

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE OPENER

Trojans Beat S. Columbus Stallions On Wild Pitch

BY DOUG RUTTER

A fifth-inning wild pitch led to two West Brunswick runs and the Trojans held on for a 6-4 high school baseball win over South Columbus last Tuesday in the Waccamaw Conference opener for both clubs.

With the score tied 4-4, West had runners on second and third with two outs in the fifth when South Columbus pitcher James Blackwell threw one in the dirt and the ball skipped away from catcher Jake Fonvielle.

West's Eric Johnson scored easily from third base, and when Fonvielle's throw to the plate sailed over Blackwell's head, Cameron Jones raced home to give the Trojans a 6-4 lead.

South Columbus, which overcame a 4-2 deficit with two runs in the third, did not threaten in the final two innings and suffered its first loss in seven games this season.

For West Brunswick, which improved to 4-2, the victory came on the heels of a disastrous doubleheader at Lumberton. In both games, the Pirates scored in their final at-bat to win 6-5.

"This was a big win for us, a big win. It'll give our kids a mental lift," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said after the game.

The Trojans enjoyed another fine outing from sophomore pitcher Josh Baker, who improved to 3-0 for the season. In six innings of work, the right-hander gave up no earned runs and seven hits and struck out eight batters.

Relief pitcher Mike Johnson picked up the save after retiring the

side in order in the seventh inning.

"That was a good pitching performance tonight. I was proud of the pitchers," Coach Alderson said.

Leading the West offense were Wayne Branch and Jay McRoberts with two hits apiece and Mike Johnson with a two-run single. Baker, Eric Johnson, Jones and Chris Payne also had base hits for the Trojans.

Jason Hilburn and Scott Mincey had two hits apiece for South Columbus, which scored all four of its runs following West Brunswick errors.

The Stallions took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Mauney Stanley drew a leadoff walk and later scored from third on a ground-out.

The visitors went up 2-0 in the second when Mincey singled to center and scored from second base on an infield throwing error.

West Brunswick's offense heated up in the second inning, when the Trojans sent eight batters to the plate and tallied four runs.

A leadoff walk by Jones and bloop single by Payne set the table for the big inning. Jones scored from third on a ground-out, and Payne came home on a single by

McRoberts to tie the score at 2-2.

Following a base hit by Branch, Mike Johnson drove a two-out single into center field and two runs scored to give the Trojans a 4-2 advantage.

South Columbus knotted the score at 4-4 in the third inning. Jason Hilburn cranked a leadoff double to the left field fence, but West's Baker nearly got out of the jam.

The Stallions had runners on first and third with two outs when Derek Hilburn tapped a soft grounder toward second base that could have ended the inning.

Instead, the ball rolled past Payne and Jason Hilburn scored from third. Travis McPherson then scored the tying run on a single by Mincey.

The score remained tied until the fifth, when consecutive singles by Eric Johnson and Jones set up the decisive wild pitch.

"We had some timely hits when we needed them," Alderson said. "I thought we did a good job running the bases tonight. We were real aggressive."

Game Summary

S. Colum. 1 1 2 0 0 0—4 7 3
W. Bruns. 0 4 0 0 2 0 X—6 9 3

South Sweeps East Duplin

South Brunswick's baseball team improved to 4-3 for the season with a non-conference doubleheader sweep of East Duplin last Wednesday in Beulaville.

Coach Jack Brown's Cougars rode the strong pitching of Rodney Willoughby to a 4-2 victory in the first game. Byron Batson pitched the second game, which South Brunswick won 15-11.

South third baseman Jerry

Galloway went 4-for-5 with a home run and three RBI in the second game. Joey Medlin had a pair of doubles, and Dan Ricker drove in four runs.

South Brunswick's scheduled conference opener against West Columbus was rained out last Thursday and will be made up later this season. The Cougars will open league play April 12 at East Columbus.



Whip It!

West Brunswick High School teacher Sherrill Jolly whips teammate Mike Alderson with a towel during last week's faculty basketball game against the JROTC. The faculty also whipped the students on the court. Alderson was the game's high scorer. The game benefited the West Brunswick basketball and JROTC programs.



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Brunswick County Commissioner, District 3

PAID FOR BY LESLIE COLLIER

Lady Scorpions Rained Out Twice

North Brunswick's softball team was rained out twice last week and has re-scheduled both Three Rivers Conference games for after the Easter break.

North's home game against East Bladen rained out last Thursday will be played Monday, April 11, said coach J.B. Sholar.

The Fairmont game that was canceled last Tuesday will be made up as part of a doubleheader April 28 at Leland. The Lady Scorpions are 4-2.



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He must devise policies and procedures to be used in pursuit and investigations that will not endanger the innocent. Programs must be implemented to assure the safety of our children and to combat the drug problems within our community. The department must be run by the sheriff and not for the personal benefit of a few.

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