

# Whiteville Pounds South Girls In Waccamaw Finals

BY DOUG RUTTER

The South Brunswick girls' basketball team had two strikes against it heading into the championship game of the Waccamaw Conference Tournament last Friday against

Whiteville.

An asthma attack seriously limited the playing time of senior center Erika Bryant, the team's top scorer and rebounder, and starting forward Natalie Smith was out for discipli-

nary reasons.

Whiteville took advantage of South Brunswick's adversity, scoring 15 of the game's first 17 points and cruising to a 52-25 win.

Dawn Threadgill scored a game-high 20 points, Regina Garcia added 11 points and seven assists and Dee Dee Toon scored seven points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Lady Wolfpack.

"They outplayed us all around," South Brunswick Coach Mike Isenberg said. "The whole team is not experienced enough when we get behind early to refocus. We let Whiteville take it to us instead of us taking it to them."

Whiteville (21-4) and South Brunswick (17-9) tied for the regular-season conference championship. With Friday's win, Whiteville averaged two straight losses to South in the conference tournament championship game.

"We were looking to get over the hump," Whiteville Coach Ken Helms said. "They've beaten us twice and we talked about that before the game."

Whiteville dominated from the start, jumping out to a 7-0 lead in the first three minutes and pulling out to a 15-2 advantage with 2:34 left in the first quarter.

Threadgill scored nine of her 20 points in the opening period. Her three-pointer from the right wing with 29 seconds left closed out the first-quarter scoring and gave the Lady Wolfpack an 18-6 lead.

Whiteville, which harassed South Brunswick with full-court pressure throughout the first half, scored seven straight points to open the second quarter and led 25-6 with 6:43 left in the half.

The Lady Cougars trailed 27-10 at halftime, but started making the game interesting in the third quarter thanks to outstanding play by Tameka Davis, who led South with 13 points.

Whiteville led 31-14 before a

three-point play by Davis cut the lead to 14 points. The point guard later came up with a steal, forced a turnover and drew a charge to spark South's biggest run of the game.

The Lady Cougars scored the last four points of the third quarter, and Davis made two free throws at the start of the fourth quarter to cut Whiteville's lead to 33-23.

That was as close as South Brunswick would get. The Lady Wolfpack scored eight unanswered points to build its lead to 41-23 with 4:44 remaining.

Following two more free throws by South's Davis, Whiteville scored the last 11 points of the game.

Bryant, who struggled to catch her breath at times, went as hard as she could for as long as she could. She played just over 16 minutes and scored eight points.

"My asthma was bothering me, plus I have a kidney infection," Bryant said following the game. "I went pretty hard but I could have gone harder. I think we got a little discouraged when we were down by 17."

Isenberg tried to rest Bryant as often as possible, taking her out of the lineup nine times during the game. She sat down for good with 4:46 left in the fourth quarter.

"I was trying to get her in there on offense and let her rest on defense," Isenberg said. "Erika didn't have much to give tonight because of her health. She was really hurting."

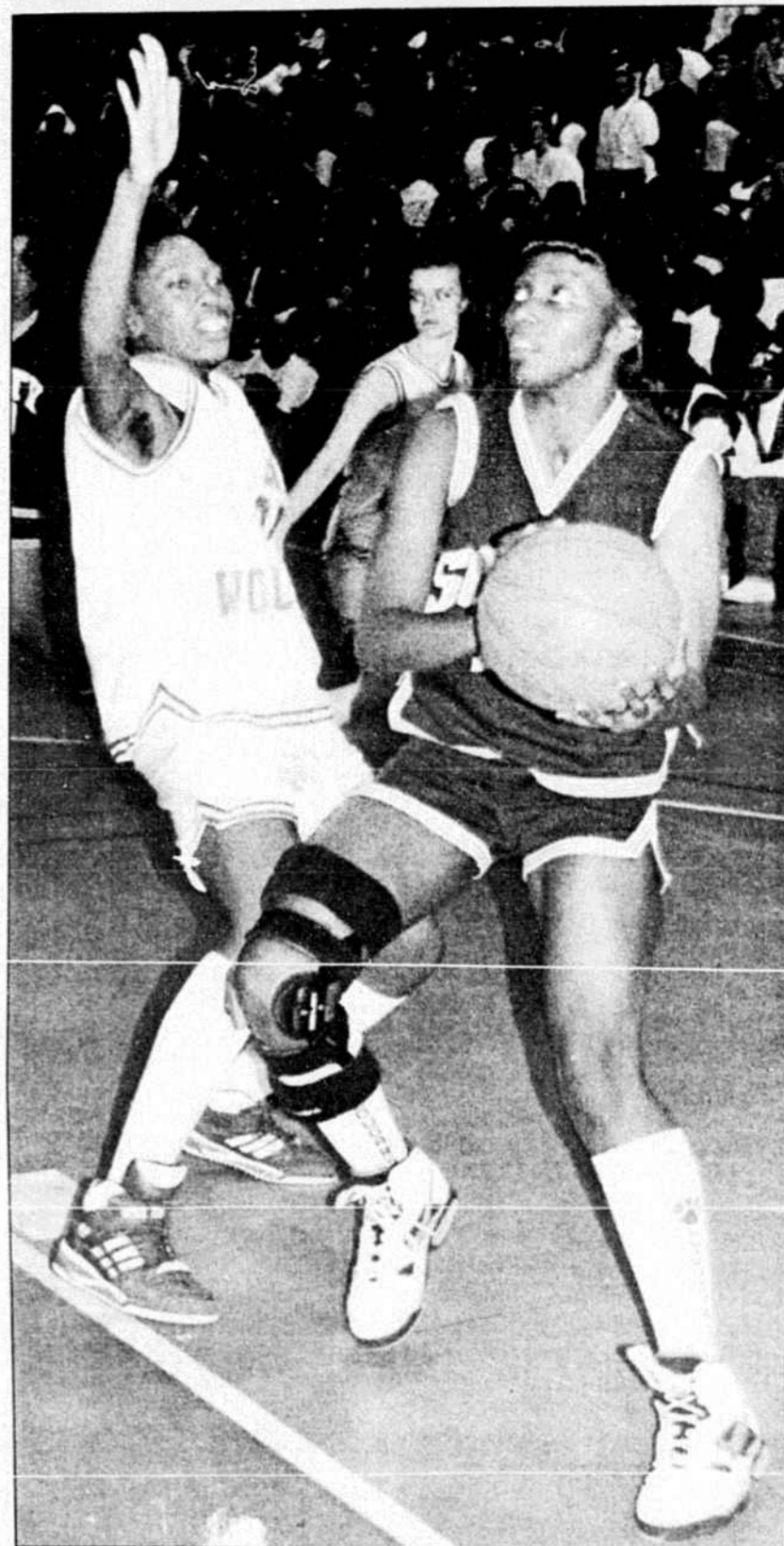
Whiteville and South Brunswick both received first-round byes in the state playoffs. South was scheduled to open the 3A playoffs Wednesday night at Campbell University.

#### Score By Quarters

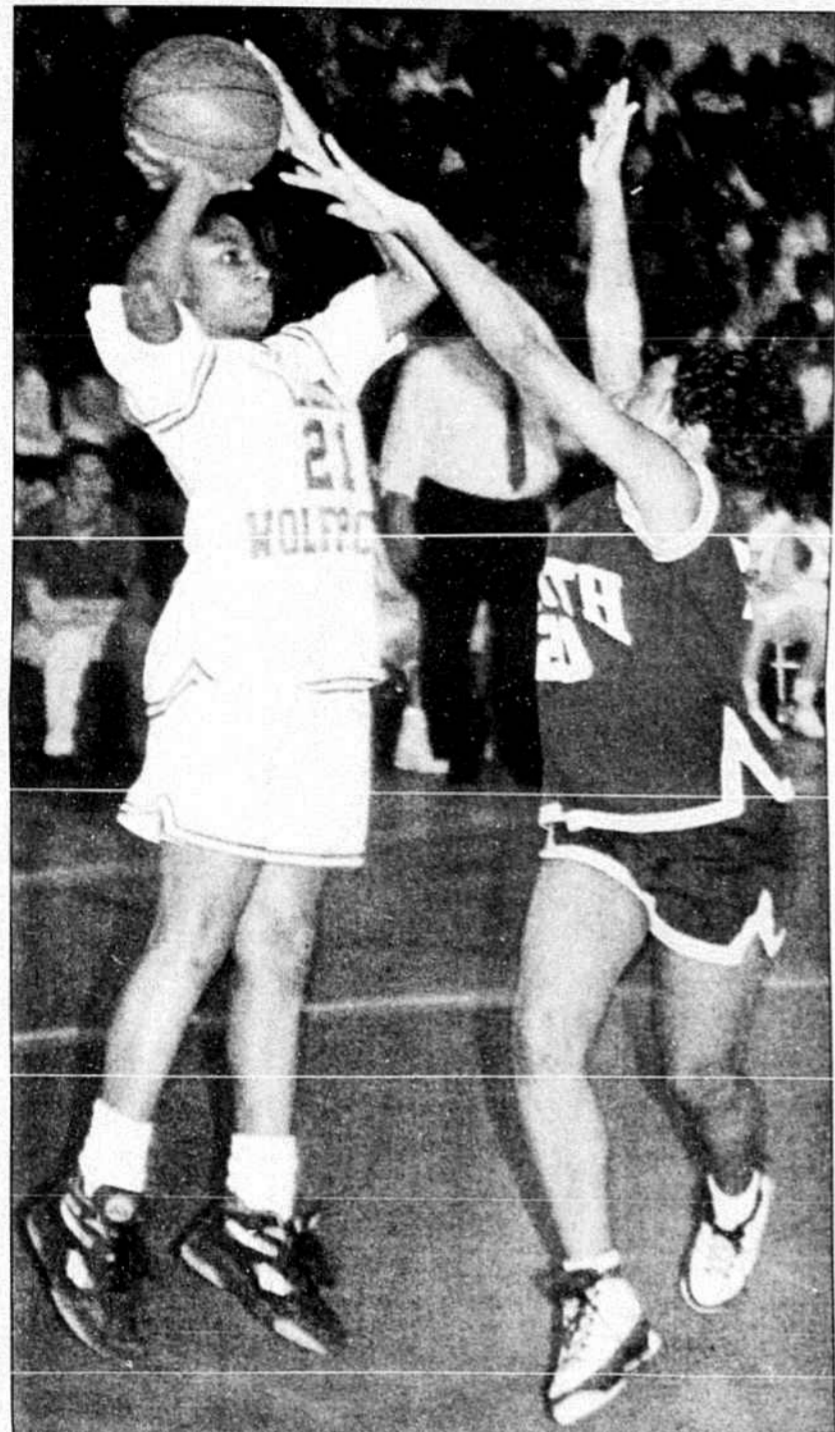
South Brunswick 6 4 11 4—25  
Whiteville 18 9 6 19—52

South Brunswick scoring: Tam. Davis, 13; Bryant, 8; Fullwood, 2; D. Smith, 2.

Whiteville scoring: Threadgill, 20; R. Garcia, 11; K. Garcia, 8; Toon, 7; Holden, 4; Palmer, 2.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER  
SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S ERIKA BRYANT (right) drives past Whiteville's Dee Dee Toon during Friday's conference tournament finals. Bryant saw limited playing time due to an asthma attack and was held to eight points.



WHITEVILLE'S DAWN THREADGILL (left) scored a game-high 20 points to lead the Lady Wolfpack to a 52-25 win. Defending for South Brunswick is Latonya Lee.

## RECREATION BRIEFS

### Contra Dance, Egg Hunt Among Activities Planned For Saturday, March 19

The Brunswick County and Southport parks and recreation departments will jointly sponsor a Contra Dance on Saturday, March 19.

Contra dancing is a type of mountain-style square dance.

The dance will be held at the Southport Community Building from 7-10 p.m. A beginners' workshop will start at 6:45. There will be a \$1 fee per person. Comfortable shoes are suggested.

The Couch Surfers, a three-piece band and dance caller from Charlotte, will provide music and

lead the dance.

#### Spring Egg Hunt

A spring egg hunt for children 9 and younger has been set for Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m.

Children and their parents should meet at the Brunswick County Public Assembly Building in Bolivia and bring their own baskets.

For information about either program, call Emma T. McGraw, special events coordinator of the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

## 30-26 WIN

### Cougars Roll East Columbus Gators

The South Brunswick girls' basketball team overcame a 21-12 half-time deficit to defeat East Columbus 30-26 last Thursday in the Waccamaw Conference Tournament semifinals.

South Brunswick cut the Lady Gators' lead to 25-21 heading into the fourth quarter and tied the score at 26-26 on a basket by Latonya Lee with 5:04 remaining.

Lee gave the Lady Cougars a 27-26 lead when she made the front end

of a one-and-one opportunity with 35 seconds left. Lee missed the second free throw, but teammate Sheba Fullwood grabbed the rebound and scored.

East Columbus, which scored just five points in the second half, missed three, three-point attempts in the final 30 seconds. South Brunswick added a free throw in the closing seconds to nail down the win.

Fullwood led the Lady Cougars (17-8) with nine points, and Tameka

Davis added six. Sharonda Moore of East Columbus (12-14) led all scorers with 19 points.

#### Score By Quarters

East Columbus 14 7 4 1—26  
South Brunswick 6 6 10 8—30

East Columbus scoring: Moore, 19; Freeman, 4; Bray, 3.

South Brunswick scoring: Fullwood, 9; Tam. Davis, 6; Lee, 5; Bryant, 3; Karriker, 3; Smith, 2; Joyner, 2.

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