



↑ REIDSVILLE QUARTERBACK BRIAN TURNER gets rid of the football under pressure from Michael Lance (32) and Jonathan Faulk (55).

← WEST'S PHILLIP JOHNSON (67) closes in on Reidsville running back Otis Lynn.

STATE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Trojans Humble Top-Ranked Reidsville 21-3

BY DOUG RUTTER

Reidsville's Rams swaggered into Rourk Stadium Friday night with their 12-0 record, resenting the fact that the top-ranked football team in the state should have to travel four hours to play a 9-3 team like West Brunswick.

After all, Reidsville was the only undefeated 3A squad in North Carolina. The Rams had the awesome defense that had recorded seven shutouts and allowed just 60 points all season.

But the host Trojans were not impressed with Reidsville's credentials. Behind its best defensive effort of the season, West sent the cocky Rams home with their first loss of the year.

Steve Holmes scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns and West's defense held the Rams to 37 second-half yards as the Trojans posted a 21-3 victory over Reidsville in the third round of the state high school football playoffs.

The unheralded Trojans will host Tarboro this Friday for the Eastern North Carolina 3A Championship. The winner plays for the state title next week in Chapel Hill.

"I got the impression their players and fans and coaching staff did not have a whole lot of respect for us," West Brunswick Head Coach Jim Brett said following the game.

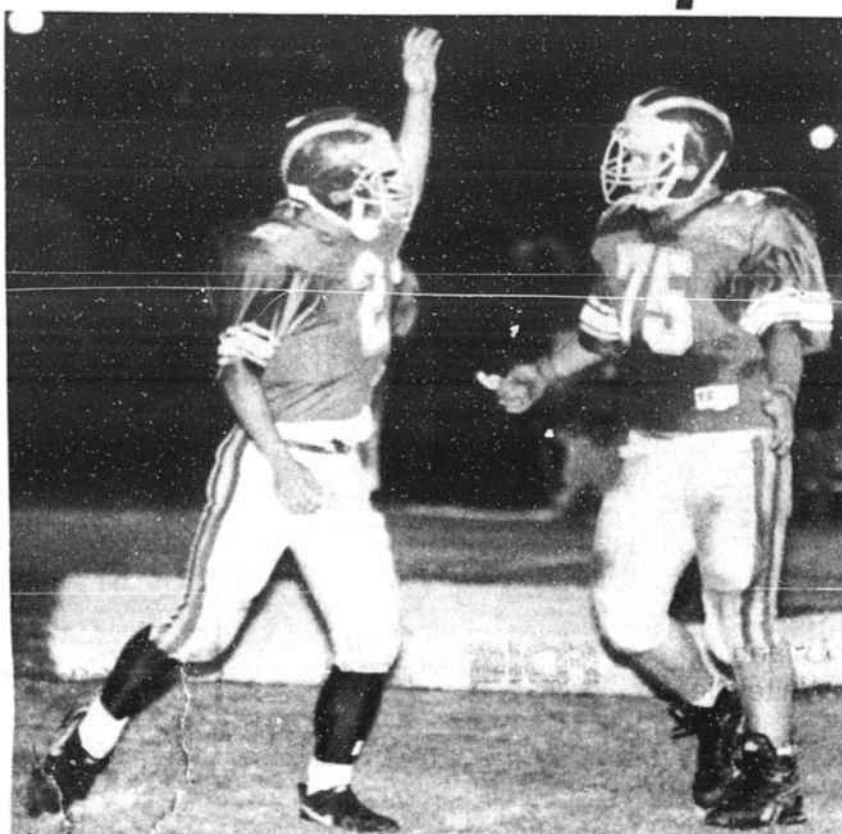
"They tried to intimidate us," said West Brunswick two-way starter Michael Lance. "They said they shouldn't have to come down here to a little town in Brunswick County to play a team with three losses."

"We just had to step up on defense," said Lance, who scored one touchdown from his fullback position and set up another from his linebacker position with a second-half interception.

"It was exactly like I expected coming in," Brett said of the game, played before an estimated 2,200 fans.

"I knew if we had a chance we were going to have to do it on defense," Brett said. "I thought our defense played a great game. It's the best game they've played on defense this year."

The Trojans used defensive line stunts to put pressure on Reidsville quarterback Brian Turner, who com-



↑ TROJAN DEFENDERS Wayne Branch (2) and Charlie Peele celebrate one of West Brunswick's four second-half sacks against the Rams.

pleted just nine of 25 pass attempts for 103 yards. West sacked the senior quarterback four times in the second half.

West's defensive backs coach, Mike Alderson, had the young Trojan secondary prepared for a Reidsville team that passed for more than 2,000 yards during the regular season.

"Coach A worked with us all week long in the secondary and said it was in our hands," said junior cornerback James Morgan. "We played our hearts out tonight."

Despite West's great defensive effort, it was Reidsville that opened the scoring midway through the second quarter with a 33-yard field goal by Brad Huff.

The kick was set up by West Brunswick's only big blunder of the night—a long snap that floated over the head of Trojan punter Derek Frink, who covered up the loose ball at West's 35-yard line.

Reidsville's drive stalled at the

16, and the Rams settled for Huff's field goal and a 3-0 lead with 7:20 left in the first half.

Stuffed on its first three possessions, West Brunswick's offense started clicking following the field goal. The Trojans took over at their own 31 and marched 69 yards in 11 plays.

The big play was a 21-yard pass from junior quarterback Eric Johnson to tight end Timmy Daniels that gave the Trojans a first down at the Reidsville 37-yard line.

On fourth-and-1 from the Reidsville 7, Lance plowed up the middle for his fourth touchdown of the playoffs. Frink kicked the extra point to give the Trojans a 7-3 lead with 1:36 left in the half.

Reidsville took the ensuing kickoff and moved from its own 34-yard line to the West Brunswick 18. However, Huff's 35-yard field goal attempt bounced off the left upright as time expired in the first half.

With the Trojans clinging to a 7-3

lead, the biggest play of the game came late in third quarter when Lance intercepted a Turner pass near midfield and returned it to the Reidsville 8-yard line.

"I just did my job," Lance said of the interception. "When I looked up all I saw was the ball coming straight at me."

Lance then carried twice for five yards. On third-and-goal at the 3, Holmes took a quick pitch around the left end and into the end zone. Frink's PAT gave West Brunswick a 14-3 lead with 10:54 left in the game.

With less than 5 minutes remaining, Reidsville's offense moved into Trojan territory before Turner was stuffed at the line of scrimmage on a fourth-and-1 quarterback sneak.

The Trojans took over on downs, and put the Rams away four plays later when took a handoff and sprinted 43 yards down the right sideline for his second TD of the game. Frink added the extra point to close out the scoring.

Holmes, the target of the Reidsville defense all night, finished with 84 yards rushing on 13 carries. Lance rushed 16 times for 63 yards.

Otis Lynn carried 16 times for 70 yards to lead Reidsville, which finished the season 12-1.

Despite West Brunswick's success this year and a combined record of 24-6 in 1991 and 1992, Brett said the Trojans (10-3) are not getting the respect they deserve across the state.

With only eight teams left in the 3A playoffs last week, West Brunswick was ranked ninth in the statewide power ratings.

Brett said the team's goal is to return to the state championship game for a third straight year and become the first team in history to win a 2A championship one season and a 3A championship the next.

"It's a little mission right now," Brett said. "Our kids want to get back to Chapel Hill."

THE YARDSTICK

West Brunswick	Reidsville
8	11
40-170	26-57
1-1-21	9-26-103
1-0	0-0
0	1
5-27	3-29
3-15	1-5

Advance Tickets On Sale

Tickets for Friday's state semifinal high school football game between West Brunswick and Tarboro will be on sale Thursday and Friday at the school's main office.

Tickets can be purchased during school hours (7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.) for \$6 each. Athletic Director Jim Brett said tickets will cost \$7 at the gate Friday night.

"We're highly encouraging people to buy their tickets in advance so we don't have the problems with long lines at the gate and people having to wait to get in," Brett said.

Approximately 2,200 people attended last week's West Brunswick game and Brett said 4,000 spectators are expected this week. Tarboro is expected to bring at least 1,000 fans.

"It'll be by far the biggest crowd we've ever had in this stadium," Brett said. "People can save a lot of time and one dollar if they buy their ticket early."

Score By Quarters		Lance, 16-63; Stanley, 7-17; Johnson, 3-16.	
West Brunswick	0 7 0 14—21	Reidsville: Lynn, 16-70; Harrison, 2-6; Turner, 8-minus 19.	
Reidsville	0 3 0 0—3		
Scoring Summary			
(R) Huff, 33-yard field goal		Individual Passing	
(WB) Lance, 7-yard run (Frink kick)		West Brunswick: Johnson, 1-1-21.	
(WB) Holmes, 3-yard run (Frink kick)		Reidsville: Turner, 9-25-103; Brown, 0-1-0.	
(WB) Holmes, 43-yard run (Frink kick)		Individual Receiving	
		West Brunswick: Daniels, 1-21.	
		Reidsville: Harrison, 3-53; Brown, 3-36; Lynn, 2-4.	
Individual Rushing			
West Brunswick: Holmes, 13-84;			

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