

ERIC JOHNSON led the West Brunswick baseball team to a 3-1 victory over county rival South Brunswick last Tuesday. Johnson pitched a two-hitter and also had an RBI triple.

West's Eric Johnson Tames South Cougars

BY DOUG RUTTER
Eric Johnson pitched a two-hitter and ripped an RBI triple to lead West Brunswick to a 3-1 high school baseball win over host South Brunswick last Tuesday.

The junior right-hander struck out nine Cougars and issued just two walks in the complete-game victory. It was the second straight win for Johnson (3-1), who was coming off a shutout against Pender.

"Eric did a terrific job for us," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said after the game. "He only gave up two hits and when you give up two hits you're supposed to win."

The Trojans needed the good outing from Johnson, because Brian Ricker pitched a fine game for South Brunswick. He yielded five hits, struck out nine and walked five.

West Brunswick second baseman Chris Payne had two of the five hits as the Trojans improved to 3-3 in the

Waccamaw Conference and 8-8 overall. South fell to 1-4 in the league and 6-9 for the year.

The Trojans got to Ricker early with two runs in the first inning and another in the third. South scored its only run in the second, and neither team scored in the final four innings as Johnson and Ricker dominated.

The game looked like anything but a pitcher's duel at the start as Ricker experienced control problems from the outset.

West Brunswick leadoff hitter Wayne Branch was hit by a pitch and Ricker then issued a walk to Jay McRoberts. Branch later scored on a passed ball, and McRoberts came home on Heath Inman's RBI single for a 2-0 lead.

Johnson looked strong early, striking out the first five batters he faced.

South Brunswick got its offense

going with two outs in the second inning when Adam Kaufhold drew a walk and scored on Lewis Vaught's RBI double to right field.

But that was all the Cougars would get off Johnson, who allowed just one hit the rest of the game.

West Brunswick bumped its lead to 3-1 in the top of the third when Mike Johnson reached base on a fielder's choice and scored on Eric Johnson's triple down the right field line.

The Trojans, who have struggled defensively this season, made two good plays in the bottom of the seventh to nail down the win.

First baseman Heath Inman was pulled off the bag by a high throw from the third baseman, but Inman managed to tag out South's Ricker before he got to the base.

One hitter later, catcher Gabe Cooper ran to the backstop to snatch a fly ball near the chain-link fence.

Johnson then struck out pinch hitter Jerry Galloway for the final out.

Coach Alderson praised the effort of both starting pitchers.

"It was just a good high school game. We're still struggling with the bats, but we'll keep working at it," he said.

Alderson said the victory was an important one for 3A West Brunswick, which is 2-0 against the Waccamaw Conference's other 3A teams—South Brunswick and Pender.

Two state playoff berths will be awarded to the league's three 3A teams this year. Pender lost its first four conference games.

West Brunswick and South Brunswick will meet again May 20 in Charlotte.

Game Summary

W. Bruns.	2	0	1	0	0	0	—	3	51
S. Bruns.	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	1	20

SPORTING SCENE

West Brunswick Needs More Men Like Harris

Ed Harris remembers what it's like to be a young student-athlete with dreams of making it big.

Harris also remembers the people who helped him become an All-American high school football player, and ultimately helped him become the successful businessman that he is today.

Harris knows the value of athletics in building character, work ethic and positive attitude. That's why he does whatever he can to ensure that local kids have the opportunity to compete.

Harris recently donated \$25,000 toward construction of a field house at West Brunswick High School's football stadium. It will be called the Edgar B. Harris Field House.

Never one to boast, Harris seems almost embarrassed by the recognition he has received from the school.

"I just feel fortunate to be in the position where I can contribute," Harris said in a telephone interview last week.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



A, Charlotte resident and owner of Comprehensive Home Health Care, Harris has been contributing to West Brunswick athletics for a long time.

He served as a volunteer assistant under former head football coach Marshall Seay, until his business started requiring more of his time.

Most recently, Harris purchased new home and away jerseys for the football team. He also gives a Most Improved Player Award every year at the annual football banquet.

"I feel very fortunate that my business has done so well. We get that from the community, and I feel you have to give something back. If you lose sight of that, you're doing things for the wrong reason," Harris said.

Harris is a firm believer that competition—whether it be a football game, spelling bee or science fair—is healthy.

"Team sports build teamwork and that helps you in business and every other aspect of life," Harris said. "Any kind of competition is going to make you better at what you do."

Harris knows a thing or two about competition. He was an All-American high school football player in Cumberland, Md., where he played offensive end and middle linebacker.

Harris went on to play football at East Tennessee State, where he was a three-year starter. ETS won a national championship in 1969, beating a team quarterbacked by a guy named Terry Bradshaw.

After college, Harris worked briefly as a teacher and coach before going into the health profession. He moved to Charlotte in 1977, when he was hired as Brunswick County's health director.

In 1981, Harris started his own health care business, which now has 10 offices in North and South Carolina.

Harris, who holds a bachelor's degree in pre-med and master's degree in health care management, said he wouldn't have been able to receive the education he has if it wasn't for athletics.

"I think athletics is just as important as academics. It opened a lot of doors for me," he said.

That's why Ed Harris does what he does for the West Brunswick athletic program.

"I'm just very thankful for all the things people have done for me in my lifetime," he said. "Kids need a role model to emulate. Success does not just happen. I've had a lot of mentors in my past, and I try to be a role model for kids in our community."

Harris' generosity is not taken lightly by West Brunswick High School or its athletic booster club, which is spearheading the field house project.

"It's really fortunate for West Brunswick to have community members like Mr. Harris," said booster Bobby Williamson. "Philanthropists of the world make life better for all of us. We're fortunate to have some in our community."

West Brunswick is indeed lucky to have a man like Ed Harris on its side, a man who knows the value of athletics and is both willing and able to lend his support.

Trojans Edge Bulldogs 6-5

West Brunswick scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and beat Bladenboro 6-5 in a non-conference high school baseball game Monday in Charlotte.

Wayne Branch's two-run single capped the fourth-inning rally for the Trojans, who evened their record at 9-9.

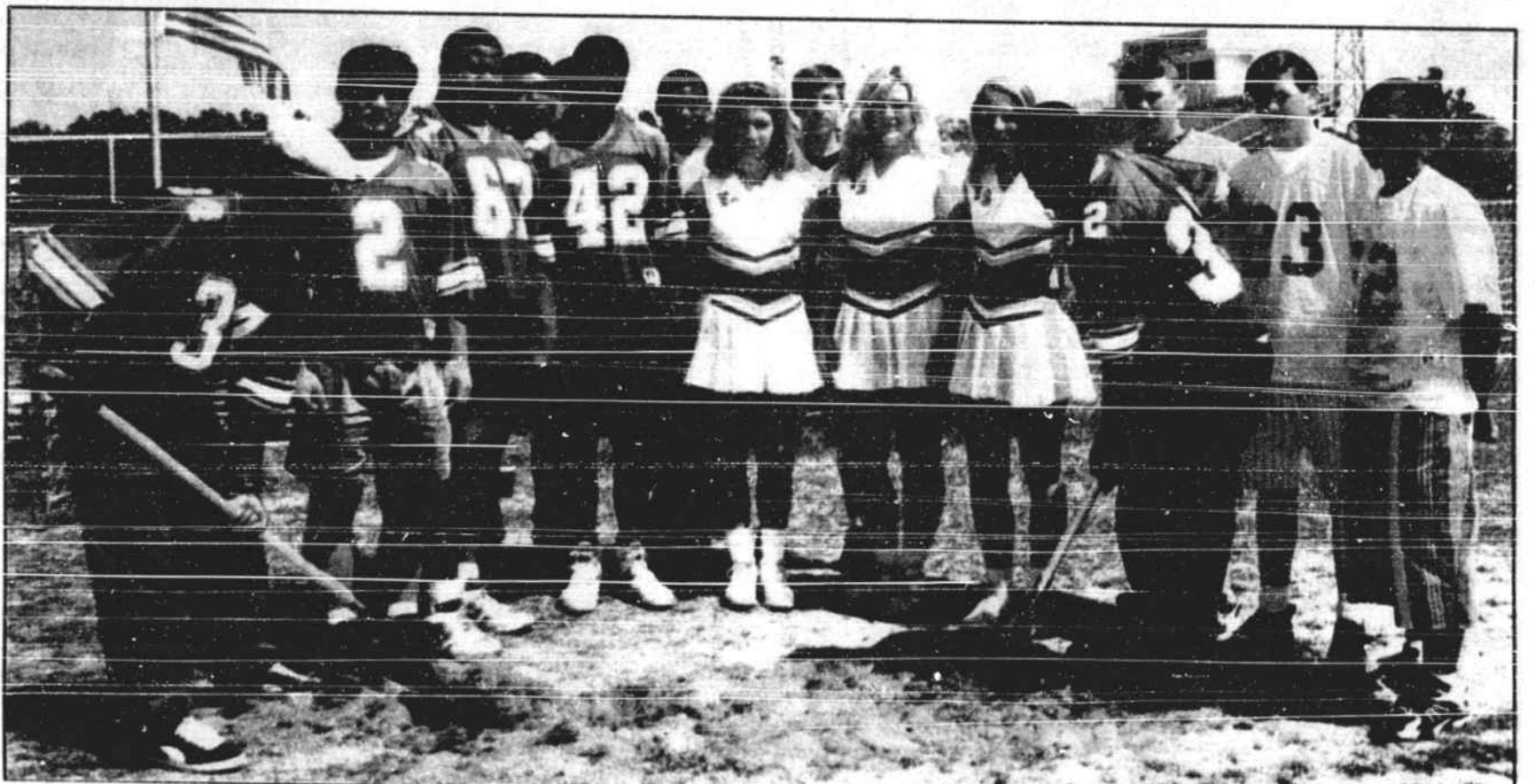
Eric Johnson (4-1) pitched 3 2/3

innings in relief. He struck out six batters and allowed just two hits for the victory. Phillip Leonard and Josh Baker also pitched for the Trojans.

Losing pitcher Garrett German hit a two-run home run in the first inning for Bladenboro.

Game Summary

B'boro	2	0	3	0	0	—	5	6	3
W. Bruns.	1	0	0	5	0	—	6	2	7



WEST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL broke ground last week for the Edgar B. Harris Field House. Pictured (from left) are Brian Gore, Wayne Branch, Phillip Johnson, Timmy Vaught, Jamal Stanley, Ahmed Green, Brandy Capps, Billy Noble, Kelly Stepp, Jennifer Polomis, Michael Lance, Jason Woodard, David Batten and Reggie Manning.

West Breaks Ground For Harris Field House

BY DOUG RUTTER
It may not be finished in time for the 1994 high school football season—now just four months away—but West Brunswick will have a field house before much longer.

"It's definitely going to happen," Bobby Williamson, treasurer of the West Brunswick Athletic Booster Club, said last week. "That's not a question any more. It's going to be there."

School officials held a ground-breaking ceremony last Tuesday for the Edgar B. Harris Field House, a \$100,000 facility that will be funded entirely by contributions from the community.

Williamson said boosters have raised about \$44,000 so far and hope to push the total over \$50,000 with a golf tournament next month. Construction is expected to begin in May or June.

"We kind of set a goal of \$50,000 after this first phase of fund-raising, and I think that's realistic," Williamson said. "It looks real good at this time, and we're very optimistic."

The 4800-square-foot field house will be named in honor Harris, a local businessman and long-time West Brunswick supporter who has donated \$25,000 for the project.

Williamson said booster club raised approximately \$7,000 with a raffle. "Also we've got commitments or pledges from roughly a dozen individuals or businesses in the community for \$1,000 each," he said.

The fund-raising campaign has exceeded initial expectations. Williamson said the booster club only anticipated \$5,000 or \$6,000 from the raffle, and has received more major pledges than expected.

"I think we're as far along with the project at this time as we could be," he said. "The community has really responded."

Booster club members are waiting for state approval of building plans, and they hope the field house can be constructed by the start of the football season in late August.

"In a best-case scenario it would be done by football season. That's

certainly our objective at this point," Williamson said.

The building will be situated at the south end of M.H. Rourke Stadium. It will include dressing rooms for West's varsity and JV teams, a room for the visiting team, concession stand, public restrooms and ticket booth.

"It's been needed for such a long time," Williamson said of the field house. "In the aftermath of our success the last couple years, the booster club felt this was the most opportune time to take on this project."

West Brunswick won the state 3A football championship last year and the state 2A championship in 1992. The Trojans also finished second in the state in 1991.

Williamson said the school will be able to use the field house for events other than football games. "It will lend itself to other things such as graduation," he said.

The next fund-raising event will be a captain's choice golf tournament Saturday, June 4, at Brick Landing Plantation. The entry fee will be \$50 per player.

The tournament is scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and a chicken bog will be served at 1:30 p.m. People who don't play in the tournament will be able to purchase lunch for \$10.

To register, or for more information, call Don Evans at 754-4325, David Batten at 842-9663 or Brick Landing Plantation at 754-5545.



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