

TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

North Relay Team Strikes Gold; West Senior Second In Discus

BY DOUG RUTTER

Led by a gold-medal-winning relay team, North Brunswick High School's girls raced to a seventh-place finish in the North Carolina 1A Track and Field Championships last Friday in Chapel Hill.

The team of Valerie Smith, Kim Radford, L'Kisha Pretty and Crystal Davis won the 800-meter relay race in a time of 1 minute, 52.48 seconds.

Their performance capped an exceptional year for North's boys and girls track teams. Both won Three Rivers Conference championships and finished in the top three at the Eastern 1A Regional meet.

"I'm very pleased," North Brunswick Girls Track Coach Garry Bishop said Monday. "We did about what I thought we'd do, maybe a little better. We had the best score from the eastern part of the state."

The Lady Scorpions, who were 33-3 during the regular season, scored 26 1/2 points at the state meet. Hayesville won the meet, which was dominated by teams from western North Carolina.

North's 1600-meter relay team, which includes two freshmen and one sophomore, placed second in the state. Pretty, Radford, Kerri Cox and Crystal Corbett combined for a time of 4:21.53, which was less than four seconds off the winning time posted by Surry Central.

Individually, Smith placed second in the 100-meter dash. Her time of 13.17 seconds was just .03 seconds behind state champion Wendy Wilson of Chatham Central.

"It was a photo finish," Coach Bishop said. "It was almost a tie, but I think the other girl won it."

Bishop, in his first year as girls track coach, expects almost everyone back next season. The team, which placed second in the eastern regional, includes only two seniors and three juniors.

"We're real young. We're looking for big things the next couple of years. We shouldn't have any problem with teams in the eastern part of the state," Bishop said.

North Brunswick's boys, coming off a third-place finish at the regional meet, did not place in the state's top 10 teams but had several fine performances from its relay teams.

Shannon Dorsey, Aaron Yeoman, Joe Crowder and Kai Vernon combined for a second-place finish in the 1600-meter relay. Their time was 3:35.31, less than one second behind the winners.

Dorsey, Yeoman, Crowder and Colin Reeves also teamed up for a third-place finish in the 3200-meter run with a time of 8:34.30.

North Brunswick, which was 25-6 during the regular season, placed fourth in the 400-meter relay. Lamont Southerland, Vernon, Michael Edge and Andre Mosley posted a time of 45.86.

Crowder, a senior who qualified for the state championships in four events, placed fifth in the 400-meter run with a time of 52.50.

Johnson Takes Second

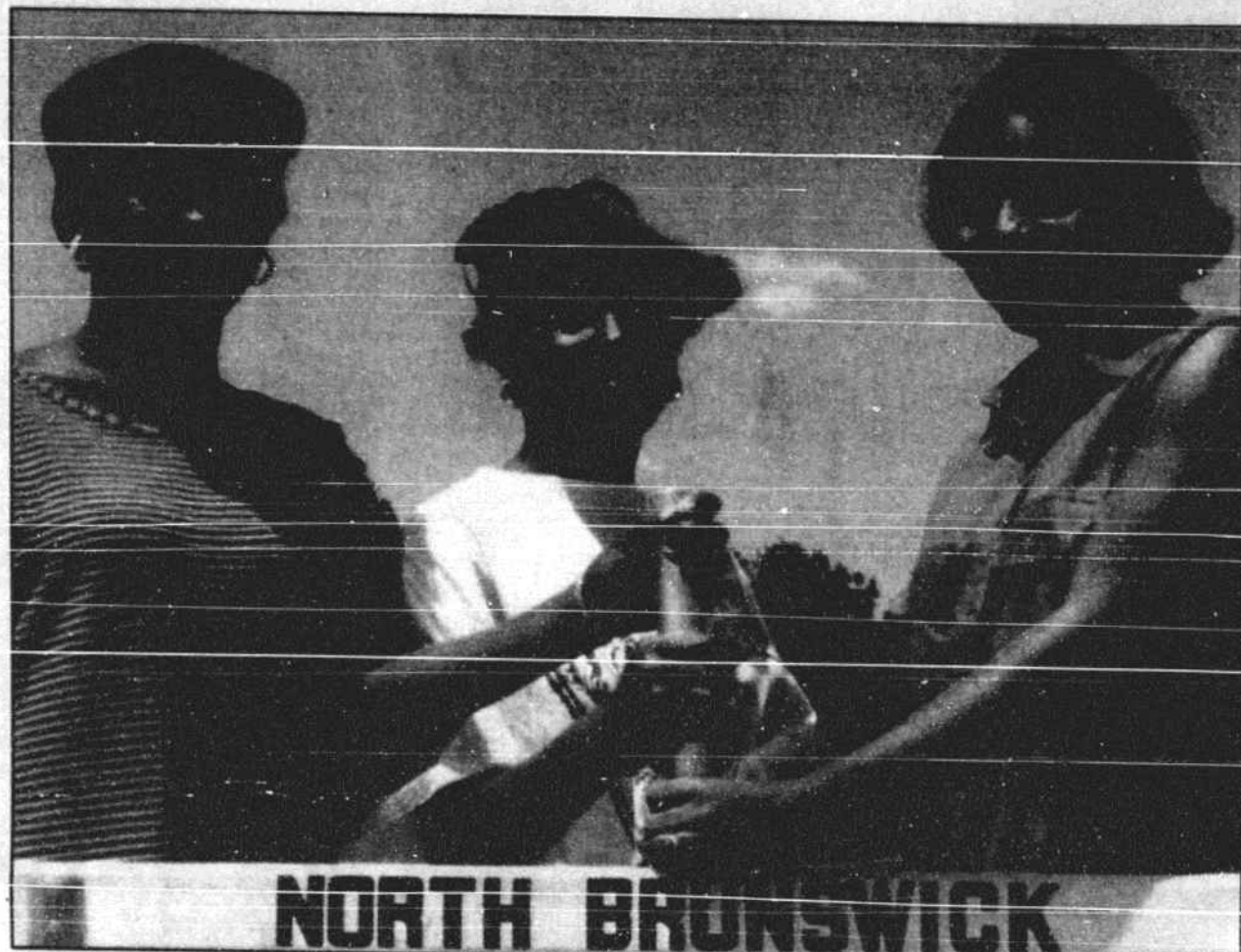
In Saturday's state 3A track and field championships at the University of North Carolina, West Brunswick senior Phillip Johnson placed second in the discus event with a toss of 153 feet.

It was the second straight year that Johnson finished second in the state in the discus. He was a two-time conference and regional champion.

A lineman on West Brunswick's back-to-back state championship football teams, Johnson has signed to play football next season at Western Carolina University.

Morgan Wins Shot Put

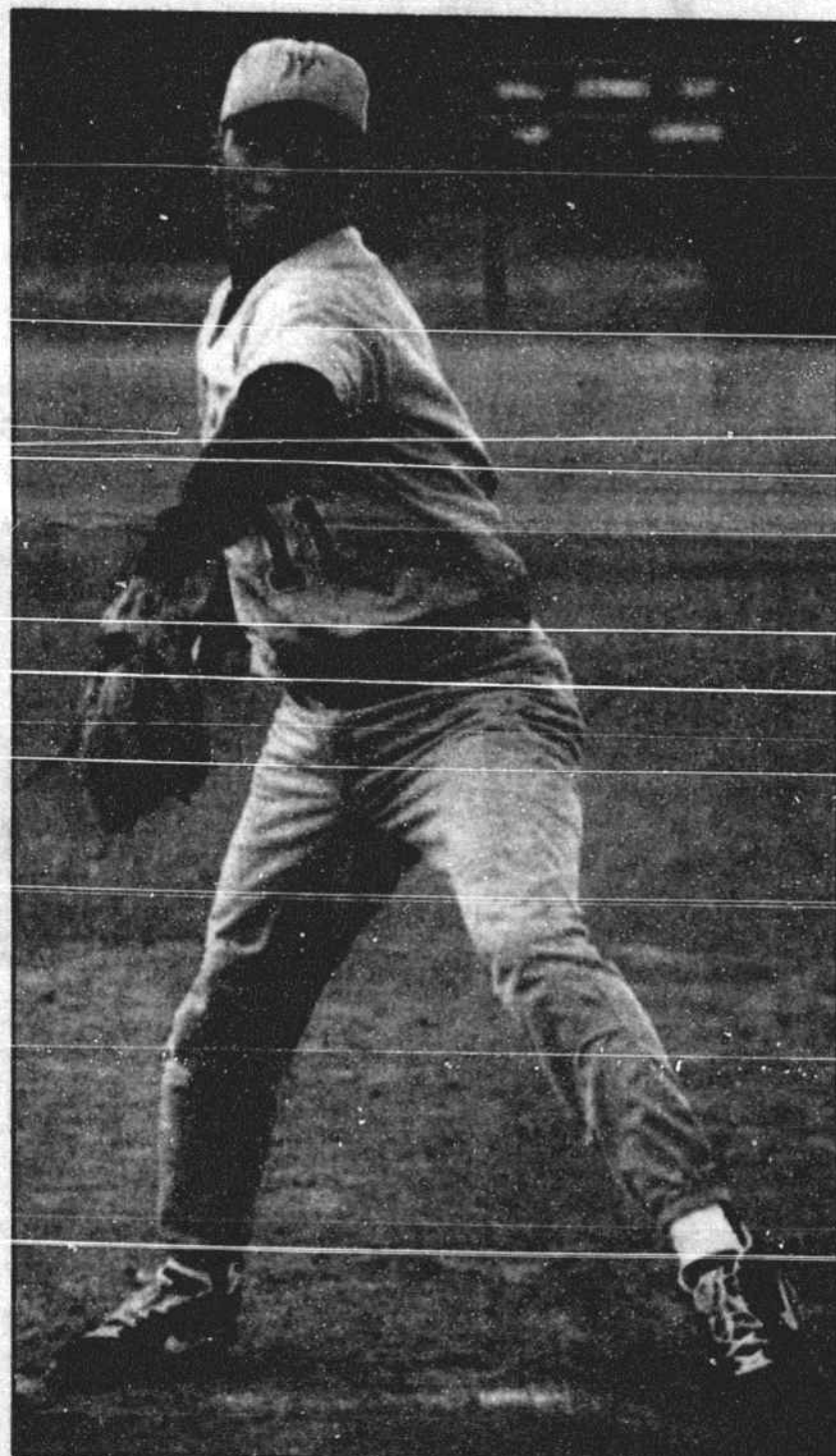
Phillip Morgan, a senior at South Rowan High School



STATE CHAMPS! North Brunswick's 800-meter relay team took first place at the North Carolina 1A Track and Field Championships. Pictured (from left) are Crystal Davis, Kim Radford and Valerie Smith. L'Kisha Pretty is not pictured.

and part-time Sunset Beach resident, took first place in the shot put competition in the state 4A championships. His winning toss was 54 feet, 4 inches. Morgan, who

has signed a letter of intent to attend UNC-Charlotte next year on a track scholarship, also placed fourth in the discus competition.



MIKE JOHNSON had two hits and drove in three runs in West Brunswick's 11-8 win over South Brunswick.

West Brunswick Wins Slugfest 11-8, Tuned Up For Upcoming Playoffs

BY DOUG RUTTER

Mike Johnson and Cameron Jones drove in three runs each as West Brunswick defeated South Brunswick 11-8 in a high school baseball slugfest last Thursday in Shallotte.

It was the sixth straight win for the Trojans, who rallied from 4-0 and 8-5 deficits to complete a season sweep of their county rivals from Boiling Spring Lakes.

The Trojans finished 8-4 in the conference and tied for second place with South Columbus and East Columbus. Whiteville finished 10-2 and captured its sixth straight league baseball title.

West Brunswick (14-9 overall) handed the Cougars their fifth straight loss. South Brunswick finished the regular season 2-10 in the conference and 8-15 overall.

Despite a sixth-place finish in the Waccamaw, South qualified for the state 3A playoffs because it had a better record than the conference's only other 3A team, Pender (1-11, 1-20).

Six pitchers saw action last Thursday as West and South combined for 22 hits, including three home runs and six doubles. Phillip Leonard was credited with the win, and Brian Ricker took the loss.

Jones and Eric Johnson each had three hits, and Mike Johnson and Wayne Branch added two apiece to lead West.

The Trojans continued their recent offensive surge with 13 hits against the Cougars. West has aver-

aged 10.7 hits and 8.7 runs per game during its winning streak.

"We hit the ball. It was an offensive game," West Brunswick Coach Mike Alderson said. "When West plays South it's always a big rivalry and both teams get up for it."

South's Jerry Galloway was definitely up for the game, going 4-for-5 with a pair of home runs and five RBI. He would have had six RBI if it hadn't been for a base-running blunder in the first inning.

After Eric McMahan reached on an error and Joey Medlin walked, Galloway lifted a Josh Baker pitch over the right-field fence. Galloway was called out, though, when he passed Medlin in the basepath between first and second.

Leading 2-0, the Cougars added two more runs in the second inning when a hit batsman, single by Brian Tulley and walk loaded the bases with one out.

Jeremy Baker scored from third on an infield error, and Tulley raced home on a sacrifice fly by Lewis Vaughn to give South Brunswick a 4-0 lead.

The lead was short-lived as West

Brunswick came back in the bottom of the second with a five-run, two-out rally.

Branch had an RBI single, Chris Payne an RBI triple, Mike Johnson a double, Eric Johnson a single and Jones a two-run single as the Trojans banged out five consecutive hits.

South Brunswick regained the lead with four runs in the fourth. Rodney Willoughby walked and scored on an error, and Galloway followed with a massive, three-run homer to right.

Trailing 8-5, the Trojans came back in the bottom of the inning with four runs of their own.

Payne drew a leadoff walk and came home on Mike Johnson's two-run homer to left.

Following a single by Eric Johnson and double by Jones, Heath Inman delivered an RBI single to left and Leonard added a run-scoring sacrifice fly to give West a 9-8 lead.

The Trojans added two runs in the fifth. Branch led off with a bunt single and scored from third on Mike Johnson's sacrifice fly. Eric Johnson

then doubled and scored on Jones' third hit of the game.

In addition to Baker and Leonard, Mike Johnson and Eric Johnson also saw mound action for the Trojans. Eric Johnson (6-1) was expected to start West's first-round playoff game Tuesday night against Rockingham County (18-2).

"Since we didn't play Tuesday, the pitching worked out the way I wanted it to," Alderson said. "I wanted everyone to get some work. I was glad everybody got to play in the last game of the season."

Prior to their current six-game winning streak, West's longest winning streak this season was three games. The Trojans have not lost since April 28.

"I just hope we can keep this momentum going into the playoffs. Momentum is everything when you get in the playoffs," Alderson said.

South Brunswick was scheduled to open the playoffs Tuesday night at Northeast Guilford.

Game Summary

S. Brun. 2 2 0 4 0 0—8 9 0
W. Brun. 0 5 0 4 2 0X—11 13 3

16th Annual North Carolina Freedom Run Set For July 2

The 16th Annual North Carolina Freedom Run and Walk is planned Saturday, July 2, in Southport, as part of the N.C. Fourth of July Festival.

The day will begin with the one-mile fun run/walk at 8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m., runners will compete in a 5-kilometer race along the historic streets of Southport and along the Cape Fear River waterfront.

The pre-race registration fee is \$10, which includes a T-shirt. The entry fee will be \$12 after June 25.

Runners may register July 1 at Waterfront Park from 6 p.m. until 8

p.m. and July 2 starting at 7 a.m.

In the fun run, awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers.

The top overall male and female finishers in the 5K will receive awards along with the top three finishers in each age group (14 and under, 15-18, 19-23, 24-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-55, 56 and over).

For more information and entry forms, call Kathy Scheetz at 910-457-0224 or write to N.C. Freedom Run, c/o Kathy Scheetz, 239 E. Bay Street, Southport, N.C. 28461.

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