

BRYANT LEADS SOUTH GIRLS

West Columbus Drops Cougars 44-40

BY DOUG RUTTER

Magellan Powell scored 18 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, to lead West Columbus to a 44-40 win over South Brunswick in a high school boys' basketball game last Tuesday.

South Brunswick had a chance to tie the score in the final minute, but a driving layup by Mark Kennedy with eight seconds remaining missed the mark and the Vikings held on for the win.

"We had our opportunities. We should have won the game," South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane said. "We made too many mental mistakes. I can't live with mental mistakes. If they were physical mistakes, I could live with it."

The Cougars trailed 38-33 midway through the fourth quarter but rallied to tie the score on baskets by Kennedy and Antoine Johnson and a Jeff Simon free throw with 3:08 remaining.

West Columbus regained the lead for good on Tyrone Faulk's offensive rebound and layup with 2:45 to play. A quick steal by Powell led to another basket by Faulk, and the Vikings led 42-38.

South's Johnson, who led all scorers in the game with 20 points, made a layup at the 2:15 mark to trim West Columbus' lead to two points.

Both teams missed several scoring opportunities in the final two minutes. Following a blocked shot by South's Chris Champion, the Cougars had the ball under their own basket with 20 seconds left.

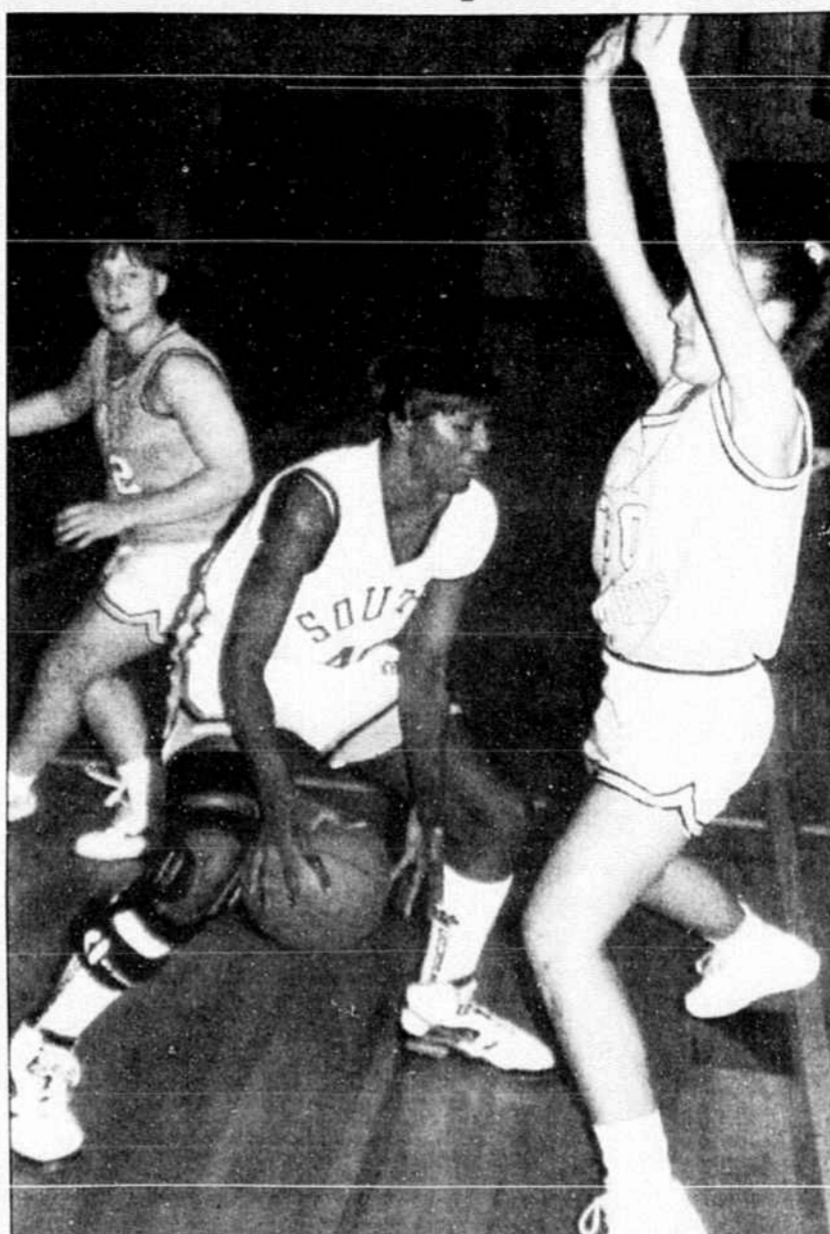
Johnson brought the ball down court and passed to Kennedy along the baseline to the right of the basket. Kennedy drove toward the hoop and drew contact, but no foul was called.

Kennedy's missed shot was rebounded by Powell, who was fouled with two seconds remaining. The West Columbus senior sank two free throws to ensure the victory.

The game was close throughout as the lead changed hands 10 times. South Brunswick never led by more than three points, and West Columbus' biggest advantage was seven.

The Vikings led 25-18 early in the third quarter before South Brunswick ripped off 10 unanswered points to take a 28-25 lead.

South Brunswick spent most of the game in its four-corners offense



ERIKA BRYANT (left) scored 30 points last Tuesday to lead South Brunswick to a 57-32 win over West Columbus. At right is Jamie Ivy of West Columbus.

to slow down the Vikings and keep the score close.

"That's what we have to do," Doane said. "We don't have any athletes like Magellan Powell."

Powell thrilled the small crowd at Cougar Gym late in the first quarter when he drove along the baseline and floated in for a two-handed dunk.

West Columbus improved to 3-5 in the conference and 7-9 overall, while South Brunswick fell to 1-6 in league games and 5-12 for the season.

In the girls' game, South Brunswick dominated from the opening

Tameka Davis added 15 points for South Brunswick, which scored the first 12 points of the game and led by as many as 24 in the first half. June Britt led West Columbus with 10 points.

Bryant ruled the paint and scored at will whenever she was on the floor. She tallied 18 points in the first 12 minutes of the game as the Lady Cougars jumped out to a 28-4 lead.

South Brunswick Coach Mike Isenberg substituted liberally, even in the first quarter, to keep from running up the score.

South improved to 5-2 in the Waccamaw Conference and 11-7 overall. West Columbus fell to 2-6 in the league and 4-13 overall.

West Columbus won the junior varsity game 65-62. The Vikings' Charles Washington sank a three-pointer from just inside half-court at the buzzer to break a 62-62 tie.

John Williamson scored 17 points and Kenric Gore had 16 to lead the Vikings. South Brunswick's Devon Johnson led all scorers with 22 points.

BOYS GAME

West Columbus 13 10 4 17—44
South Brunswick 12 6 12 10—40

West Columbus scoring: Powell, 18; Moore, 8; Faulk, 7; Singletary, 5; Featherston, 4; Ward, 2.

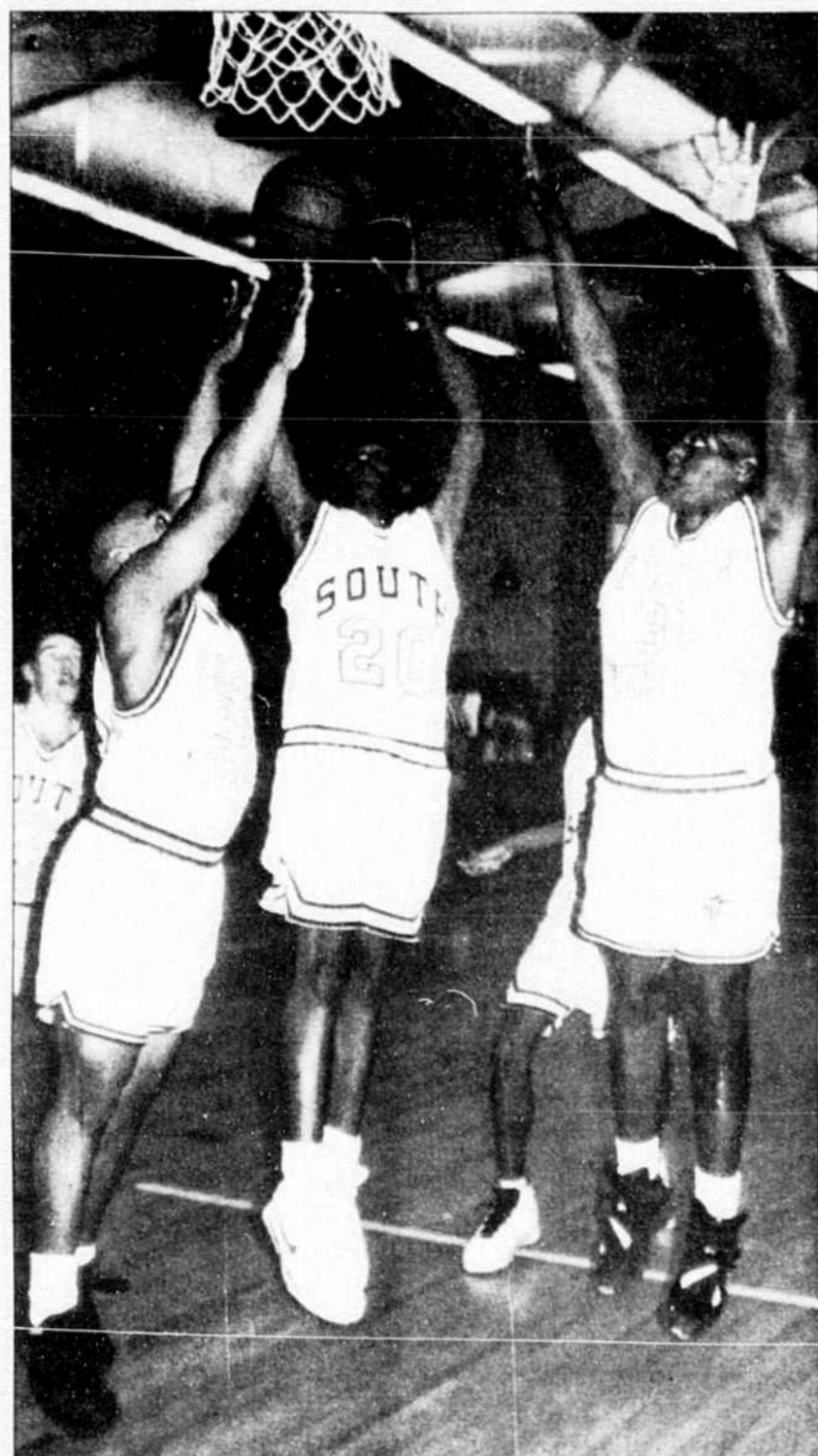
South Brunswick scoring: Johnson, 20; Moore, 7; Champion, 4; Kennedy, 4; Simon, 3; Vaught, 2.

GIRLS GAME

West Columbus 2 8 9 13—32
South Brunswick 12 20 12 13—57

West Columbus scoring: Britt, 10; Shanna Williamson, 8; Moore, 5; Jenkins, 3; Shawna Williamson, 2; Graham, 2; Spivey, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 30; Tam. Davis, 15; S. Smith, 3; D. Smith, 3; N. Smith, 2; Grant, 2; Fullwood, 2.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG KUTTER

SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S CHRIS CHAMPION (20) shoots over West Columbus' Tyrone Faulk (33) and Maris Singletary last Tuesday. West Columbus won the conference game 44-40.

Third-Ranked Gators Top South Brunswick

South Brunswick's Cougars made the mistake of trying to "run-and-gun" with the third-ranked 2A team in the state Friday night.

As a result, East Columbus came away with an easy 82-50 win over the Cougars in a Waccamaw Conference high school boys' basketball game in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Boubacar Aw scored 22 points and Demetric Jacobs added 15 to lead East Columbus, which improved to 7-1 in the conference and 18-2 overall. The Gators climbed to third in last week's Associated Press high school poll.

Chris Champion scored 15 points and Antoine Johnson added 11 for the Cougars, who fell to 1-7 in the Waccamaw Conference and 5-13 overall.

East Columbus led 20-10 after the first quarter and 39-23 at halftime. The Gators poured it on in the third quarter, when they outscored the Cougars 23-8 to put the game out of reach.

Earlier in the night, South Brunswick rallied from a first-quarter deficit to post a 49-38 win in the girls' game.

Erika Bryant scored 13 points and Natalie Smith and Tameka Davis added 11 apiece for the Lady Cougars. Tamara Bray scored 13 and Sharonda Moore had 12 for East

Columbus.

South Brunswick's win, coupled with West Brunswick's upset of Whiteville, lifted the Lady Cougars into first place in the Waccamaw Conference at 6-2. South is 12-7 overall.

East Columbus fell to 4-4 in the conference and 8-12 overall.

South Brunswick was scheduled to continue conference play at Whiteville Tuesday night. The Cougars will host Pender on Friday and entertain South Columbus next Tuesday.

BOYS GAME

East Columbus 20 19 23 20—82
South Brunswick 10 13 8 19—50

East Columbus scoring: Aw, 22; Jacobs, 15; Junious, 10; Munn, 10; Beatty, 8; Bennett, 7; Waddell, 6; Wilson, 2; Hazel, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: Champion, 15; Johnson, 11; Vaught, 9; Kennedy, 5; Moore, 4; Pelham, 4; Blue, 2.

GIRLS GAME

East Columbus 13 3 9 12—38
South Brunswick 11 15 10 13—49

East Columbus scoring: Bray, 13; Moore, 12; Snowden, 6; Wilson, 5; Graham, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 13; Smith, 11; Tameka Davis, 11; Fullwood, 5; Sellers, 4; Lee, 2; Taneise Davis, 2.

Scorpions Dump East Bladen

Chris Knox drained a three-pointer with 25 seconds left to give North Brunswick a 65-62 win over East Bladen in Three Rivers Conference boys' basketball action last Tuesday.

The Scorpions outscored the visiting Cougars 24-15 in the third quarter to erase most of a 37-22 halftime deficit.

Two free throws gave the Scorpions their first lead of the game, 56-55, with 1:52 remaining. The score was tied at 62-62 when Knox connected on his third three-pointer of the night.

Knox finished with 13 points. Angelo McKenzie scored 19 and Mario Ballard chipped in 14 to pace the Scorpions, who improved to 2-7 in the conference and 7-10 overall.

Greg Collins had 19 points and Jeffrey Johnson added 15 for East Bladen, which fell to 3-6 in the league and 5-11 for the season.

East Bladen won the girls' game 46-22. Jeni Wilson had 14 points to lead the Lady Cougars.

Jenny Crowder scored 10 points to lead North Brunswick (0-9, 1-16). It was the eleventh straight loss for the Lady Scorpions.

BOYS GAME

East Bladen 18 19 15 10—62
North Brunswick 12 10 24 19—65

East Bladen scoring: Collins, 19; Johnson, 15; Cromartie, 9; Graham, 9; McIntyre, 4; Tripaldi, 4; Simpson, 2.

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