

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Former Brunswick County Stars Now Leading Southeastern Rams

BY DOUG RUTTER

In his high school days at West Brunswick, the last thing Brian Alderson wanted to see was base hits and great defensive plays from Adrian Black and Demetrius Bell.

As a member of the Trojans' baseball team, Alderson loved seeing his teammates succeed but did not enjoy the outstanding play of Black and Bell, who played for rival North Brunswick.

Times have changed, and so has Alderson's perspective.

A second-year player at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, Alderson started rooting for the former North Brunswick stars when they joined the Rams this spring.

All three local players are having excellent seasons for the Rams, with batting averages over .300 through last week.

"All three of these players are very good to work with and are tremendous persons. I have enjoyed each of them," Coach Joe Nance said.

After several years without a baseball team, the program at Southeastern Community College

was revived six years ago. The Rams compete in Region X of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Alderson, the son of West Brunswick Baseball Coach Mike Alderson, is the starting shortstop at for the Rams. Through last Thursday, he was batting .338 with 13 RBI.

"B.A. is the most improved baseball player from his freshman to sophomore year I have ever coached," Nance said.

"He has developed into a top-notch shortstop, an inspirational player and team leader. He has a bright future at a four-year college."

In his first 24 games at shortstop, Alderson made 27 putouts and had 66 assists while committing just four errors.

Bell, an outfielder with excellent speed, stepped into the starting lineup as a freshman at Southeastern. He is batting .316 with five stolen bases and is among the team leaders in home runs with six and RBI with 22.

"I don't think he realizes his potential," Nance said. "He was named the Region X East Division

player of the week the first week of the season." Nance describes Black as a "very talented" athlete with a lot of power who will only get better.

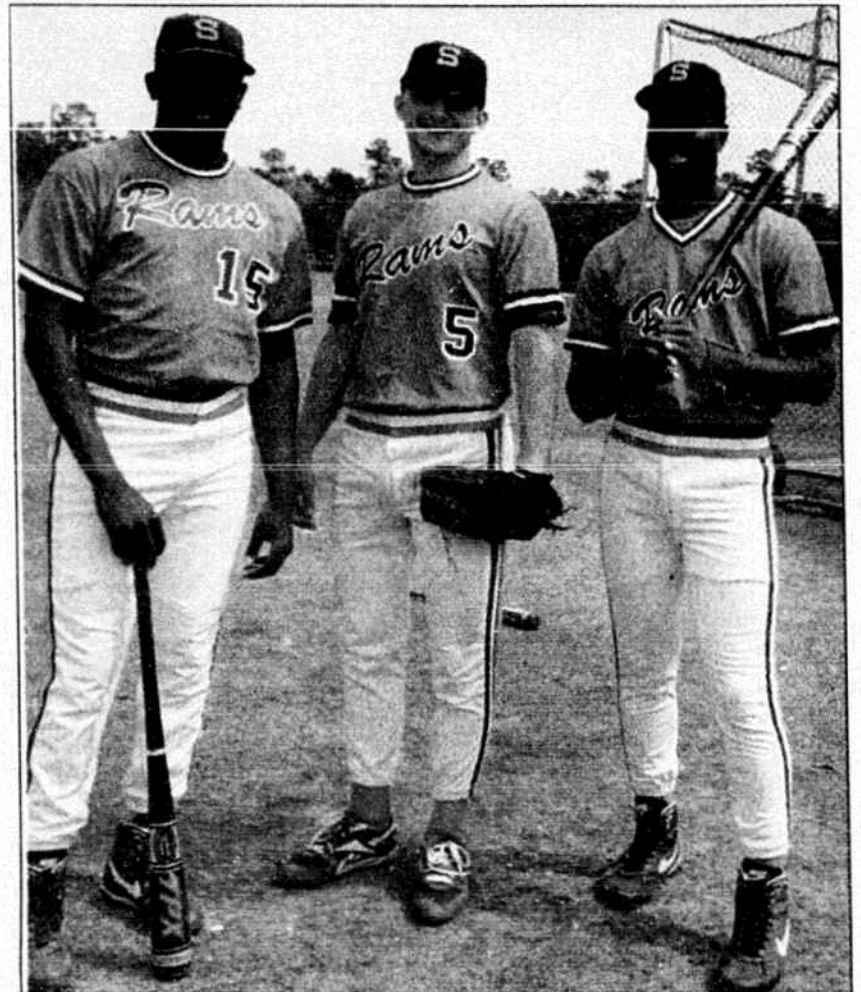
A 1993 draftee of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Black was hitting at a .352 clip through last week with three homers, 22 RBI and eight stolen bases.

"He is the starting third baseman but also plays outfield. He is still learning the third base position but is doing very well," Nance said.

At West Brunswick, Alderson was a two-time selection to the All-Waccamaw Conference and All-Brunswick County baseball teams. He received the team's Gold Glove Award as a junior and senior.

Bell (son of Loretta Bell) and Black (son of Mary Corbett) were both selected to all-conference and all-county baseball teams while playing at North Brunswick.

They also were key members of the Brunswick County Post 68 American Legion baseball team that won the Area II Eastern League championship last summer.



THE THREE AMIGOS—former Brunswick County high school baseball players (from left) Demetrius Bell, Brian Alderson and Adrian Black—are now starting for the Southeastern Community College Rams.

Gators Snuff Late Rally; Beat West Brunswick 8-4

BY DOUG RUTTER

East Columbus pulled out to a seven-run lead and held off a late West Brunswick rally to post an 8-4 high school baseball win over the Trojans last Friday in Shallotte.

West Brunswick scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning and had the tying run at the plate with the bases loaded before East Columbus relief pitcher Albert Blanks struck out Jay McRoberts to end the game.

The Trojans fell to 1-2 in the Waccamaw Conference and 6-6 overall, while the Gators improved to 3-0 in the league and 7-5 for the season.

John Junious, Glen Hildreth and Travis Watson combined for seven of East Columbus' nine hits and drove in a total of five runs.

Senior outfielder Wayne Branch led West Brunswick with a single, double and RBI triple. Heath Inman also tripled and knocked in a run for the Trojans, who had seven hits.

"I guess you can keep putting the same story in the paper. You don't hit, you don't win," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said following his team's fourth loss in the last six games.

"We had the tying run at the plate. We never should have been in that position being seven runs down," Alderson added.

The Gators, who were coming off an 11-1 drubbing of South Brunswick, jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the second inning.

Junious led off with a solo home run to right field, and Watson added a two-out, two-run triple to left field that was nearly caught by a diving Neil Warren.

The Gators added a run in the fifth when Hildreth belted a two-out double to left and scored on an infield throwing error.

West Brunswick got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth. Cameron Jones reached base on a fielder's choice and scored when Branch drove a triple into the gap in right-center field.

Leading 4-1, East Columbus started to pull away with three runs in the sixth. Watson ripped an RBI double to left field and Hildreth added an RBI single to highlight the inning.

In the seventh, Watson drew a one-out walk, stole second and later scored on a wild pitch to bump the lead to 8-1.

With two outs and nobody on base in the bottom of the seventh, West Brunswick mounted a rally. Jones doubled to left field and Branch followed with an infield sin-

"When you've got a team that averages two or three errors a game, sometimes more, you've got to score a lot of runs. We're not scoring a lot of runs."

—West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson

gle. Both base runners scored on an infield throwing error, and West Brunswick loaded the bases on a subsequent hit by Mike Johnson and drove in a total of five runs.

Blanks entered the game in relief and promptly walked Inman to force a run home and cut the East Columbus lead to 8-4. Blanks settled down and fanned McRoberts for the final out.

East Columbus left-hander Tim Smith nearly went the distance for the Gators. He gave up four runs on seven hits and recorded five strikeouts in 6½ innings.

Junior right-hander Eric Johnson took the loss for West Brunswick. He gave up six runs and eight hits in five-plus innings and struck out three.

West's Mike Johnson gave up two runs and one hit and struck out three in two innings of relief.

"I think our pitching staff is doing an adequate job keeping us in ball games," Alderson said.

"We're just not consistently hitting the ball. We need to get some more offensive production in the lineup. If it means moving some people around, I'll have to do it."

Alderson said defense continues to be a problem for the Trojans, who made four errors Friday night.

"When you've got a team that averages two or three errors a game, sometimes more, you've got to score a lot of runs. We're not scoring a lot of runs," Alderson said.

"When you've got a team that doesn't make a lot of errors, that makes all the plays, you don't need a lot of runs."

West Brunswick was scheduled to host conference foe West Columbus Tuesday night and Pender on Wednesday. The Trojans will travel to Bladenboro Thursday for a non-conference game.

Game Summary
E. Colum. 0 3 0 0 1 3 1—8 9 2
W. Bruns. 0 0 0 0 1 0 3—4 7 4



Just For Kicks

Shallotte Middle School eighth-grader Pete Testa boots a corner kick during soccer practice last week. The Pirates defeated South Brunswick 3-2 Monday to improve their record to 4-0. Shallotte is the defending county champion.

West Netters Club Cougars

West Brunswick defeated county rival South Brunswick 8-1 last Wednesday in a high school boys' tennis match in Shallotte.

Lamarr Hardy, Kelley Wooten, Jon Trull, Jeremie Varnam, Jon Thomas and John Coble won their singles matches for the Trojans. Trull and Varnam also teamed up to win in doubles.

Hardy, the top-seeded singles player at West, improved his season record to 6-0 with a 6-1, 6-0, win over South Brunswick's Nolan Black.

The Trojans improved to 5-1 in the Waccamaw Conference, and the Cougars fell to 2-4.

West Brunswick's home match with South Columbus, original scheduled for Monday, was postponed until Tuesday. The Trojans also were slated to host the Pender Patriots on Wednesday.

West Brunswick will travel to Whiteville next Monday for a rematch with the undefeated Wolfpack. Whiteville won the earlier match 8-1.

Results

MOTHER'S DAY—GRADUATION FATHER'S DAY OR ANY OCCASION

10K & 14K Gold Rings starting at \$15.95
10K & 14K Gold Bracelets \$16.95
10K Gold Chains \$21.95

Pyramid Car Stereos \$17 Amplifiers & Speakers

Pistol Crossbow w/safety lock & arrows \$17 Barnett Pistol Bolts

JENNY'S PAWN

Hwy. 130, Holden Beach Rd., (1 mile from Hwy. 17) Shallotte, 754-2717
Open Mon.-Sat. 8:30-6:30

SPORTING SCENE

Steffi Likes Sonics To Win NBA Title

The National Basketball Association playoffs are almost here, which means guys who haven't played a lick of defense all season long will actually start trying to keep opponents from scoring.

It also means this is the appropriate time to give a prediction on who will win this year's championship.

So far this year, I'm pleased with my predictions. I went 6-3 with my college football picks and 8-3 with pro football picks.

It's been a while since my last prediction (Super Bowl), so I'm somewhat reluctant to try to pick this year's NBA champion.

I wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for my eight-month-old cat, Steffi, whom I consulted before making my selection. I trust Steffi's judgment because I think she was a basketball player in a former life.

No kidding. She has the greatest vertical leap I've ever seen on a cat. She actually jumped into my freezer the other night, which is exactly 46¼ inches off the ground.

That goodness I spotted her before shutting the door. She would have been locked in with nothing more than three trays of ice cubes and a package of fruity juice freezer pops.

Anyway, Steffi likes the Seattle Supersonics to win the NBA championship. She likes their balanced scoring attack and the way they play defense, and I can't argue.

Celebrity Tourney

What could possibly bring Bob Cousy, Buffalo Bob, Alan Thicke and Gale Sayers to Wilmington on the same weekend?

How about the second annual Coastal Classic Celebrity Golf Tournament, which will be held May 7-8 at Landfall.

The Boston Celtics legend, the man who made Howdy Doody, the father from "Growing Pains" and the Hall of Fame running back will be among the celebs trying to negotiate the treacherous Pete Dye course.

Jim Boeheim of Syracuse, P.J. Carlesimo of Seton Hall, K.C. Jones and Bucky Waters will be among the basketball coaches and former basketball coaches coming to town.

The tournament is being held to raise money for the New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation.

Proceeds will assist in funding "Easy Street," a unique activity center that will allow patients going through rehabilitation to experience every day situations in a controlled environment.

Gallery tickets cost \$5 apiece and are available at First Citizens Bank branches or at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation office. Call 910-343-1420.

Incoming

Joel Morgan of China Grove, who owns a vacation home at Sunset Beach, called last week to tell us about his son, Phillip, an outstanding track and field athlete at South Rowan High School.

Phillip took first place in the shot put competition at the UNCW Relays over Easter weekend with a toss of 51 feet, 9½ inches. He is undefeated this season and holds the South Rowan school record of 53-8½.

Competing in indoor track last winter, Phillip finished second in the state and 15th in the nation in the shot put.

The Morgans are avid readers of *The Beacon*.

Vote Olaf (Bud) Thorsen Board of Education, District #1



Your Support May 3rd Will Be Greatly Appreciated

- 1976 Graduate/West Brunswick High
- 1980 B.A./Pembroke State/Sociology
- 3 years—Child Abuse/Neglect Investigator Brunswick County Dept. of Social Services
- 10 years to present—state of N.C. Juvenile Court Counselor
- 1984-87—Brunswick Buddies Board of Directors
- 1991 to present—Brunswick County Interagency Council for Children
- 1992-93—Chair; 1993-94—Vice Chair Brunswick County Youth Task Force Board
- 3 years—Babe Ruth T-ball Coach
- 2 years—Brunswick Youth Soccer Coach
- Married—Debbie Thorsen, 10 years
- 2 Children—Tyler, 7; Jessica, 4

Wolfpack Beats West 5-0

Chris Conway pitched a four-hitter to lead Whiteville to a 5-0 win over visiting West Brunswick in a Waccamaw Conference high school baseball game last Tuesday.

Conway (4-0) recorded 10 strikeouts and also had two of Whiteville's seven hits. The Wolfpack also benefited from five West Brunswick errors as the Trojans fell to 1-1 in the conference and 6-5 overall.

Whiteville (3-0, 8-2) scored its first three runs on a sacrifice fly by Bob Wyche in the first inning, an RBI double by Greg Slater in the second and an RBI single by Jamie Townshend in the third.

The Wolfpack added to its lead in the fifth when Wyche ripped a two-run single.

West Brunswick pitcher Josh

Baker (3-2) took the loss. He was relieved by Mike Johnson in the fifth. Eric Johnson had a double for the Trojans.

Game Summary
W. Bruns. 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 4 5
Whiteville 1 1 1 0 2 0 X—5 7 0

AMERICAN LEGION POST 247
5470 Main St., Shallotte
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, APR. 25, 7:30 P.M.
Members please attend.
Prospective members welcome.