

# Gritty Trojans Never Lost Hope

BY DOUG RUTTER

"Never Ever Quit" was the battle cry Coach Jimmy Valvano made famous years ago as leader of the N.C. State University Wolfpack basketball team.

They were playing a different brand of ball Friday night in Chapel Hill, but West Brunswick's Trojans found out "Jimmy V" was right when he said good things usually happen when you refuse to give up.

High Point Andrews led 14-0 after three quarters, but West Brunswick scored three touchdowns in a span of 8 minutes, 25 seconds, to win the state 3A high school football championship, 19-14.

The Trojans faced an uphill battle against the Red Raiders, but all of the West Brunswick players insisted following the game that they never gave up hope.

Senior Michael Lance, who scored two touchdowns and led West with eight tackles, said the Trojans' positive attitude was one of the things that separated them from other teams.

"That's what most teams do when they're down 14. They just go ahead and give up," Lance said. "That's what happens when you don't give up. We just did what we knew we were capable of doing and won the ball game."

Junior quarterback Eric Johnson, who completed a pair of fourth-quarter passes to Timothy Daniels to set up two of West's three touchdowns, said the team refused to lose.

"When we scored that first touchdown I knew we were going to come back because the offensive line started blocking and there wasn't any way they were going to stop us," Johnson said.

"We just didn't put our heads down," said Steve Holmes, who had a 61-yard punt return to set up the second West Brunswick score. "We kept our heads in it and played like we usually play."

West Brunswick players always hold four fingers over their head at the start of the fourth quarter. The team has taken pride in its fourth-quarter play all season.

William Stanley, one of 12 West Brunswick senior players, said the team knew it had a chance even when High Point scored its second touchdown late in the third period.

"When you see those four fingers up in the air, you can depend on a Trojan victory," he said. "We knew what had to be done and we did it. Now we're 3A champs, baby."

West Brunswick's leading tackler this season, sophomore linebacker Kwabena Green, has been a big part of two state championships in his first two high school seasons.

"We knew we could come back," Green said. "We were playing our worst game of the year. We just picked it up and overcame those guys."

"I never saw any sign on our football team whatsoever of giving up," West Brunswick Head Coach Jim Brett said. "At halftime everything was positive and the kids felt they could win the ball game."

Brett said the Trojans just needed a spark in the second half to get the team going in the right direction.

"We never quit. There was never that look on the sideline," Brett added. "As a coach, you see that look sometimes. You see the head go down. We never saw it. Things just went our way."



STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

WEST BRUNSWICK HEAD COACH JIM BRETT was soaked but smiling following the Trojans' 19-14 win. Brett has led the team to two state championships in two years at the school.

# Trojans Turned Game Around

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passed to Ringo McKiver for the two-point conversion. "We let them get behind us in the secondary a few times," Brett said. "A couple big pass plays helped them a lot. Other than that I thought we played solid defense the whole game."

High Point Andrews Coach Craig Gill said West's big plays in the fourth quarter killed the Raiders. "You just can't give a team like West Brunswick the ball that close to the goal line."

Gill also said he was too conservative with his offensive play-calling in the final period, when the Raiders were held to seven yards on three offensive possessions.

"I take a lot of blame because I got real conservative," Gill said. "We were up 14 points in the fourth quarter. We needed to make something happen on offense and we didn't."

"They've got a good football team," Gill continued. "I take nothing away. They did what they had to do. We played hard, but we just came up a little bit short."

Brett, 23-6 in two years at West Brunswick and 10-0 in the playoffs, received an ice-water shower as time expired. The state title is his third in 20 years as a high school head football coach.

"I've never been involved in a game that turned around to that extent that fast," Brett said. "We ran everything tonight that I know in the

fourth quarter and it worked well for us."

West's Holmes, who rushed 16 times for 76 yards, and Andrews' Patterson, who completed 7 of 14 pass attempts for 175 yards, were selected as the game's outstanding offensive players.

Outstanding defensive players were West Brunswick linebacker Kwabena Green and High Point tackle Brian Roseboro.

## THE YARDSTICK

West Brunswick	H.P. Andrews
13	15
43-164	38-89
5-10-84	7-14-175
2-0	0-0
1	0
2-31.5	3-33
3-25	3-25

## Score By Quarters

West Brunswick	0	0	19	19
H.P. Andrews	6	0	8	14

## Scoring Summary

- (A) Cotton, 77-yard pass from Patterson (kick failed)
- (A) Charles, 12-yard run (Patterson pass to McKiver)
- (WB) Lance, 5-yard run (Frink kick)
- (WB) E. Johnson, 1-yard run (run failed)
- (WB) Lance, 1-yard run (run failed)

## Individual Rushing

H.P. Andrews:	Whitworth, 18-43;
Charles, 6-28;	Smith, 5-17;
T. Peak, 2-16;	J. Peak, 2-11;
Williams, 1-1;	

Graham, 1-minus 4;	Patterson, 3-minus 23.
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West Brunswick:	Holmes, 16-76;
Lance, 17-45;	P. Johnson, 1-28;
Stanley, 3-17;	Brown, 1-0;
E. Johnson, 5-minus 2.	

## Individual Passing

H.P. Andrews:	Patterson, 7-14-175.
West Brunswick:	Johnson, 5-10-84.

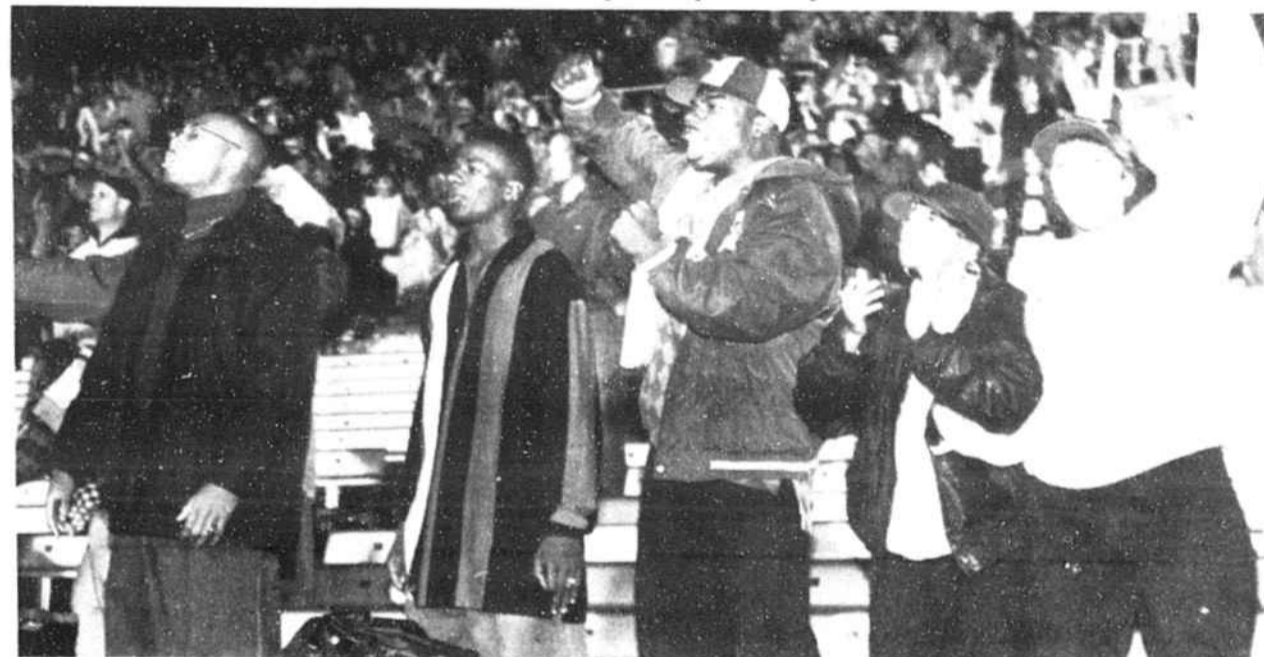
## Individual Receiving

H.P. Andrews:	Cotton, 3-91;
Graham, 3-71;	J. Peak, 1-13.
West Brunswick:	Daniels, 3-68;
Inman, 1-13;	Stanley, 1-3.

# Championship Season Recap

OPPONENT	SCORE	W-L
Conway, S.C.	25-21	L
Purnell Swett	15-6	L
Hoggard	41-6	W
Georgetown, S.C.	41-18	W
South Columbus	45-0	W
Pender	42-7	W
Whiteville	28-25	W
East Columbus	41-12	W
West Columbus	7-6	L
Lumberton (E)	34-8	W
South Brunswick	29-20	W
Northeast Guilf.	48-16	W
Eastern Randolph	43-12	W
Reidsville	21-3	W
Tarboro	21-13	W
H. Pt. Andrews	19-14	W

\*Final Record: 12-3



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

WEST BRUNSWICK FANS gave their team a big lift in the fourth quarter. Among the 1,500 were (from left) Lonnie Mitchell, Calvin Reaves and Shawn Stevenson, members of last year's state championship team.

# North Carolina's Best!



1st row (l-r): 40-Ty Brown, 31-Greg Gause, 4-Corey Hill, 77-Darius Vaught, 22-William Stanley, 55-Jonathan Faulk, 53-Walter Salano, 62-Jamison Gore, 35-Ricky Hill, 21-Dexter Bass. 2nd row (l-r): 42-Jamal Stanley, 63-Blake Hobbs, 2-Wayne Branch, 75-Charlie Peele, 44-Neil Warren, 65-Kelley Wooten, 66-Kip Young, 56-John Robinson, 11-Michael Johnson, 15-Dominique Hewett, 52-Brian McDowell. 3rd row (l-r): 50-Kwabena Green, 80-Leon Johnson, 89-Eric Andreis, 3-Eric Johnson, 5-Steve Holmes, 47-Timmy Vaught, 32-Michael Lance, 83-Terrell Thomas, 10-Timothy Daniels. 4th row (l-r): 85-Heath Inman, 46-James Morgan, 67-Phillip Johnson, 82-Derek Frink, 34-Todd Pruitt, 73-Steve Brooks, 45-Chris Brown, 78-Marcus McCray. Back row (l-r): Trojan Coaching Staff: Mike Alderson, Joe Noble, Head Coach Jim Brett, Charlie Stevens, David Arrowood.

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TERRI BRETT (second from left), wife of West Brunswick Head Coach Jim Brett, had a lot to cheer about when the game was over. At left is Brett's daughter, Betsy, who had plenty to worry about until the final seconds.



TROJAN LINEMAN JONATHAN FAULK (55) stops Andrews running back Ronnie Whitworth (8) while Wayne Branch (2) comes to assist.