



WEST BRUNSWICK HALFBACK STEVE HOLMES (5) follows the blocking of Kelly Wooten (65) Friday night at South Brunswick. Holmes ran for 133 yards and scored two touchdowns.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

SPORTING SCENE

Time For Trojan Fans To Show Their Colors

West Brunswick High School's football team begins its quest for a third straight trip to the state championships Friday night.

Unlike the last two years when West Brunswick has been forced to play most of its playoff games on the road, the Trojans this year have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Thank God for small miracles. Over the last two seasons, West Brunswick has won playoff games in Warsaw, Whiteville, East Bladen, Tabor City, Clinton and Farmville.

The kids endured road trip after road trip on an uncomfortable activity bus in order to play for the state title in Chapel Hill. It's not easy playing a football game after two or three hours on a bus, but they managed somehow.

The Trojans worked extra hard this season to make sure they were the top 3A team in the Waccamaw Conference, and they were rewarded. As long as they keep winning playoff games, they'll be playing at Rourk Stadium.

No more road games on the schedule...unless the Trojans can win their third straight eastern championship and make it back to the Hill for a crack at another state title. Besides making it easier on themselves, the Trojans have made these playoffs easier on their fans. They need drive no farther than the Rourk Stadium parking lot.

West Brunswick has been the best playoff team in the state the last two years, winning nine out of 10 games including the 1992 North Carolina 2A Championship.

The Shallotte community, which includes Calabash, Makatoka, Varnantown, Longwood and points in between, has something that every small community in North Carolina wants—an exciting football team.

The Trojans have given us something to brag about when we talk with that snobbish brother-in-law in Kannapolis, those old friends in High Point and that favorite cousin in Thomasville. With West home for the playoffs, there will never be a better opportunity for the community to give something back to a football team that has made us all feel better about the place we call home.

These kids have seen some big home crowds the last couple years, but they've never seen the Rourk Stadium stands full.

The usual faces will be in the bleachers Friday night when West Brunswick opens the playoffs. If you've never been a supporter of West football, now would be a good time to join the crowd.

It's intimidating for a visiting team to trot onto foreign turf and see thousands of screaming fans waving gold flags. Without fan support, though, home field advantage isn't an advantage at all.

The Shallotte community is lucky. There aren't many small towns like ours that have had the opportunity to see their football team play the way these West Brunswick kids have played the last three years.

In 1993, the road to Chapel Hill goes through Shallotte. The least we can do is show up.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



Trojans Escape Cougars' Den With 29-20 Win

BY DOUG RUTTER

Michael Lance and Steve Holmes combined for more than 300 yards rushing and three touchdowns to lead West Brunswick to a 29-20 high school football win over South Brunswick Friday.

"It was a typical game between West and South. I'm happy to get away from here with a win," a relieved West Brunswick Coach Jim Brett said following the Trojans' fifth straight victory over their arch rivals.

The win was an important one for the Trojans, who captured their third straight county championship and a share of their first Waccamaw Conference football title since 1988.

West Brunswick also gained momentum going into the state playoffs, which begin this week.

"They played great," Brett said of South Brunswick. "I guarantee you your coaches will tell you that's the hardest they've played all year. My hat's off to them. Their coaching staff did a great job."

South Brunswick Coach Bill Hewett said his team played hard, but made two critical mistakes that wiped out any chance it had of winning.

The Cougars failed to convert a first-and-goal situation in the second quarter and fumbled deep in West Brunswick territory in the game's final minutes.

"We scored 20 points on them and left 14 points on the field. That's 34



SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S LEWIS VAUGHT (4) nearly returned this kickoff for a touchdown. Also pictured are Terrance Randolph (67) and Jonathan Faulk (55).

points against a team that hasn't given up much all year," Hewett said. "I thought we beat ourselves. We played good, but mistakes hurt us."

West's Lance, a senior fullback playing in his final regular-season game, rushed for a career-high 175 yards. His spectacular, second-quarter touchdown was the biggest play in a game full of big plays.

"It feels great," Lance said following the game. "We've been looking forward to this all year. This is like winning the state championship."

West Brunswick rushed for 217 yards in the first half and 338 in the game. "We moved it very consistently on offense after the first quarter," Brett said.

While the Trojans had success on the ground, South countered with a balanced offense that ran for 198 yards and passed for 116. Senior quarterback Jeff Simon completed 8 of 13 pass attempts for 98 yards.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Cougars got on the scoreboard early in the second period after recovering a fumble at their own 20-yard line.

South Brunswick senior Terry Galloway, who led the Cougars with 110 yards rushing, busted through the middle of the line and rumbled 76 yards to the West Brunswick 4-yard line.

The 226-pound fullback scored two plays later on a 2-yard dive. West's Kwabena Green, who played an outstanding game at linebacker, blocked Jamie Bruner's extra point attempt and South led 6-0 with 11:06 left in the half.

The Trojans, who seemed listless in the first quarter, took the ensuing kickoff and marched 75 yards in 11 plays.

Senior halfback Steve Holmes carried four times for 31 yards in the drive, which culminated with a 29-yard touchdown pass from Eric Johnson to tight end Timmy Daniels.

Derek Frink's extra point gave West Brunswick a 7-6 lead with 6:02 remaining in the second quarter.

South's Lewis Vaught ignited the Boiling Spring Lakes crowd moments later when he fielded Frink's deep kickoff and returned it all the way to the West Brunswick 9-yard line.

The Cougars handed off to

Galloway three straight times to move inside the 1-yard line. On fourth-and-goal, the big back slipped on the rain-slick turf as he took the handoff and was tackled at the 2-yard line.

The goal-line stand fired up the Trojans, who wasted no time adding to their lead. On the first play, Lance took a handoff up the middle and sprinted 98 yards to the end zone.

"It just opened up like the Red Sea," Lance said later. "The linemen did their job. All I saw was daylight."

The run was the longest of the season for the Trojans, who led 14-6 at halftime.

South Brunswick stormed back early in the third quarter. On the third play of the second half, junior running back O.J. Morris took a pitch around the right end and ran 62 yards for the score to cut the lead to 14-12.

The visiting Trojans bumped their lead to 10 points on their next possession, marching 52 yards in just six plays.

Holmes took a quick pitch and scooted 37 yards down the sideline for the first of his two second-half touchdowns. Johnson passed to Daniels for two points to give the Trojans a 22-12 advantage.

South Brunswick still trailed by 10 going into the fourth quarter, but Vaught intercepted a Johnson pass on the first play of the period to set up the Cougar offense at the West 20-yard line.

Sophomore Jeremy Baker, who shared quarterback duties with Simon, threw an 18-yard pass to Vaught to give South Brunswick a first-and-goal at the 2. Baker scored two plays later on a 1-yard sneak.

Simon then re-entered the game at quarterback and passed to Vaught for a two-point play that trimmed West Brunswick's lead to 22-20 with 9:06 remaining in the game.

Needing another touchdown to put the resilient Cougars on ice, the West Brunswick offense responded with a methodical, 62-yard scoring drive.

The key play was an 18-yard pass from Johnson to Daniels on fourth-and-16 at the South Brunswick 28-yard line. Holmes, who rushed for 133 yards in the game, scored two plays later on a 9-yard run with 4:06 remaining.

South Brunswick moved quickly downfield on its next possession, but couldn't cash in.

Vaught caught a pass from Simon near the 5-yard line but fumbled the ball out of the end zone, allowing West Brunswick to take over possession at their own 20 with 2:13 on the clock.

The Trojans finished the regular season with a 5-1 conference record and overall mark of 7-3, while the Cougars were 2-4 and 5-5. Both teams begin playoff action this week.

THE YARDSTICK

West Brunswick	South Brunswick
15	First Downs 8
44-338	Rushing 26-198
5-10-74	Passing 9-15-116
1	Ints. Thrown 0
5-1	Fumbles-Lost 2-2
0-0	Punts(No-Avg) 2-40
2-6	Penalties 4-20

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick	0	14	8	7	29
South Brunswick	0	6	6	8	20

Scoring Summary

- (SB) Galloway, 2-yard run (kick failed)
- (WB) Daniels, 29-yard pass from Johnson (Frink kick)
- (WB) Lance, 98-yard run (Frink kick)
- (SB) Morris, 62-yard run (pass failed)
- (WB) Holmes, 37-yard run (Johnson pass to Daniels)
- (SB) Baker, 1-yard run (Simon pass to Vaught)
- (WB) Holmes, 9-yard run (Frink kick)

Individual Rushing

West Brunswick: Lance, 17-175; Holmes, 17-133; Stanley, 5-17; Gause, 2-5; Morgan, 1-4; Johnson, 1-3; Green, 1-2.

South Brunswick: Galloway, 15-110; Morris, 6-81; Baker, 4-14; Simon, 1-minus 7.

Individual Passing

West Brunswick: Johnson, 4-9-48; Frink, 1-1-16.

South Brunswick: Simon, 8-13-98; Baker, 1-2-18.

Individual Receiving

West Brunswick: Daniels, 3-50; Holmes, 2-24.

South Brunswick: Vaught, 5-54; Baker, 2-39; Willoughby, 1-14; Brown, 1-9.

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