



WEST BRUNSWICK BASEBALL COACH MIKE ALDERSON (left) talks with infielders Chris Payne and Heath Inman during last Wednesday's third-round Seashell Invitational game against Hoke County.

SEASHELL INVITATIONAL

Hoke Bucks Shut Out Trojans

BY DOUG RUTTER
"You don't hit, you don't win."

That was all West Brunswick Baseball Coach Mike Alderson could say after his Trojans managed just four hits in a 5-0 loss to Hoke County last Wednesday in the final round of the Seashell Invitational high school tournament.

Mike Johnson had two singles for West Brunswick and Eric Johnson and Chris Payne had the other two.

Hoke County's Fighting Bucks didn't fare much better at the plate with only six hits, but they came at the right time.

Three consecutive singles in the third inning led to the game's first run. With one out, Terrell McIntyre and Lee Ward singled and McIntyre came home on another base hit by Rodney Easterling.

The score remained 1-0 until the bottom of the sixth, when Hoke County loaded the bases with one out. A leadoff single by Easterling, a hit batsman and intentional walk set the stage for a big inning.

West Brunswick pitcher Cameron Jones hit another batter, Tim Furn-

age, to force one run home and give the Bucks a 2-0 lead.

Relief pitcher Phillip Leonard then threw a wild pitch to let another run score, and pinch hitter George Brit followed with a two-run triple to the fence in right-center field for a 5-0 cushion.

West Brunswick had its chances to score. The Trojans left the bases loaded in the second inning. One inning later, a runner was tagged out after getting caught in a run-down between third and home. West also stranded runners at the corners in the seventh.

Jones suffered the loss for West Brunswick. He yielded five runs and five hits and recorded two strikeouts.

In posting the shutout, Hoke County pitcher Nakomia Locklear did not overpower West's batters. The sophomore right-hander recorded only two strikeouts, but induced 14 ground outs and retired eight consecutive batters during one stretch.

West Brunswick (5-4) lost two out of three games at the annual

Seashell Invitational. The Trojans suffered a 7-1, opening-round loss to Wilmington Laney before beating Fayetteville E.E. Smith 11-6 in the second round.

"It's a great tournament," Coach Alderson said. "We enjoy coming here every year. It's great competition. The hospitality's top notch."

Game Summary
West Bruns. 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 4 1
Hoke County 0 0 1 0 0 4 X—5 6 3

Men's Softball Deadline May 5

The registration deadline is May 5 for teams interested in competing in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Men's Softball League.

The registration fee is \$325 per team, and league play is scheduled to begin next month.

For more information, contact county athletic coordinator Joe Rosselli at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

SPORTING SCENE

North Baseball Team Makes Strong Showing

I get the feeling North Brunswick High's baseball team is going to do something special one of these days, like win a conference championship or a state title.

Nearly every time I watch the Scorpions play ball, I walk away liking what I saw. I loved what I saw last week when they took second place in the eight-team Seashell Invitational tournament at Wilmington's Hardee Field.

The Scorpions probably would have won the thing had it not been for the "unbeatable" New Hanover Wildcats. Even without departed superstar Trot Nixon, the Cats are awesome. The tournament title gave them 35 straight wins.

The 10-2 loss to New Hanover in the tournament championship game did not take away from an otherwise outstanding tournament for 1A North Brunswick, the smallest school in the field.

The Scorpions defeated a pair of 4A teams, Fayetteville E.E. Smith and Wilmington Laney, to reach the championship game. It was the second straight year that North played for the Seashell crown.

"I'm proud of the kids for working hard and getting this far," North Brunswick Coach Keith Moore remarked following the title game.

Coach Moore and the North Brunswick parents and fans should be proud of the dozen players on the varsity baseball team.

Each school North Brunswick faced in the tournament was at least twice as big as North. The Leland school has approximately 434 students, according to last year's N.C. High School Athletic Association realignment figures.

The three schools the Scorpions faced in the tournament average more than 1,100 students each. Laney has about 1,269 kids, New Hanover 1,027 and E.E. Smith 1,026.

None of that seems to matter to North Brunswick's kids, who have grown quite accustomed to facing larger schools.

Coach Moore says North has a group of talented athletes who benefited greatly from the experience they gained last summer by playing American Legion ball for Brunswick County Post 68.

"The kids are hard-working and they battle, and I try to get everything out of them I can," Moore said.

I have watched North Brunswick kids compete in athletics for nearly three years now, and the one thing they all have in common is they never give up.

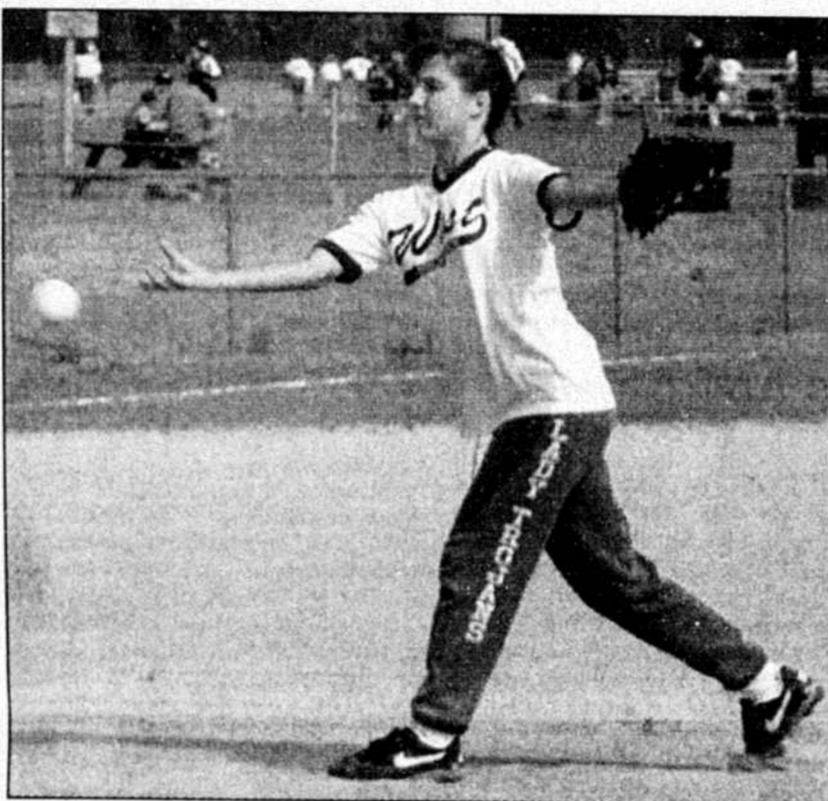
This year's girls basketball team was a perfect example. To be honest, North Brunswick did not have the talent to compete with most of the teams it played. The girls lost 22 games and won one.

But that never stopped the Lady Scorpions from trying. The few times I saw the team play, I never saw them not hustling.

It didn't matter if they trailed by 30 or more points in the fourth quarter. They still dove on the floor for loose balls and continued giving their best until the game was over.

One of my favorite children's books is "The Little Engine That Could." I am reminded of that book's positive message whenever I see a North Brunswick team compete.

Doug Rutter
Sports
Editor



WEST BRUNSWICK'S GWYN CHAPPELL pitched the Lady Trojans to a 9-4 win over East Columbus in the second round of the Southern Shore Invitational softball tournament Saturday in Wilmington.

NORTH WINS TWICE

West Beats Gators In Tourney

North Brunswick won two games and West Brunswick won once in the Southern Shore Invitational high school softball tournament last weekend in Wilmington.

Whiteville, New Hanover and Hoggard were the three pool winners in the 12-team tournament held Friday and Saturday at Hoggard High School.

West Brunswick's Lady Trojans (3-8) defeated Waccamaw Conference foe East Columbus 9-4 Saturday morning for their only win of the tournament.

Pender defeated West Brunswick 16-6 Saturday night. The Lady Trojans lost their first tournament game 17-2 to Hoggard.

North Brunswick (6-3) opened the tournament with a 15-0 victory over the Lady Pirates of Topsail. Jenny Crowder pitched the shutout, and Regina McKoy and Ashley Burton combined to knock in four runs.

On Saturday morning, North Brunswick fell behind early to Whiteville and suffered a 9-7 loss.

The Lady Scorpions came back Saturday afternoon with a 10-6 win over Dixon. Amy Mercer had two hits and four RBI to lead North Brunswick.

South Brunswick lost its three tournament games. The Lady Cougars fell to New Hanover 25-10, Laney 10-2 and South Columbus 14-4.

West Blasts Bulls 11-6

West Brunswick defeated Fayetteville E.E. Smith 11-6 in the second round of the Seashell Invitational high school baseball tournament last Tuesday in Wilmington.

Josh Baker went 2-for-4 with three RBI, Chris Jackson went 2-for-4 and Chris Payne had a two-run single to lead the Trojans.

West Brunswick scored five runs in the first inning and five more in the fifth to improve its record to 5-3.

Winning pitcher Eric Johnson (1-1) struck out seven batters and issued just one walk.

The Golden Bulls scored four runs on five hits and two West Brunswick errors in the third inning. E.E. Smith added two runs on two hits and three Trojan errors in the fourth.

Game Summary
E.E. Smith 0 0 4 2 0 0—6 9 4
West Bruns. 5 1 0 0 5 0 X—11 7 5

Bellamy Leads Bowling League

Mike Bellamy rolled a 258 high game and 627 series to lead the men in the Woodmen of the World Mixed League last Friday at Brunswick County Bowling Center in Shallotte.

Other top finishers were Brian Formyduval, 239, 623; Terry Decker, 214, 622; Donald Robbins, 210, 564; Waddell Evans, 201, 566;

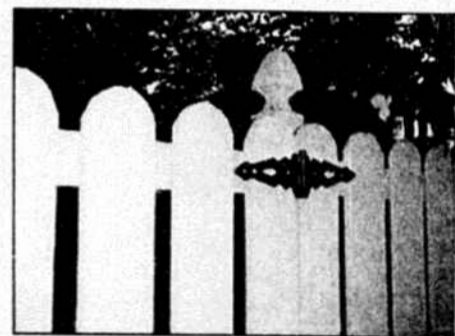
Ricky Danford, 201, 529; and Ervin Stanley, 201, 449.

Mimi O'Sullivan led the women with a 192 high game and 527 series. Also posting high scores were Becky Rountree, 189, 509; Mona LaFontaine, 179, 384; Audrey Redwine, 178, 485; and Beverly Causey, 175, 464.

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