

Ricky Daniels Scores 20 For N.C. State

Former West Brunswick High School basketball star Ricky Daniels scored a season-high 20 points Sunday to lead North Carolina State to a 78-70 victory over Florida State in Raleigh.

Daniels made eight of nine field goal attempts and canned a pair of three-pointers. In 31 minutes off the bench, he also made two of two free throws, grabbed four rebounds and had three assists.

The two-time Brunswick County player of the year led the Wolfpack (1-2, 5-8) to its first Atlantic Coast Conference win of the season and spoiled the 1994 basketball debut of Florida State's Charlie Ward.

Ward, winner of this year's Heisman Trophy as the nation's best college football player, led the Seminoles to a 12-1 record and the national championship as quarterback.

Daniels, a native of Longwood, graduated from West Brunswick in 1991. He spent two years at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College before enrolling at N.C. State in the fall.

"I felt that I could do a lot more than I've been doing," Daniels told the Associated Press following Sunday's performance.

"I've been struggling and I've been looking at that, knowing that I have to play better," he said. "I got out there and tried to do my best."

N.C. State Coach Les Robinson said, "Ricky Daniels played like we thought he could when we recruited him and coming through today was a real key for us to win."

Including Sunday's game, Daniels has played an average of 17.8 minutes per game this season, averaged 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds. He has 24 assists, 13 steals and two blocked shots.

N.C. State hosts Duke tonight (Thursday) and plays at Maryland Saturday afternoon. Both games will be televised.

West Sweeps Stallions In Waccamaw Opener

Led by a couple of youngsters, West Brunswick opened the Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference high school basketball season last Tuesday with a sweep of visiting South Columbus.

Sophomore Derek Frink scored 18 points to lead the West Brunswick boys to a 71-67 win over the Stallions. In the girls' game, freshman Marlana Hill scored 10 points as the Lady Trojans posted a 38-29 victory.

West's biggest player at 6-foot-5, Frink did much of his scoring from the outside. He made three three-point baskets, but his biggest shots of the night came inside the arc with 25 seconds left in the game.

With the Trojans clinging to a 68-67 lead, South Columbus' John Kelley was whistled for an intentional foul as Frink was driving to the basket. Frink made both shots to give the Trojans a three-point lead.

Eric Johnson added another free throw with 16 seconds left and finished with 15 points for the Trojans (1-0, 3-5) in the Waccamaw Conference debut of first-year coach Charlie Stevens.

West's Tony Hewett hit three three-pointers and had 13 points and Timothy Daniels added 11 as part of the balanced attack.

South Columbus (0-1, 4-7) was led by Brandon Simmons with 28 points. The Stallions jumped out to a 26-18 after one quarter, but West Brunswick trimmed the lead to 43-38 at halftime.

The Trojans held South Columbus to eight points in the third quarter and took a 54-51 lead into the final period.

South Columbus tied the score at 61-61 on a three-point play by Simmons midway through the fourth quarter. West took the lead for good at 66-65 on two free throws by Daniels with 59 seconds left.

Earlier in the night, West Brunswick's girls snapped a four-game losing streak with their nine-point victory over the Lady Stallions.

The Lady Trojans (1-0, 3-5) led 11-10 at halftime and started pulling away in the third quarter when they outscored South Columbus 11-7 to take a 22-17 lead.

Hill made a pair of three-pointers to lead the West Brunswick scoring.

Sophomores Felicia Morgan and Kaneka Grissett added nine points each.

Stephanie McDowell led South Columbus (0-1, 6-5) with 13 points.

BOYS GAME
South Columbus 26 17 815—67
West Brunswick 18 20 1617—71

South Columbus scoring: Simmons, 28; Clarida, 10; Kelley, 9; Silver, 8; Ellerby, 6; McPherson, 2; Daniels, 2; Brooks, 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Frink, 18; Johnson, 15; Hewett, 13; Daniels, 11; Moody, 7; T. Brown, 4; Williams, 3.

GIRLS GAME
South Columbus 4 6 7 12—29
West Brunswick 2 9 11 16—38

South Columbus scoring: McDowell, 13; Ganus, 5; Ford, 4; Bullock, 3; Bellamy, 3; Dozier, 1.

West Brunswick scoring: Hill, 10; Morgan, 9; Grissett, 9; Norris, 6; Moody, 4.

Patriots Defeat West JV 48-46

Ivery Messick scored 13 points and Jeremy Simpson added 10 to lead the Pender junior varsity basketball team to a 48-46 win over host West Brunswick Friday night.

Jamal Stanley scored 17 points and Juan Bellamy added seven for the Trojans, who fell to 0-2 in the Wacc. Conference and 1-5 overall.

In conference action last Tuesday, South Columbus defeated West Brunswick 54-46. Matthew Bellamy scored 13 and Justin Chestnut had 11 for the Stallions. Stanley scored 22 and Ricky Hill chipped in 15 for the Trojans.

Scorps Dump Tar Heel For First League Win

The North Brunswick boys' basketball team recorded its first conference victory in nearly two years last Friday night with a 67-62 win over the Tar Heel Panthers.

The Scorpians snapped a 27-game conference losing streak dating back to 1992 with the Three Rivers Conference win.

Mario Ballard led North Brunswick with 18 points. Tyrone Bullard added 12 and Angelo McKenzie chipped in 11 for the Scorpians, who improved to 1-2 in the conference and 6-4 overall.

Scotty Lasane scored 13 points, including four three-pointers, and Al Campbell added 11 for the Panthers, who led 30-29 at halftime.

North Brunswick led 42-40 going into the fourth quarter and outscored Tar Heel 25-22 in the high-scoring final period.

In the girls' game, North's Valerie Smith scored a game-high 17 points but it wasn't enough as Tar Heel posted a 41-34 victory. Jenise Price led the Lady Panthers with 16 points.

BOYS GAME
Tar Heel 11 19 10 22—62
North Bruns. 14 15 13 25—67

Tar Heel scoring: Lasane, 13; Campbell, 11; Nance, 8; Mitchell, 8; Rozier, 8; Lloyd, 8; Rogers, 6.

North Brunswick scoring: Ballard, 18; Bullard, 12; McKenzie, 11; Graham, 9; Williams, 8; Knox, 8; Brew, 1.

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SPORTING SCENE

Energetic Stevens Adds Life To Trojan Hoops

It's been said that a team develops the same demeanor as its coach, and that is certainly true of the West Brunswick boys' basketball team. The Trojans are enthusiastic and intense, just like their mentor.

The first thing most people notice about first-year coach Charlie Stevens is his energy. Watching him work is like watching a Mexican jumping bean. He bounces to and fro and rarely stands still.

Stevens jumps up and down when his team scores a basket, waves his arms when he wants his team to run the fast-break and crouches down and slams the floor when he wants his team to play defense.

"I do it for the boys. I do it to keep them excited on the floor," Stevens explained following a recent game at North Myrtle Beach.

The players seem to respond. The Trojans are playing an exciting brand of basketball this season, running at every opportunity and playing in-your-face defense to take advantage of their quickness and athleticism.

Watching Coach Stevens on the sideline, you can't help wonder if he burns more energy than his players during the course of a game.

Several West Brunswick supporters have told me they like the direction the basketball program is heading under Stevens. They like the new sense of discipline and purpose.

Thompson Impressive

I was really impressed with David Thompson, the former North Carolina State and Denver Nuggets basketball star who put on a clinic last week at South Brunswick High School.

After telling the kids his story and urging them to stay in school and away from drugs, Thompson stuck around for about 30 minutes after the clinic to sign autographs.

He didn't just sign a few before sneaking out the back door. Thompson stayed until everybody who wanted an autograph was satisfied. He was one of the last people to leave the gym.

He gave an excellent talk and really related to the kids. The Charlotte Hornets have a first-class organization and they are fortunate to have a man like Thompson working with their youth program.

State Champs On TV

West Brunswick High School football fans may want to have their VCRs on standby Saturday night for the broadcast of the "Toyota Football Championships of North Carolina."

The hour-long television program will feature highlights of, among other things, West Brunswick's 19-14 win over High Point Andrews in the state 3A championship game Dec. 10 in Chapel Hill.

Highlights of the 1A, 2A and 4A championship games also will be featured. The program will be co-anchored by Ed Doobrow, an award-winning sportscaster, and Bill Dooley, a former college football coach.

The CBS affiliate in Wilmington (WJLA-TV 26) will broadcast the program Saturday at 5 p.m.

Trojans Lead Wachovia Race

West Brunswick leads the Waccamaw Conference race for the annual Wachovia Trophy following the fall sports season.

The trophy, sponsored by Wachovia Bank and sanctioned by the N.C. High School Athletic Association, recognizes high school sports programs that achieve the best overall performance within their athletic conferences.

Points are awarded after each season based on participation and standings in conference play.

With first-place ties in football and girls' tennis last fall, West Brunswick leads the Waccamaw race with 17.5 points. Whiteville is second with 13.5 points, followed by Pender with 13, South Columbus with 12, South Brunswick with 10 and East Columbus and West Columbus with nine each.

NFL Playoff Picks

The NFL playoffs are starting to get interesting. The NFC and AFC championship games will be played this weekend, and the winners meet next Sunday in Atlanta for Super Bowl XXVIII.

I was 2-2 with my playoff selections last week, leaving me with an overall playoff record of 5-3. Both of this week's game will be very difficult to pick, but here goes.

In the early game Sunday, the three-time AFC champion Buffalo Bills host Joe Montana and the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Chiefs have been living on the edge since the playoffs started. Joe has rallied them to a pair of come-from-behind wins to advance to the AFC championship.

As much as I would like to see Montana play for a fifth Super Bowl championship, I think the Chiefs will come up short in Buffalo. Yep, the Bills return to the Super Bowl for one more try.

In the late game Sunday, San Francisco travels to Dallas for a rematch of last year's NFC championship game, which was played at San Fran's Candlestick Park.

The Cowboys and 49ers are clearly the two best teams in the conference, and this game has all the makings of an offensive shootout. Consider some of the matchups: Steve Young vs. Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith vs. Ricky Watters, Jerry Rice vs. Michael Irvin.

Both teams have shown they can put points on the board. This game will come down to defense, and the edge there goes to the Cowboys.

So there you have it, another Dallas-Buffalo Super Bowl. I wonder if anyone will watch.

Fishermen's Group Meeting Thursday

Fishing regulations and pollution will be among the items discussed tonight (Thursday) at a meeting of the Brunswick County Commercial Fisherman's Association. The newly-reactivated group will meet at the 904 Auction House on N.C. 904 at Grissett at 7:30 p.m. Spokesman Lloyd Ward said the public is invited.



Doug Rutter
Sports Editor

West Columbus Whips Cougars

West Columbus turned a close game into a blowout in a matter of minutes Friday night, beating the South Brunswick Cougars 70-52 in a high school boys' basketball game.

Coach Michael Powell's Vikings led the visitors 46-38 after three quarters, but outscored the Cougars 24-14 down the stretch to win the Waccamaw Conference battle going away.

Corey Ward scored 19 points, Wesley Moore added 18 and Maris Singletary chipped in 15 for the Vikings, who improved their conference record to 1-1 and overall mark to 5-5.

South Brunswick (0-1, 3-7) suffered its fifth loss in the last six games. Leading the Cougars were Lewis Vaught with 14 points, Mark Kennedy with 12 and Antoine Johnson with 11.

Coach Gene Doane's Cougars led the hosts 14-11 after the first quarter, but Ward scored nine of his game-

high 19 points in the second period to give the Vikings to a 31-25 half-time advantage.

In the girls' game, South Brunswick rolled to a 43-33 win. Tameka Davis, Sheba Fullwood and Natalie Smith each scored in double figures for the Lady Cougars (1-0, 7-4).

South Brunswick was scheduled to play at East Columbus Tuesday night. South will entertain Whiteville Friday night. It will be the first home game for the Cougar boys since Dec. 17.

BOYS GAME

South Brunswick 14 11 13 14—52
West Columbus 11 20 15 24—70

South Brunswick scoring: Vaught, 14; Kennedy, 12; Johnson, 11; Clark, 8; Simon, 3; Pelham, 2.

West Columbus scoring: Ward, 19; Moore, 18; Singletary, 15; Powell, 8; Featherston, 7; Fowler, 2; Faulk, 1.

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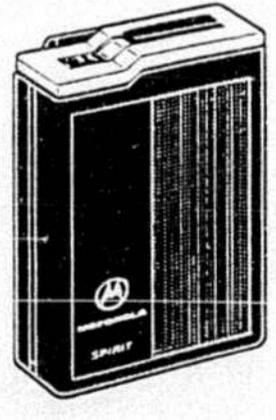
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