

## WEST STARTS 2-0

# Branch Powers Trojans Past Waccamaw

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's baseball team trailed Waccamaw Academy 4-0 last Thursday when Trojan outfielder Wayne Branch stepped to the plate and did something he had never done in his life.

The senior outfielder belted his first career home run, and later tripled to drive in the game-winning run to lead the Trojans to an impressive 6-4 win over the visiting Warriors.

"Wayne had a big offensive night for us with the home run and game-winning hit," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said. "The home run sparked the team a little bit. It put a fire under them."

Branch's big night at the plate wouldn't have mattered, however, if it wasn't for the excellent job done by relief pitcher Phillip Leonard.

The junior right-hander entered the game in the second inning after

the Warriors had knocked West Brunswick starter Cameron Jones out of the game with a four-run outburst.

"We got down early and Phillip came in and held them at bay," Alderson said. "They didn't get anything off Phillip."

With Leonard silencing Waccamaw Academy's bats, Branch gave the Trojans the spark they needed with a solo home run to right-center in the bottom of the third inning.

In the fourth, West Brunswick tied the game by scoring three runs with two outs. Leonard started the rally with a one-out single, and Eric Johnson was hit by a pitch.

James Morgan—the courtesy runner for Leonard—and Johnson advanced on Heath Inman's sacrifice fly. Both runners scored on wild pitches that eluded Waccamaw catcher Dan Greene and rolled to the backstop.

West tied the game on Neil Warren's ground single up the middle, which scored Jay McRoberts from third.

The Trojans took the lead in the sixth when Warren reached base on a dropped third strike and scored on Branch's line triple into the right-center field alley. Branch later scored on a wild pitch to give West a 6-4 lead.

"We needed a game like this early in the season. We needed a game where we got behind and came back," Alderson said. "This will help us later in the season. At least we know we have comeback capabilities."

The victory lifted West Brunswick's record to 2-0 heading into this week, when the Trojans had four non-conference games on the schedule.

"I'm pleased with the guys so far. They're working hard in practice,"

Alderson said. "If the pitching staff holds up, we'll give some people some fits."

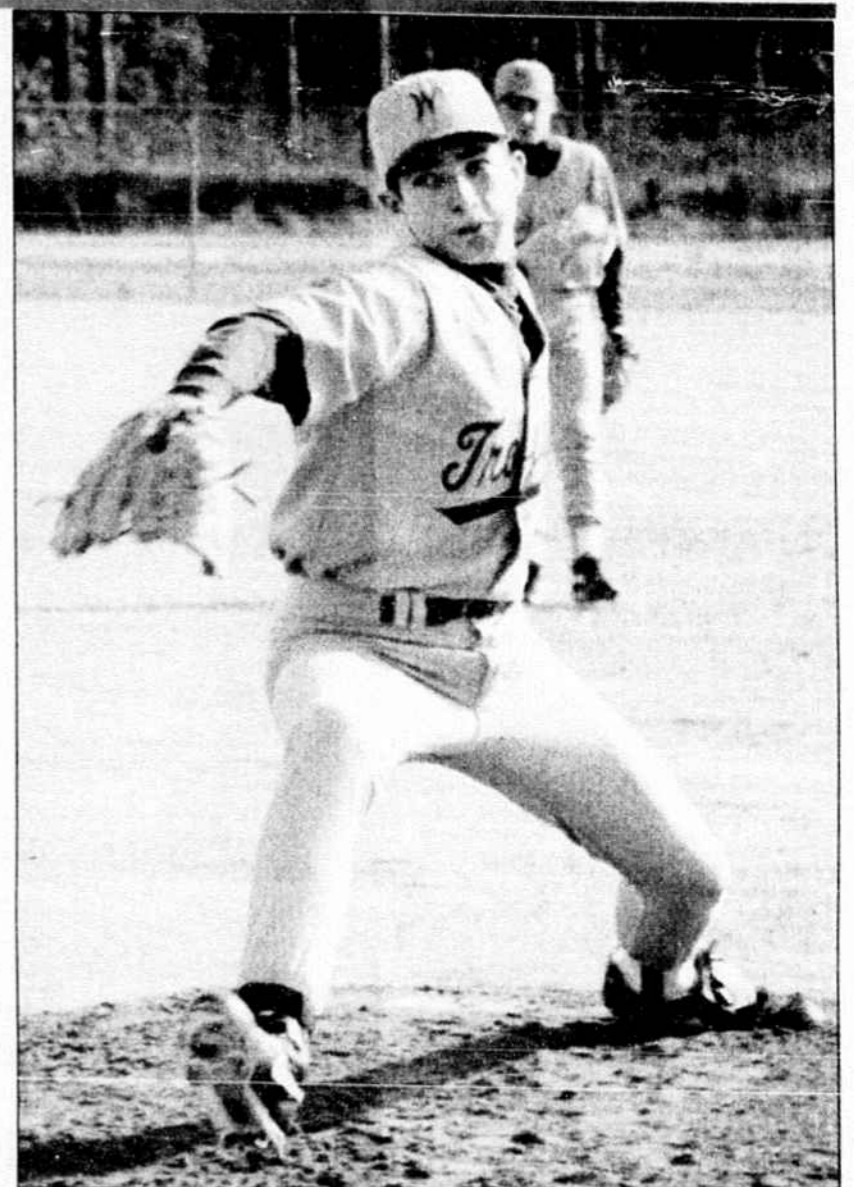
West Brunswick has just two seniors this year and only four players back from last year's varsity club. The corps of the team is the 1993 junior varsity squad that won the Waccamaw Conference championship.

West Brunswick was scheduled to play at Waccamaw Academy on Tuesday. The Trojans will host Wilmington Hoggard Friday at 4 p.m.

West will travel to Lumberton on Saturday for a doubleheader starting at 10 a.m. The Trojans play Lumberton in the first game and Winston-Salem Carver in the second game.

### Game Summary

Wacc. Acad. 0 4 0 0 0 0—4 3 6  
 West Bruns. 0 0 1 3 0 2X—6 6 2



WEST BRUNSWICK PITCHER Cameron Jones yielded four early runs to Waccamaw Academy last Thursday, but the Trojans battled back and took a 6-4 high school baseball win.

# West Brunswick Soars In Track Opener

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's Reggie Frink won three events and was part of a winning relay team as the Trojans opened the high school track season last Thursday by winning a home tri-meet.

Despite missing several athletes due to injury, Coach Wesley Shoemaker's squad racked up 75 points to hold off second-place finisher South Brunswick by 15 points. South Columbus took third with 51 points.

Frink was one of the top performers for West Brunswick, winning the long jump, triple jump and 300-meter hurdles. He also ran the opening leg of West Brunswick's winning 400-meter relay team.

Also contributing for the Trojans were Phillip Johnson with first-place finishes in both the shot put and discus events.

Other West Brunswick winners were Derek Frink in the high jump, Steve Holmes in the 100-meter dash and Tim Vaught in the 1600-meter run.

The 400-meter relay team included Reggie Frink, Dexter Bass, William Stanley and Holmes.

Darius Vaught, Bruce McAfee, Tim Vaught and Chris Brown teamed up to give West a win in the 3200-meter relay.

In the girls' meet, South Columbus won 11 events and scored 102 points to take first place. South Brunswick was second with 52 points, and West Brunswick finished third with 13 points.

West's Christy Thorpe finished first in the shot put and discus events.

West Brunswick's track team is scheduled to compete Thursday afternoon at South Brunswick. Waccamaw Conference foes Pender and East Columbus also were expected at the quad-meet.

### BOYS RESULTS

**Shot put:** Johnson (WB), 46-8/4; **Discus:** Johnson (WB) 151-1; **Long jump:** R. Frink (WB), 19-6 3/4; **Triple jump:** R. Frink (WB), 40-11; **High jump:** D. Frink (WB), 6-0; **Pole vault:** Cordle (SB), 8-0; **110-meter hurdles:** Azevedo (SB),



DEREK FRINK of West Brunswick cleared 6 feet to win the high jump competition at last Thursday's high school track and field meet.

16.44; **100-meter dash:** Holmes (WB), 11.45; **1600 meters:** T. Vaught (WB), 5:26; **400 meters:** Morin (SB), 1:01.56; **300-meter hurdles:** R. Frink (WB), 43.84; **800 meters:** Braxton (SC), 2:27; **200 meters:** Lewis (SC), 27.56; **3200 meters:** Lange (SB), 13:05; **400-meter relay:** West Brunswick, 47.24; **800-meter relay:** South Columbus, 1:46.48; **3200-meter relay:** West Brunswick, 9:53; **1600-meter relay:** South Brunswick, 4:19.85.

### GIRLS RESULTS

**Shot put:** Thorpe (WB), 28-7/4; **Discus:** Thorpe (WB), 97-4; **Long jump:** Dozier (SC), 15-1; **Triple jump:** Ford (SC), 28-11 1/2; **High jump:** Burnside (SB), 3-8; **100-meter hurdles:** Ford (SC), 18.84; **100-meter run:** Gause (SC), 13.94; **1600-meter run:** Lineberger (SB), 7:23.8; **400-meter run:** Dozier

(SC), 1:10.3; **300-meter hurdles:** Wright (SC), 55.13; **800-meter run:** Fowler (SC), 2:58.8; **200-meter run:** Gause (SC), 30.52; **3200-meter run:** Eagle (SB), 16:21; **400-**

**meter relay:** South Columbus, 58.43; **800-meter relay:** South Columbus, 1:59.73; **3200-meter relay:** South Brunswick, 12:43; **1600-meter relay:** South Columbus, 5:00.9.

# West Wins Against Hoggard

Sophomore Josh Baker went 4-for-4 and pitched four scoreless innings as West Brunswick opened the high school baseball season with a 6-2 win last Tuesday at Wilmington Hoggard.

Mike Johnson belted a two-run home run in the third inning and had three RBI for the day. Baker also knocked in a run, and Wayne Branch had a double for the Trojans. "We played well against Hog-

gard," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said. "We only had one error and hit Andy Wager pretty good. He's supposed to be their ace."

Alderson said Baker pitched very well, giving up two hits and no runs. Both Hoggard runs scored in the bottom of the seventh off relief pitcher Mike Johnson.

### Game Summary

W. Brunswick 1 0 3 0 0 1—6 8 1  
 Hoggard 0 0 0 0 0 2—2 4 4

# West Netters Win First Two Matches

West Brunswick's boys tennis team improved its record to 2-0 Monday afternoon with a 7-2 Waccamaw Conference win over the visiting Pender Patriots.

Lamar Hardy, Kelly Wooten, Jeremie Varnam, Patrick McGowan and Jon Thomas won their singles matches for the Trojans. In doubles play, Hardy and Jon Trull teamed up for a victory, as did Wooten and Varnam.

West Brunswick opened the season last Wednesday with a 5-4 victory at South Columbus. The match was played in cold and windy conditions, and all of the doubles matches were played in partial darkness.

Winning their singles matches for the Trojans were the top three seeds—Hardy, Wooten and Trull—as well as the sixth seed McGowan, who won in a third-set tiebreaker.

With the team score tied at 4-4, the outcome came down to the number two doubles match. West Brunswick's Wooten and Varnam defeated Jonathan Gore and Larry Faulk, 8-5.

The match didn't end until 7:30 p.m., and car headlights were used to light up the South Columbus court. West Brunswick broke South Columbus' serve and won the match on a service return by Varnam.

West's Davis Simmons also won

an exhibition match at South Columbus.

Coach Rahn Adams' Trojans were scheduled to host Waccamaw Conference foe Whiteville on Wednesday. West Brunswick will travel to Lake Waccamaw next Monday to take on the East Columbus Gators.

### Pender Results

**Singles:** Hardy (WB) def. Nasrallah, 6-1, 6-1; Wooten (WB) def. Richards, 7-5, 7-6; Martin (P) def. Trull, 6-2, 7-5; Varnam (WB) def. Smith, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; McGowan (WB) def. Leimore, 7-5, 6-4; Thomas (WB) def. Giddeons, 6-1, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Hardy/Trull (WB) def. Nasrallah/Smith, 8-5; Wooten/Varnam (WB) def. Richards/Martin, 8-5; Leimore/Giddeons (P) def. McGowan/Thomas, 8-3.

### South Columbus Results

**Singles:** Hardy (WB) def. Johnson, 6-0, 6-0; Wooten (WB) def. Gore, 6-2, 6-2; Trull (WB) def. Faulk, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5; Jones (SC) def. Varnam, 6-1, 6-2; Inman (SC) def. Thomas, 6-0, 6-1; McGowan (WB) def. Cox, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5.

**Doubles:** Johnson/Jones (SC) def. Hardy/Trull, 8-6; Wooten/Varnam (WB) def. Gore/Faulk, 8-5; Inman/Grainger (SC) def. Thomas/Ballou, 8-6.

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