

SPORTING SCENE

Last Game Memorable For 12 Senior Trojans

Michael Lance bounced around the home locker room at UNC's Kenan Stadium Friday night talking up a storm. The West Brunswick Trojans had just defeated High Point Andrews 19-14 to win the state 3A football championship.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



Lance, one of 12 seniors on the West Brunswick squad, was elated with the Trojans' comeback win and their second consecutive state championship and their 12-3 season. At the same time, though, he was feeling a little blue. He had just played his final high school football game. No more Friday nights under the bright lights.

Long after his teammates had removed their uniforms and changed into dry clothes, Lance walked around the locker room in his football pants. They were muddy and dripping wet. He didn't want to take them off.

Lance, who played on the talented 1991 West Brunswick team that went 13-2 and the inspiring 1992 squad that finished 11-3, said this year's club was the best of the three.

"I love all these guys," he said. "I just hate this is my last game. I'm glad we won, but I just hate that I'm not going to be able to come out Monday and practice with all these guys. I love them like my family."

Lance is part of a special group of young men who have done the school and community proud. He's one of 12 players who have helped take the Trojans to Chapel Hill each of the last three years.

Charlie Peele is also part of that group. While everyone celebrated in the rain and the cold as the final seconds ticked off the clock Friday, Peele was kneeling and crying at midfield.

"It might have been the last football game I'll ever play," he said later. "When we won last week against Tarboro I was thinking it was going to be just another trip to Chapel Hill. When we got up here and the lights were on, that was the best feeling in the world."

Peele and Lance have been a big part of the Trojans' success the last three years, when the team has put together a 36-8 record. They've helped produce three eastern championships and two state titles in that time.

It's hard to believe now, but things haven't always been so rosy at West Brunswick. The Trojans had just six winning football seasons in the school's first 14 years.

West Brunswick was at the bottom of the football pile just 10 years ago when it had consecutive 1-9 seasons in 1982 and 1983. It's amazing what has happened since then.

The program started gaining momentum in 1986 when Coach Marshall Seay grabbed the reins. Starting with a 5-5 record his first year, Seay steadily built a winner at West Brunswick.

Seay never had a losing season in six years and left Shallotte following the 1991 campaign as the all-time winningest football coach in school history with a 48-20 record.

It was Seay who led the team to a school-best, 13-2 mark in 1991 and took the kids to Chapel Hill for their first game in spacious Kenan Stadium. Before then, West had never been past the second round of playoffs.

As its seventh football coach in school history, West Brunswick was lucky to land Jim Brett. He has helped give the Trojans that little edge they needed to grow from state contenders to state champs.

Under Seay and Brett, the Trojans have enjoyed seven straight winning seasons and a record of 71-26 since 1986.

West has been to the state playoffs three straight years and five of the last six. The team has won at least 11 games each of the last three years. They've won 10 straight playoff games and 14 of their last 15.

We've all been spoiled rotten.

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

- ☐ South Brunswick hosts Laney in basketball, 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ North Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in basketball, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

- ☐ West Brunswick hosts North Brunswick in wrestling, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- ☐ North Brunswick at Pinecrest for 16-team wrestling tournament, 10 a.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick at Aynor, S.C., in wrestling, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 21

- ☐ West Brunswick at Hoggard in basketball, 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.

South Brunswick Cagers Sweep North

Antoine Johnson and Mike Clark combined for seven three-pointers and 32 points to lead South Brunswick to a 72-55 win over visiting North Brunswick last Friday in high school boys' basketball action.

Johnson, a senior guard, knocked down four three-pointers and finished with a game-high 19 points. Clark connected on three "treys" and ended up with 13 points.

North Brunswick's Scorpions (2-2) were led by Kiafia McKoy with 15 points and Angelo McKenzie with 14. Lewis Vaught and Jeff Simon added 10 points apiece for the Cougars, who improved to 2-2.

South Brunswick also won the girls' game, 61-16. Senior center Erika Bryant scored 26 points and freshman forward Sheba Fullwood added 13 to lead the Lady Cougars (2-2).

Coach Mike Isenberg's girls led 22-12 at halftime, but broke the game open in the third period when they outscored the visiting Lady Scorpions 26-2. North Brunswick fell to 0-4.

North Brunswick was scheduled to play at Topsail Tuesday before hosting South Brunswick on Wednesday night. The Scorpions also will entertain West Brunswick Friday night.

In addition to Wednesday night's game at North Brunswick, South Brunswick was scheduled to host Wilmington Laney on Thursday night.

BOYS GAME

North Brunswick 14 8 21 12—55

South Brunswick 16 18 21 16—72

North Brunswick scoring: McKoy, 15; McKenzie, 14; Graham, 9; Ballard, 7; Knox, 5; Hankins, 3; Bullard, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: Johnson, 19; Clark, 13; Vaught, 10; Simon, 10; Kennedy, 9; Clemmons, 3; Blue, 3; Champion, 2; Hewett, 2; James, 1.

GIRLS GAME

North Brunswick 6 6 2 2—16

South Brunswick 14 8 26 16—61

North Brunswick scoring: Ballard, 7; Ludd, 4; McKoy, 2; Jones, 1; Crowder, 1; Smith, 1.

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 26; Fullwood, 13; Tam, Davis, 8; Sellers, 6; Tan, Davis, 4; Smith, 2; Dishman, 2.

Scorpions Dump Dixon 75-59

Mario Ballard scored 19 points to lead the North Brunswick High School boys' basketball team to a 75-59 non-conference win over Dixon last Tuesday night in Leland.

Shannon Hankins scored 16 points for the Scorpions, who rallied from a 30-22 deficit at halftime and made 13-of-13 free throw attempts in the final period.

Brothers Marcus and Brandon

Canady scored 16 points apiece to lead the Bulldogs, who fell to 3-1.

North Brunswick's boys improved to 2-1, while the girls fell to 0-3 with a 47-13 loss to Dixon.

The Scorpion junior varsity improved to 3-0 with a 72-29 victory. Shamon Kinston scored 16 points, and Rashad Green added 14 to lead North Brunswick.

Trojan Basketball Tips Off Thursday

West Brunswick will open the high school basketball season Thursday night—not Friday night—with three games against the North Brunswick Scorpions in Leland.

The junior varsity boys will tip off at 5 p.m., followed by the girls at 6:30 and the varsity boys at 8 o'clock.

The games were originally scheduled Friday, but they were changed because of the school system's Christmas holiday.

Bucs Stop South Brunswick

Brian Johnson scored 29 points and Derek McSwain had 25 as the Laney Buccaneers defeated South Brunswick 85-56 in high school boys' basketball action last Tuesday.

Senior guard Antoine Johnson scored 19 points to lead the visiting Cougars, who trailed 44-23 at halftime. Chris Champion added nine points for South Brunswick.

In the girls' game, Catherine McKoy scored 10 points to lead Laney to a 35-34 non-conference win over the Lady Cougars. Senior center Erika Bryant led South Brunswick with 24 points.

GIRLS GAME

South Brunswick 6 6 16 6—34

Wilmington Laney 10 7 13 5—35

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 24; Fullwood, 4; Davis, 4; Lee, 2.

Laney scoring: McKoy, 10; Williams, 8; Melvin, 5; Grady, 4; Lane, 4; White, 2.

BOYS GAME

South Brunswick 815 1518—56

Wilm. Laney 1628 1625—85

South Brunswick scoring: Johnson, 19; Champion, 9; Vaught, 7; Blue, 5; Clark, 5; Simon, 5; James,

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