

West's Grissett Drops Bombs On Gators

BY DOUG RUTTER

Kaneka Grissett was in "the zone" Friday night.

The West Brunswick sophomore made six three-pointers and finished with 21 points to lead the Lady Trojans to a 59-52 high school girls' basketball victory over visiting East Columbus.

Grissett made six out of eight three-point shots, not counting a pair of desperation 30-footers she launched at the end of the second and third quarters.

"It seemed like Kaneka's been struggling all year and she had a real good game tonight," West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council said. "She's been having to shoot off the dribble and we got her open tonight for some shots."

Grissett, who knocked down five three-pointers from the top of the key, did most of her damage in the first half when the Lady Trojans pulled out to a 32-16 lead.

The sharp-shooting guard was 5-for-6 from three-point range in the first half, when she scored 15 points. Grissett added her sixth "trey" at the start of the third quarter.

The partisan West Brunswick crowd greeted each three-pointer with a deep "woosh" and the noise grew louder with each successful bomb.

Grissett's hot shooting lifted the Lady Trojans into a tie for first place in the Waccamaw Conference with a record of 3-1. Whiteville also entered this week's play at 3-1.

Grissett scored West's first six points on a pair of three-pointers. The Lady Trojans pulled out to a 10-2 lead in the first six minutes and led 11-6 after one quarter.

East Columbus' Lady Gators trimmed the lead to 11-8 early in the second period before West Brunswick went on a 10-0 run keyed by a pair of Grissett long-range bombs.

West Brunswick led 32-16 at intermission, and Grissett's sixth three-pointer of the night at the 6:15 mark of the third quarter gave the Lady Trojans a 37-20 advantage.

The Gators pulled to within 45-35 after three quarters and cut West's lead to 47-42 with 5:10 remaining in the game before the Lady Trojans used a 6-0 spurt to rebuild their lead

to 11 points.

East Columbus battled back again and pulled to within seven points, 55-48, with 1:43 on the clock.

However, the Lady Gators were whistled for an intentional foul with 1:24 remaining and West Brunswick converted four of eight free throws down the stretch to hold on.

Senior center Nicole Norris scored 11 points for West Brunswick. Leading the Lady Gators were Shawnda Moore with 19 points, Tamara Bray with 14 and Stephanie Freeman with 13.

Prior to last week, West Brunswick's girls had blown fourth-quarter leads in four of their last eight games. The Lady Trojans protected late leads in both conference wins last week over East Columbus and Whiteville.

"It's been a big turnaround," Coach Council said. "I feel like we're on the right foot now."

West Brunswick (5-7 overall) was scheduled to host West Columbus Tuesday night. The Lady Trojans will play a non-conference game at Wilmington Laney on Thursday night and travel to South Brunswick on Saturday.

Score By Quarters

East Columbus 6 10 19 17 — 52
West Brunswick 11 21 13 14 — 59
East Columbus scoring: Moore, 19; Bray, 14; Freeman, 13; Daniels, 4; Graham, 2.
West Brunswick scoring: Grissett, 21; Norris, 11; Moody, 9; Morgan, 7; Moll, 6; Hill, 5.



WEST SENIOR NICOLE NORRIS guards Tamara Bray of East Columbus.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

MOODY HITS GAME-WINNER

Lady Trojans Upset Whiteville

Donicia Moody's basket with four seconds remaining lifted West Brunswick to a 54-53 upset win over Whiteville in high school girls' basketball action last Tuesday.

Regina Garcia's steal and layup had given the host Lady Wolfpack a 53-52 lead with 13 seconds left. West Brunswick called timeout with 12 seconds on the clock to set up an inbounds play.

West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council said she overheard Whiteville Coach Ken Helms tell his team to play man-to-man defense.

Council set up a play in which

three West players set a screen and Moody broke loose and ran toward the Whiteville basket. Senior Nicole Norris heaved a length-of-the-court inbounds pass to Moody.

The freshman forward slipped and fell to the floor after receiving the pass, but she regained her feet and made the winning shot.

Moody finished with 16 points, Norris had 17 and sophomore forward Felecia Morgan added 12 as the Lady Trojans improved to 2-1 in the Waccamaw Conference and 4-7 overall.

Whiteville, led by Dawn Threadgill's 20 points, fell to 2-1 in the league and 10-2 overall. Garcia and Dee Dee Toon scored 12 points

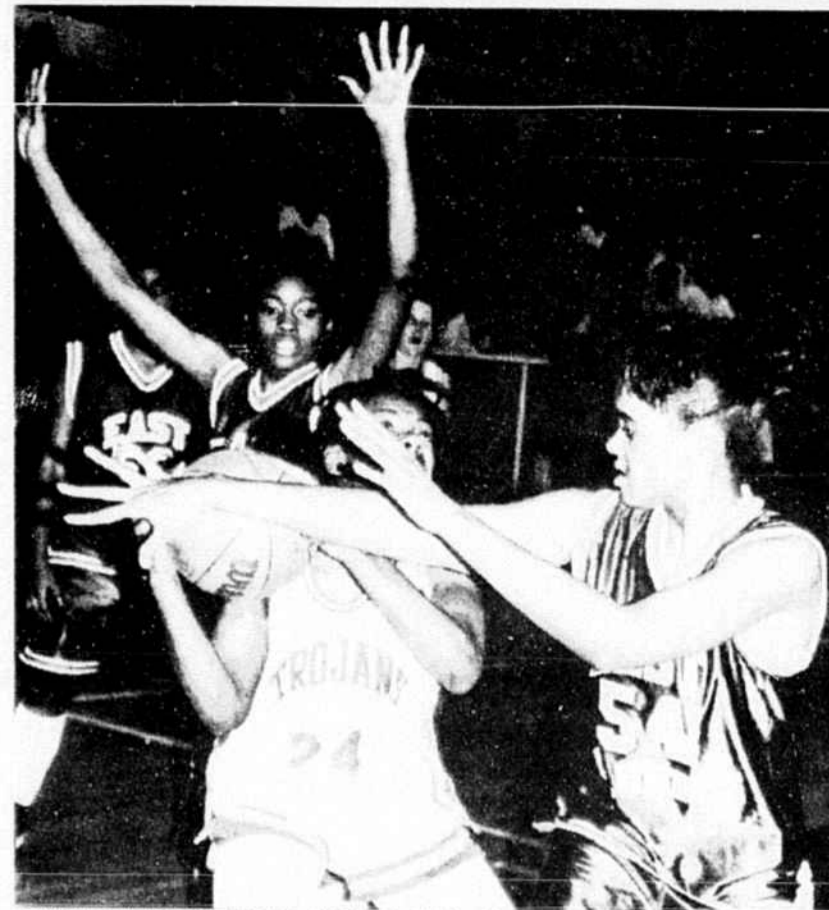
apiece for the Lady Wolfpack, who carried a six-game winning streak into the game.

West Brunswick outscored Whiteville 18-12 in the second quarter to grab a 30-22 lead at halftime.

The Lady Trojans led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter, but Whiteville trimmed the deficit to eight heading into the final period.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 12 18 16 8 — 54
Whiteville 10 12 16 15 — 53
West Brunswick scoring: Norris, 17; Moody, 16; Morgan, 12; Grissett, 7; Moll, 2.
Whiteville scoring: Threadgill, 20; R. Garcia, 12; Toon, 12; K. Garcia, 4; Rogers, 3; Holden, 2.



FORWARD FELECIA MORGAN looks to score for the Lady Trojans over East Columbus' Shawnda Moore.

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