Soles and Katie Gardner.

In Waccamaw Conference action last Wednesday, West Brunswick was a 7-2 winner over visiting Pender.

"It was a good match," Gillis said. "I think we underestimated them a little. They are a first-year team, but they do keep the ball in play and are consistent."

"Their number one player (Sara Eslinger) is a freshman and will be a dominant player before she graduates," Gillis said.

West Brunswick lost a non-conference match to visiting St. Pauls last Thursday, 8-1.

"St. Pauls as always is a well-coached, veteran team," Gillis said. "It was a good, tough match needed in the middle of the season to get the team refocused. It was especially helpful right before the Whiteville match."

West Brunswick (8-4 overall) was scheduled to travel to East Columbus Wednesday afternoon. The Lady Trojans will host West Columbus next Monday and entertain Pender on Wednesday.

Whiteville Results

Singles: Simmons (WB) def. Singletary, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Shelburne (W) def. Barber, 6-4, 6-1; Groves (W) def. Milligan, 6-1, 6-2; Robertson (WB) def. Ripple, 6-2, 6-3; Lemon (WB) def. Soles, 6-2, 6-3; Gardner (W) def. Hardee, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

Doubles: Robertson/Milligan (WB) def. Singletary/Shelburne, 8-6; Simmons Barber (WB) def. Soles/Gardner, 8-4; Groves/Ripple (W) def. Lemon/Hardee, 8-4.

St. Pauls Results

Singles: Harrell (SP) def. Simmons, 6-1, 6-0; Everette (SP) def. Barber, 6-1, 6-0; H. Gray (SP) def. Milligan, 6-3, 6-4; Walters (SP) def. Robertson, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4); G. Gray (SP) def. Lemon, 6-0, 6-0; Green (SP) def. Hardee, 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: Harrell/Everette (SP) def. Robertson/Milligan, 8-1; Simmons/Barber (WB) def. Walters/Green, 8-4; G. Gray/Broadwell (SP) def. Lemon/Hardee, 8-6.

Pender Results

Singles: Simmons (WB) def. Eslinger, 6-2, 6-2; E. Segovia (P) def. Barber, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; Milligan (WB) def. Miko, 6-0, 7-6 (7-1); Robertson (WB) def. Traywick, 6-0, 6-3; Lemon (WB) def. Teal, 6-0, 6-4; Hardee (WB) def. Hicks, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: Eslinger/E. Segovia (P) def. Robertson/Milligan, 8-4; Simmons/Barber (WB) def. Miko/Traywick, 8-4; Hardee/Kirtley (WB) def. Teal/P. Segovia, 8-2.

SPORTING SCENE

West Brunswick Girls Finding Ways To Win

"Where there's a will there's a way." It's one of the oldest cliches in sports, but it's just as true today as it was when it was first spoken so many years ago.

By all accounts, the West Brunswick girls' tennis team was not expected to challenge for the Waccamaw Conference championship this fall.

Sure, the Lady Trojans were the defending league champs and were 12-0 against conference opponents last year. But that was with Kristy Poulos, Jenny Judah and Lauren Boyte smashing forehand winners and slicing backhand drop shots. Those girls graduated last spring, leaving West with a serious void on the tennis court.

It didn't take long for the 1993 Lady Trojans to show their inexperience. In the first conference match of the season, West Brunswick was an 8-0 loser at Whiteville.

So much for defending the league title, right? Not so fast.

West Brunswick's tennis youngsters have grown up in a hurry this fall, and the Lady Trojans shocked previously-undefeated Whiteville with a 5-4 win Monday to move into a first-place tie for the conference lead.

The match was tied at 3-3 after singles play, so it was up to the doubles teams to pull it out. No problem.

West's number one duo—junior Blair Milligan and sophomore Jessica Robertson—have won their share of big matches in the past. They fell behind 0-4 Monday but rallied for an 8-6 win.

So it came down to West Brunswick's two seniors, Jennifer Simmons and JoAnna Barber, and they responded like seniors with an 8-4 win to clinch the match for West Brunswick.

Now the Lady Trojans have a good chance to successfully defend their league championship.

They showed that they have the will. And when you have the will, you can always find a way.

Fans Needed At Whiteville

West Brunswick's football team has received pretty good support this year from the fans...at home games at least.

The number of Trojan fans thinned out considerably when West Brunswick traveled to Wilmington (Hoggard) and Georgetown, S.C.

West plays its third road game of the year Friday night at Whiteville. You can bet Wolfpack fans will fill their side of Legion Stadium.

It would be nice to see more than the West Brunswick parents and booster club members make the trip to the heart of Columbus County. A cheering sea of green and gold would really inspire the players.

Phils-Braves

I have mixed feelings about the National League Championship Series between the Philadelphia Phillies and Atlanta Braves.

As a native Philadelphian, my heart belongs to the Phillies, who are making their first post-season appearance in 10 years. I'm rooting for Dykstra and Company to win it all.

But if the Phillies can't win the NLCS and advance to the World Series, there's nobody I'd rather see representing the National League than the Braves.

As a point of interest, two players from nearby Columbus County will probably be very instrumental in the Phillies-Braves series.

Philadelphia pitcher and Whiteville native Tommy Greene has had a great year for the Phils (16-4, 3.42 ERA).

Atlanta leadoff hitter Otis Nixon of Evergreen has helped spark the potent Braves offense while playing solid in center field.

I have a feeling this will be the National League's year to win the World Series. I believe both the Phils and Braves have enough to beat the winner of the Chicago White Sox-Toronto Blue Jays series

Doug Rutter Sports Editor



This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

- West Brunswick hosts Flora McDonald in soccer, 4:30 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in soccer, 4:30 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts South Columbus in volleyball, 5 p.m.
- West Brunswick hosts Whiteville in JV football, 7 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts East Columbus in JV football, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

- West Brunswick at Whiteville in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- North Brunswick at Tar Hell in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- South Brunswick at East Columbus in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

- West Brunswick hosts West Columbus in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts Pender in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- North Brunswick and Red Springs and Bladenboro in volleyball, 4 p.m.
- West Brunswick at Wilmington Christian in soccer, 4:30 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts Dixon in soccer, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- West Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in volleyball, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- West Brunswick hosts Pender in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts South Columbus in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- North Brunswick and Tar Heel at East Bladen in volleyball, 4 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts Swansboro in soccer, 4:30 p.m.

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.

Trojan JV Wins 34-32

West Brunswick's Ricky "CC" Hill scored the winning touchdown in overtime and added a two-point conversion as the Trojans defeated Pender 34-32 last Thursday in a junior varsity football game.

The game was tied at 26-26 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Hill took a quick pitch around the left end from 1 yard out to give the Trojans the lead. He also ran for a two-point play.

Pender also scored in the extra

period, but the Patriots' run for two points came up short and the Trojans (2-2) held on for the win.

"The offensive line did an excellent job," said running back Jamal Stanley, who scored two touchdowns for the Trojans. Hill also scored twice and Eric Hewett scored one TD for West Brunswick.

West Brunswick will host the Whiteville Wolfpack Thursday at 7 p.m. at M.H. Rourk Stadium in Shallotte.

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