

**REGULAR SEASON FINALE**

# Cougars Frustrate Trojans With Four Corners Offense

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick executed its boring but effective "four corners offense" almost flawlessly Friday night in a 50-42 high school boys' basketball win over West Brunswick.

Holding the ball near midcourt for minutes at a time, the Cougars showed great discipline in dribbling, passing and working the ball around the perimeter until easy scoring opportunities opened up.

When the shots became available, South Brunswick instantly turned from passive to aggressive and converted scoring chances more often than not.

"The kids are executing and doing what I ask," South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane said following his team's third straight victory. "We're playing maybe the best ball in the conference."

South point guard Antoine Johnson, who ran the four corners like a Dean Smith disciple, led the Cougars with 13 points. Chris Champion added 12 and Lewis Vaught had 11 for South.

West Brunswick, which chased the ball on defense all night, was led



TROJAN FORWARD TIMOTHY DANIELS is guarded by South Brunswick's Mike Clark (42) and Antoine Johnson.

by Anthony Moody's 17 points. Eric Johnson and Brandon Hill added seven apiece for the Trojans.

The Cougars improved to 4-8 in the Waccamaw Conference and 8-14 overall, while their county rivals fell to 5-7 in league play and 9-14 for the season.

Despite the loss, West Brunswick will still qualify for the state 3A

playoffs unless South Brunswick wins this week's conference tournament at Whiteville.

West Brunswick, which defeated South 56-45 in their first meeting this season, could have clinched the conference's number one 3A playoff seed with a win Friday night at home.

But the West Brunswick loss and

Pender's win over West Columbus gave the top seed and first-round playoff bye to the Patriots, who also finished 5-7 in the conference but edged West on a tie breaker.

First-year West Brunswick Coach Charlie Stevens took the blame for Friday night's loss, saying he was out-coached by Doane.

"If you can't get your kids ready to play a big game like this against a county rival when you have a chance to lock up the number one 3A slot, you're not doing your job," Stevens said.

South Brunswick, which operated out of the four corners all game, jumped out to a 10-2 lead in the first four minutes and led 16-9 at the end of the first quarter.

West Brunswick could have closed the gap in the second quarter, but missed five out of seven free throws. South Brunswick made two layups in the final 26 seconds to take a 25-15 lead into halftime.

The Cougars continued to control the tempo in the third quarter and led 35-26 heading into the final period.

West's Hill opened the quarter with a three-point basket, which sparked a 7-0 run by the Trojans. Johnson and Moody both converted steals into layups, and West trailed 35-33 with 6:05 remaining.

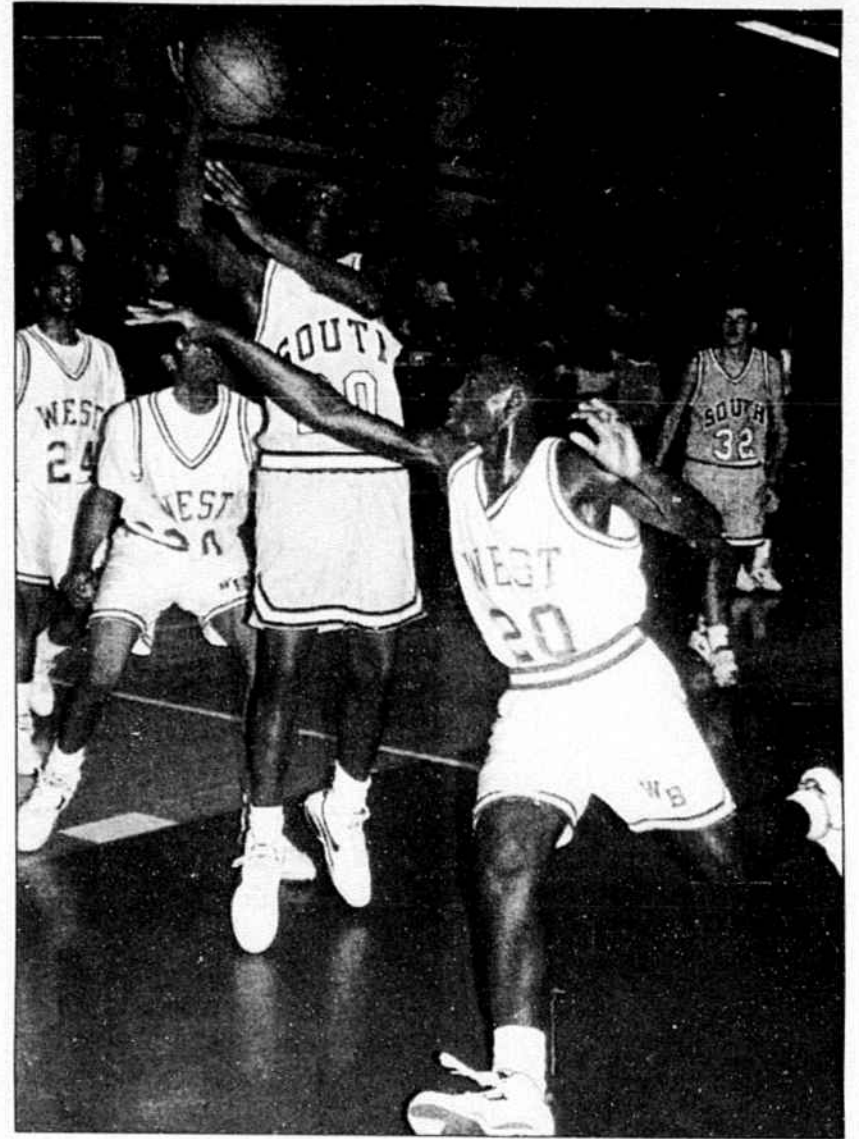
Following a South Brunswick timeout, the Cougars rebuilt their lead to five points on a free throw by Champion and layup by Vaught.

West's Steve Holmes, fouled while shooting a three-pointer, converted just one of three foul shots to cut the lead to four.

But Vaught scored two more baskets and Champion converted a three-point play to give the Cougars a 45-37 lead with 1:44 left. South made five of eight free throws down the stretch to nail down the win.

"We controlled the game from start to finish except for that one spurt that got them back to within two," Doane said. "Our defense was outstanding. They hit one three all night. We didn't give them a good look at the basket."

Stevens, who was hired to turn around West Brunswick's basketball



SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S CHRIS CHAMPION scored 12 points Friday night in the Cougars' 50-42 win. West's Eric Johnson (20) takes a swipe at the ball.

program following two straight losing seasons, said he isn't doing his job.

"They brought me in here to win and I'm not getting the job done. If the results stay the same they need to make another change," he said.

**Score By Quarters**

South Brunswick 16 9 10 15—50

West Brunswick 9 6 11 16—42

South Brunswick scoring:

Johnson, 13; Champion, 12; Vaught, 11; Simon, 8; Moore, 4; Kennedy, 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Moody, 17; Johnson, 7; Hill, 7; Daniels, 5; T. Brown, 3; Morgan, 2; Holmes, 1.

### T-Ball Group Forming

Several Shallotte area residents are trying to form an independent T-ball team for boys and girls who are 4 years old, which is not old enough for the area's organized T-ball league.

Anyone interested should contact Regina Mearas at 287-6881 or Judy Clayton at 579-6270.

## WACCAMAW CONFERENCE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

End Of Regular Season

BOYS

Team	League	Overall
Whiteville	11-1	18-4
East Columbus	10-2	21-3
Pender	5-7	11-12
West Brunswick	5-7	9-14
South Brunswick	4-8	8-14
South Columbus	4-8	9-14
West Columbus	3-9	7-13

GIRLS

Team	League	Overall
Whiteville	9-3	19-4
South Brunswick	9-3	15-8
East Columbus	7-5	11-13
West Brunswick	5-7	8-15
South Columbus	5-7	11-12
Pender	4-8	11-12
West Columbus	3-9	5-16

## Cougars Shock Stallions

Antoine Johnson's jump shot with five seconds left in the game lifted South Brunswick to a 57-56 high school boys' basketball win over visiting South Columbus last Tuesday.

The short jumper capped a huge, fourth-quarter comeback by the Cougars, who trailed the Stallions 44-33 heading into the final period.

South Brunswick trailed by nine points midway through the quarter before a basket by Scooter Moore and consecutive three-pointers by Mike Clark slashed the Stallions' lead to 53-52.

Three free throws gave South Columbus a 56-52 advantage. But South Brunswick's Mark Kennedy drained his fourth three-pointer of the night to cut the lead to one, and Johnson followed with the game-winning shot.

Johnson led South Brunswick with 17 points and Kennedy finished with 12. Brandon Simmons scored 21 points and Andre Clarida had 15 for the Stallions.

The Waccamaw Conference win was the second straight for South Brunswick, which improved to 3-8 in the league and 7-14 overall. South Columbus fell to 4-8 in the Waccamaw and 8-14 for the season.

In the girls' game, South Brunswick struggled en route to a 35-29 win over the Lady Stallions. South Brunswick led 17-6 after the first quarter and held on for the win.

Tameka Davis scored 13 points and Natalie Smith added 10 to lead the Lady Cougars (8-3, 14-8). Rita Ford scored 11 for South Columbus (5-7, 11-10).

BOYS GAME

South Columbus 10 21 13 12—56  
South Brunswick 15 10 8 24—57

South Columbus scoring: Simmons, 21; Clarida, 15; Wright, 8; Silver, 6; McPherson, 6.

South Brunswick scoring: Johnson, 17; Kennedy, 12; Clark, 8; Vaught, 8; Simon, 6; Moore, 6.

GIRLS GAME

South Columbus 6 8 8 7—29  
South Brunswick 17 5 6 7—35

South Columbus scoring: Ford, 11; McDowell, 6; Bullock, 4; Dozier, 4; Bellamy, 2; Ravenell, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: Tameka Davis, 13; N. Smith, 10; Bryant, 8; Sellers, 4.

### Clinic For Umpires Scheduled Saturday

A Southern Softball Association of America (SSAA) Umpires Clinic will be held Saturday, March 6, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Town Creek Community Building.

All Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department adult softball leagues will follow SSAA rules this year.

For more information on the clinic, contact Richard Jones, Area Director for SSAA, at 842-2578.

## Devils Burn Scorpions In OT

North Brunswick rallied from a 24-point halftime deficit only to suffer a 74-73 overtime loss to visiting Red Springs last Tuesday in high school boys' basketball action.

North's Jermaine Graham scored 22 of his game-high 25 points in the second half to lead the Scorpions back from a 41-17 halftime deficit.

Coach Garry Bishop's Scorpions outscored the Red Devils 31-14 in the third quarter to cut the Red Springs lead to 55-48.

Graham sank three free throws in the final six seconds to send the game into overtime, but Red Springs

prevailed in the extra period. Mario Ballard scored 16 points, Chris Knox had 13 and Tyrone Bullard added 12 for North Brunswick, which fell to 2-11 in the Three Rivers Conference and 7-14 overall.

North Brunswick's girls suffered their 15th straight loss last Tuesday as Red Springs rolled to a 77-19 victory. Valerie Smith scored 14 points to lead the Lady Scorpions (0-13, 1-20).

North Brunswick won the junior varsity game 74-56. Kelton Ballard scored 28 points and Andre Mosley added 15 for the Scorpions (14-7).

## Lockwood Hosting Colleges

Lockwood Golf Links near Holden Beach will be bustling with activity this weekend when 21 college golf teams gather for the second annual Cheerwine Challenge of the Carolinas.

Hosted by Catawba College, the tournament will include a practice round Friday and tournament rounds on Saturday and Sunday. UNC-Wilmington is the defending champion.

Other participating schools are High Point, Pfeiffer, Belmont Abbey, Wingate, Francis Marion, St. Augustine, South Carolina-Aiken, UNC-Chapel Hill, Gardner Webb, Carson-Newman, Wofford, Presbyterian, Queens, Anderson, Elon, Erskine, Fayetteville State, Western Carolina and Pembroke State.

Tournament Director David Bennett said spectators are welcome to watch the action and there will be no admission charge. Golfers will start teeing off at 8:04 a.m. both days of the tournament.

For more information, call Lockwood Golf Links at 842-5666.

## UC3 Nips Rockets 64-62

UC3 edged the Rockets 64-62 last Wednesday in a Brunswick County Men's Basketball League game at Shallotte Middle School.

Brandon Lancaster scored 16 points for UC3, while Joe Clemmons had a game-high 24 points for the Rockets.

Also last Wednesday, Roger Vaught and Eric Brown scored 29 points apiece as the Panthers rolled to a 102-94 win over the Lakers. Joe Vereen had 28 for the Lakers.

Last Monday's games were postponed due to the middle school science fair and have been re-scheduled for Thursday, March 10.

Brundswick County Men's Basketball League Standings As Of Feb. 27

Team	Wins	Losses
Turntables	10	0
Young Guns	7	2
UC3	9	3
Rockets	5	5
Panthers	4	6
Nets	4	7
Lakers	1	9
Great Whites	0	8



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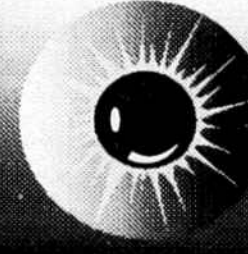
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