



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

SENIOR LINEMAN PHILLIP JOHNSON became a running back for one play Friday night. He gained 28 yards on the "fumblerooski" to spark West Brunswick's game-winning drive.

What's A Fumblerooski?

BY DOUG RUTTER

What's a fumblerooski? You can bet every West Brunswick football fan who watched their Trojans in Chapel Hill Friday night knows what it is. The trick play was instrumental in West's 19-14 win over High Point Andrews in the state 3A championship game.

The fumblerooski works like this: The quarterback takes the snap from center and immediately drops the ball behind the center. Pretending he still has the ball, the quarterback rolls out and draws the defenders in his direction. Back at the line of scrimmage, an offensive lineman picks up the football and starts running.

West Brunswick Head Coach Jim Brett, who once used the fumblerooski to beat Burlington Cummings in the final seconds, pulled it out of his bag of tricks at the perfect time Friday night against the Andrews Red Raiders.

With the Trojans trailing 14-13 and facing a third-and-11 at their own 31-yard line, Brett called a timeout to set up the play.

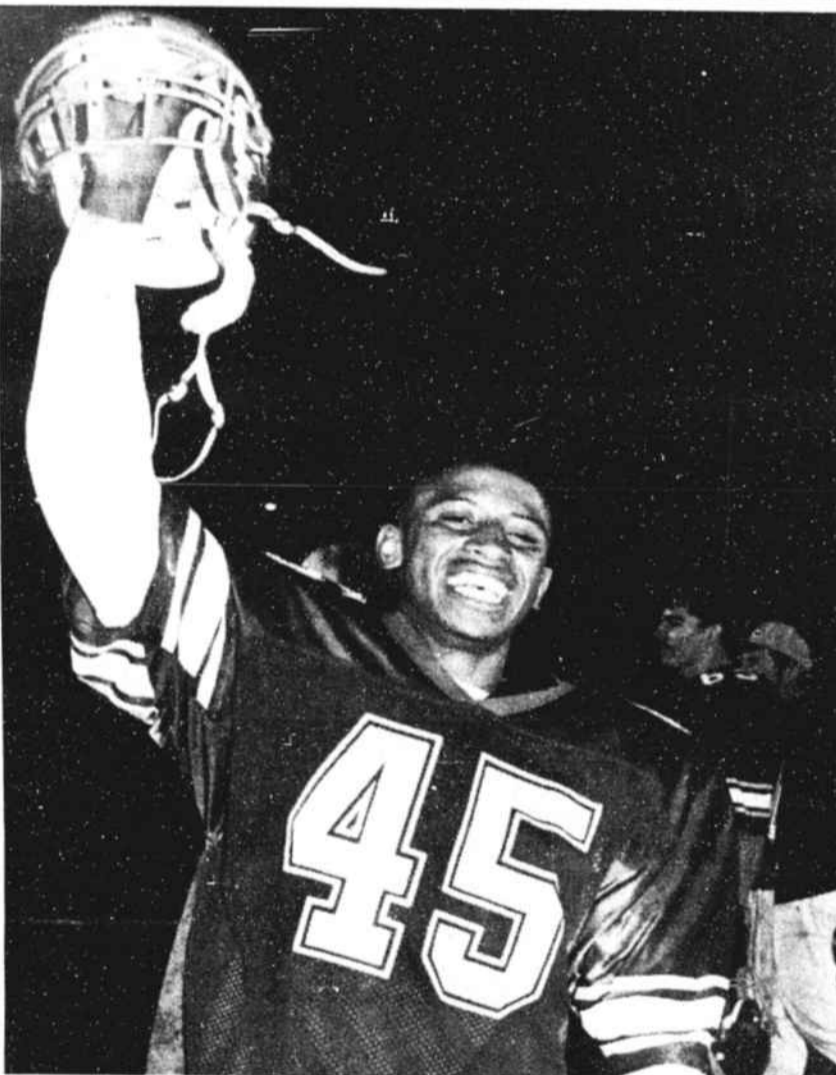
With almost everyone in Kenan Stadium watching West quarterback Eric Johnson, offensive tackle Phillip Johnson picked up the pigskin and carried it for 28 yards.

"We just had to run it at the right time. Phillip didn't have quite the speed to take it all the way but he did a good job. It was a big play for us," Brett said after the game.

High Point Andrews Head Coach Craig Gill said the Red Raiders were not expecting a fumblerooski when Brett called the timeout.

"I figured he was setting up a pass play," Gill said at the post-game press conference. "It never crossed my mind. I take the blame for that."

Said Brett: "It was sitting on my mind the whole time. I thought it was going to work. When I saw how they were aligned to it, I knew it would work if we didn't mess it up."



SENIOR CHRIS BROWN celebrates the West Brunswick win.

FANTASTIC FINISH!

Fourth-Quarter Magic Lifts Trojans To State Title

BY DOUG RUTTER
You had to see it to believe it. West Brunswick stumbled through the first three quarters but rallied for three late touchdowns to pull off an incredible 19-14 win over High Point Andrews in the state 3A championship football game Friday in Chapel Hill.

An estimated 1,500 West Brunswick fans sat in cold, rainy Kenan Stadium for nearly two hours before their team gave them reason to cheer—a comeback win they will never forget.

"It was one of the greatest wins I've ever been involved in," West Head Coach Jim Brett said of the game that will be talked about for many years to come in Shallotte.

"There were a lot of big things that happened to us tonight in the fourth quarter," Brett said. "When you're down 14-0 to a good football team everything you do has to go right. Fortunately for us it did."

Two long receptions by tight end Timothy Daniels, a huge punt return by Steve Holmes and a trick play known as the "fumblerooski" were the keys to West Brunswick's win.

It was the second consecutive state championship for the Trojans, who defeated Maiden 14-6 last year to win the 2A title. West also advanced to the 1991 state championship game, but lost to Thomasville 21-6.

"It feels good," West senior William Stanley said as his teammates hugged and hollered at mid-field following the game. "By now everybody should know where Shallotte is."

The Red Raiders, state 3A champs in 1991, held a 14-0 lead after scoring a touchdown and tacking on a two-point conversion with 3:38 left in the third quarter. That's when things started going right for the Trojans.

A 14-yard run by Holmes and Eric Johnson's 24-yard pass to Daniels were the big plays as West Brunswick took the ensuing kickoff and marched 72 yards in 10 plays.

Senior fullback Michael Lance rumbled 5 yards up the middle for a West Brunswick touchdown, and Derek Frink's extra point cut the Red Raiders' lead to 14-7 with 11:01 left in the game.

The drive pumped up the West Brunswick crowd and the defense, which forced a three-and-out on the next Andrews possession to set up one of the biggest plays of the game.

Holmes fielded the Raiders' punt at the West Brunswick 36 and took it up the middle before cutting down the left sideline. He raced 61 yards

before he was pulled down at the Andrews' 3-yard line.

Holmes said he planned to let the punt roll dead, but it bounced up into his arms. "I was about to hand it off to Michael Johnson and I just saw the hole. I took off and turned it into a good play."

Brett's post-game reaction to the punt return: "It was a pretty sight to me. I don't know if that was the key, but it was one of the biggest plays of the game."

Holmes' return set up Johnson's 1-yard quarterback sneak for a touchdown. Suddenly, with 7:48 remaining in the game, the Trojans had cut the lead to one point.

West Brunswick lined up to kick the game-tying extra point, but Brett called for a fake. Johnson, who holds on extra points, couldn't find a receiver and was tackled 2 yards short of the goal line.

After West Brunswick's defense forced another Andrews punt, the Trojan offense took over at its own 32-yard line with 5:54 left on the clock.

West Brunswick faced a third-and-11 situation when Brett called a timeout to set up the fumblerooski—a play where the quarterback fumbles intentionally and a lineman picks up the ball and runs.

The trick play worked to perfection. As the Red Raiders flushed Eric Johnson toward the sideline, 260-pound tackle Phillip Johnson picked up the ball and lumbered 28 yards to the Andrews 41-yard line.

Moments later, the Trojans converted another third-and-long when Eric Johnson passed over the middle and Daniels made a spectacular catch. The play covered 37 yards and gave West a first down at the Andrews 2-yard line.

"I don't even know how I caught it," Daniels said. "I just jumped and prayed. It hit my hands."

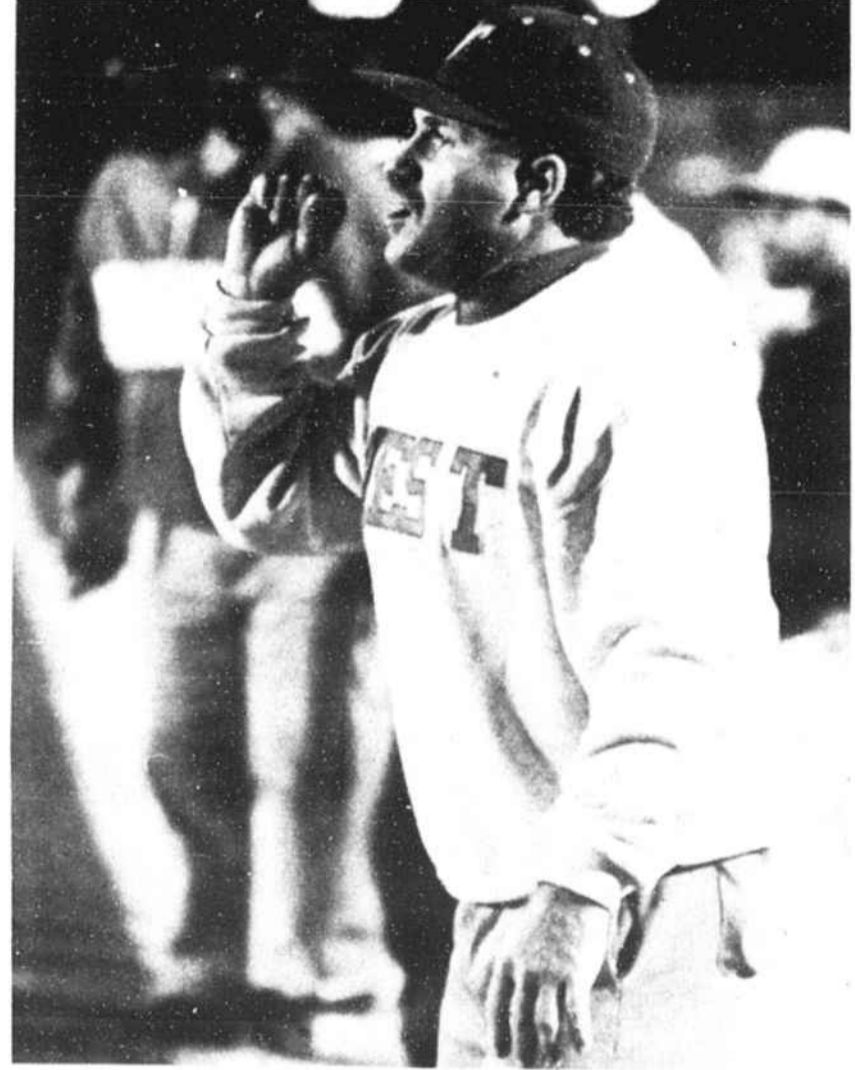
Two plays later, Lance went 1 yard for his second touchdown of the night and the West Brunswick fans went berserk.

Things didn't look so promising for the West Brunswick faithful early in the contest. The Red Raiders took a 6-0 lead on the sixth play of the game.

Quarterback Larry Patterson rolled out of the pocket and fired a 77-yard touchdown pass to James Cotton, who got behind the Trojan secondary and raced to the end zone.

Andrews bumped its lead to 14-0 lead with 3:38 left in the third quarter on a 12-yard run by Jeremy Charles. The score capped an 11-play, 86-yard drive, and Patterson

(See TROJANS, Following Page)



ASSISTANT COACH MIKE ALDERSON gives instructions to the defense.



WEST BRUNSWICK'S WILLIAM STANLEY (22) is in hot pursuit of High Point Andrews quarterback Larry Patterson.

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NEIL "GOLDEN BOY" CLARKE was up to his usual antics Friday night in Chapel Hill, leading the cheers.

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