

FRESHMAN JENNY CROWDER pitched North Brunswick to the state semifinals before a 3-2 loss at Allegheny ended the Lady Scorpions' season.

## EIGHT HOUR ROAD TRIP

# North Brunswick Girls Stopped In Semifinals

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
You could say North Brunswick had two strikes against it before it even took the field Saturday to play Allegheny in the western finals of the state 1A high school softball playoffs.

Not only did the Lady Scorpions travel eight hours to get to Allegheny, they also had to contend with a tricky outfield featuring a drop-off in front of the fence.

That drop-off came into play in the bottom of the seventh inning, when a fly ball to deep center field fell in for a hit and allowed Allegheny to score the winning run in a 3-2 victory.

"They got a lucky break and we didn't," explained North Brunswick Coach J.B. Sholar. "It was a real good game. It was a tough game for both teams all the way."

Allegheny (25-1) advanced to face eastern champion Dixon (25-2) in the state championship series.

North Brunswick, which had an 11-game winning streak at one point this season, finished the year with a 22-5 record. It was North's best season since winning the state title in 1980.

"I'm proud of my girls," Sholar said Monday. "The played a good ball game. When you get in a situation like that it's a matter of who makes a mistake or who gets a break. I feel like they got the break and won the ball game."

Sholar said North Brunswick gave Allegheny a better fight than most of the Lady Trojan fans had expected.

"The people up there said they had never faced nobody like us before," Sholar said. "I feel like we had an excellent season. I'm very

proud of the girls. They've got a reason to hold their heads up."

North Brunswick advanced to the western finals with a 4-3 victory over host East Surry in the third round of the playoffs last Wednesday.

First baseman Michelle Bennett went 2-for-3 with three RBI to lead the Lady Scorpions.

Bennett had a two-run single and added a game-winning solo home run in the sixth inning. Wendy Ganey also went 2-for-3 for North Brunswick.

Sholar said the Lady Scorpions traveled 1,200 miles last week for the two playoff games.

"There's no way that you can't be tired after that. There's no way you can be 100 percent, but our girls gave 110 percent Saturday," Sholar said.

In first two rounds of the playoffs, North Brunswick defeated Chatham Central, 5-4, and Surry Central, 7-3.

The Lady Scorpions won the Three Rivers Conference championship with a 13-1 record. It was the second straight league title for North, which won the Waccamaw Conference crown last year.

Sholar said the team, which will lose only one senior, is already looking forward to next year. The girls hope to have gone undefeated in the Three Rivers Conference.

North Brunswick will not be eligible for the state playoffs next season. North has the enrollment of a 2A school, but school officials decided to "play down" to the 1A classification starting this school year.

As a result, North Brunswick teams are only eligible for the playoffs every other year.

## ANGELS SELECT PAUL MINTZ

# Toronto Drafts Leland's Chris McBride

**BY DOUG RUTTER**

That was one of the first things that went through Chris McBride's mind when he learned the Toronto Blue Jays had selected him in the third round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft.

The telephone call from Skydome, home of the two-time defending World Series champions, came in to the McBride house in Leland last Thursday around 2:30 p.m.

"I thought about my days in Little League," McBride said. "You grow up dreaming of someday playing professional baseball and when it finally happens it's amazing. It was a dream come true really."

McBride, who played his high school ball at North Brunswick and American Legion ball for Brunswick County Post 68, recently completed his junior season with the UNC-Wilmington Seahawks.

A 6-foot-5-inch, 200-pound, right-handed pitcher, McBride is the highest-chosen player ever from UNC-Wilmington. He had a 4-7 record this season with a 3.56 ERA.

McBride, who limited opponents



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—Chris McBride

to a .226 batting average this season, was drafted as a pitcher. His fastball was clocked in the high 80s, and he was rated the third-best player in the state by *Baseball America* magazine.

"I won't be swinging the bat any more," said McBride, who was one of the area's most feared hitters in high school and American Legion ball.

"It's fine with me," he added. "It's the quickest way to move up. I'll do whatever they want me to do as long as I get to the show (major league). I'll do whatever it takes."

McBride, who most scouts thought would last until the fifth

round of the draft, signed a contract with the Blue Jays on Sunday. He was scheduled to catch a flight to Duncedin, Fla., on Thursday.

After a few days of orientation and instruction, McBride and Toronto's other top draft choices will be given their minor league assignments.

McBride said Monday he expects to be sent to Ontario, Canada, where he will play for St. Catharines in the New York-Penn A League.

McBride said he'll miss his family and the area. He plans to make a lot of phone calls and send lots of letters as he tries to adjust to life away from home.

McBride learned about life on the road last year when he played in the Shenandoah Valley League, a summer league for college players. He was MVP of the league in 1993.

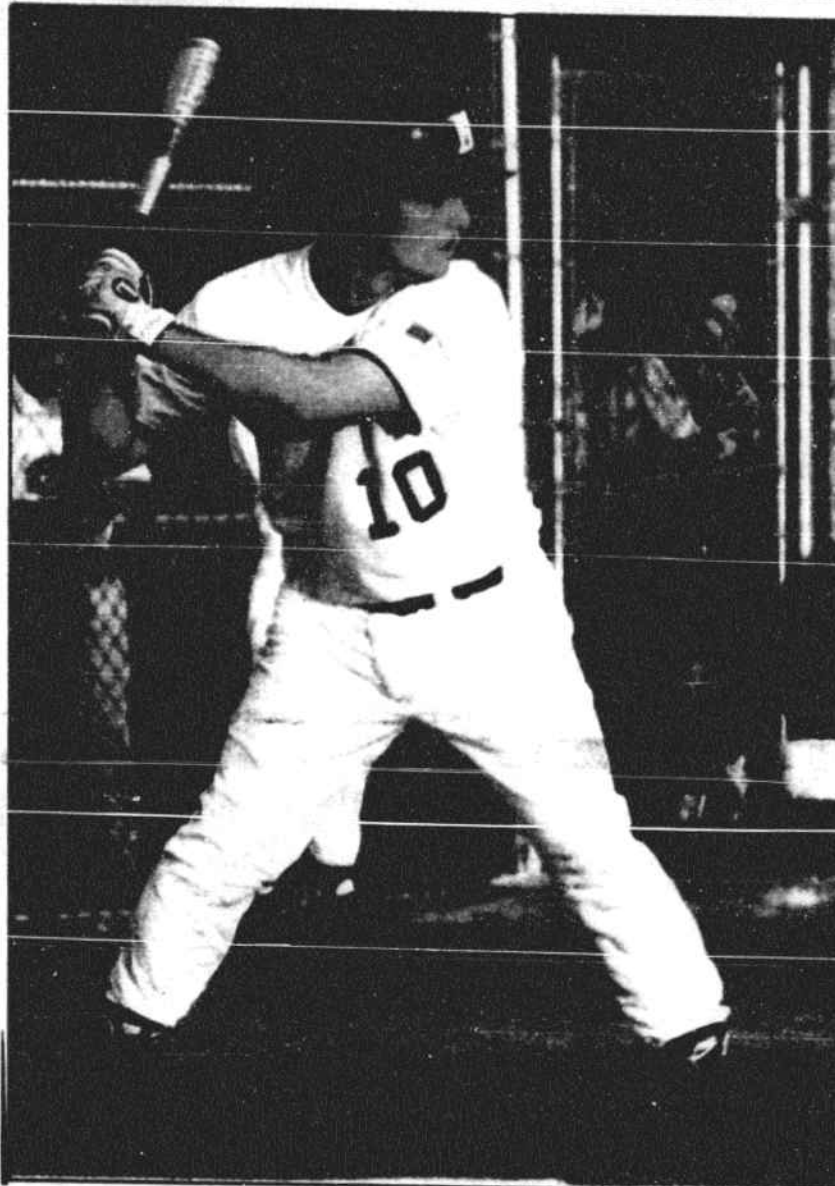
"I got a taste of it last year when I went to play in the valley league. It's going to be hard, but overall I'm excited about the chance to play professional ball," he said.

McBride was one of two Brunswick County players selected in the amateur draft. California picked North Brunswick High School senior Paul Mintz in the 30th round.

The left-handed pitcher was 9-0 this season and helped lead the Scorpions to a 20-6 record and into the third round of the state 1A playoffs.

Mintz is not expected to sign with the Angels. Instead, he will likely play at least one year of college baseball, possibly at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville.

Other area players selected in last week's draft include Whiteville High School senior Anthony Southren, who was picked in the 16th round by the Seattle Mariners.



NORTH BRUNSWICK CATCHER Robert Hewett helped lead the Scorpions to a 20-6 record this season and a trip to the state quarterfinals.

## East Montgomery Eagles Sting North Scorpions 13-0

North Brunswick's baseball team—dreaming of a state championship since early March—got the equivalent of a 4 a.m. wakeup call last Tuesday at East Montgomery.

The Eagles roughed up North Brunswick ace pitcher Casey McBride for nine hits in five innings en route to a 13-0 victory in the third round of the state 1A high school playoffs.

The final score was shocking considering the strong pitching that had carried North through the regular season, when McBride hurled two no-hitters, including one perfect game.

The Scorpions (20-6) had allowed five runs or less 21 times during the season and limited opponents to two runs or less in 16 games.

None of that mattered to East Montgomery's Eagles (19-2). The defending state 1A champs won the battle with McBride (10-3), a junior right-hander who will be one of the area's top prospects in 1995.

The Eagles scored nine runs with McBride on the mound and added four more on Mickey Mabe's grand

slam off North Brunswick relief pitcher Jeremy Sullivan in the bottom of the fifth.

Meanwhile, North Brunswick was limited to three hits by East Montgomery starter Greg McNeill (10-2), who struck out 12 and walked none in five innings of work.

McNeill's two-run double to left field sparked a four-run second inning for the Eagles, who added three more runs in the fourth and five in the fifth. Matthew Reynolds had three hits for the winners.

The loss ended an exceptional season for North Brunswick, which rolled to a 14-0 finish in the Three Rivers Conference and carried a 14-game winning streak into the third-round playoff game.

The defeat at East Montgomery was North's first since an April 6 setback to New Hanover in the finals of the Seashell Invitational baseball tournament. The Wildcats have advanced to the state 4A finals.

### Game Summary

N. Brun. 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 3 0  
E. Mont. 0 4 1 3 5 0 X—13 12 0

## SPORTING SCENE

# Eight WBHS Seniors Left Mark On Gridiron

Every high school graduating class has its share of outstanding athletes. In each class, there are always a few individuals who shine above all others of the fields of play.

In terms of team accomplishments on the football field, however, there has never been and may never be another senior class that measures up to the West Brunswick Class of '94.

Eight young men in this year's graduating class were with the Trojans as they made three consecutive trips to the state championship game and won state titles in 1992 and 1993.

Wayne Branch, Steve Brooks, Steve Holmes, Phillip Johnson, Michael Lance, Charlie Peele, William Stanley and Kip Young are leaving behind a legacy of gridiron greatness.

These graduates-to-be were just young pups in 1991 when West Brunswick came out of nowhere and made it past the second round of the state football playoffs for the first time in school history.

The Trojans had to win road games at Whiteville and East Bladen just to make it to the state championship game in Chapel Hill. At Kenan Stadium, they ran into a tough bunch from Thomasville and lost 21-6.

Unfazed and toughened by the loss, West Brunswick returned to Chapel Hill in 1992. But only after winning three consecutive playoff games against undefeated teams—Clinton, Farmville Central and St. Pauls.

The experience of 1991's title game paid huge dividends in 1992, when the Trojans capitalized on two mistakes by the Maiden Blue Devils and posted a 14-6 victory under the bright sunny skies of Blue Heaven.

By the time the 1993 season rolled around, these eight seniors were chomping at the bit to return to Chapel Hill and prove their 1992 championship was no fluke.

They played well during the regular season, tying for the conference championship, and turned up the heat at playoff time. Changing classifications from 2A to the tougher 3A division proved to be no sweat.

After a pair of easy playoff wins, West Brunswick dumped top-ranked Reidsville and held off an outstanding Tarboro squad to win its third straight eastern North Carolina championship.

The Trojans drew High Point Andrews in the state title game, and things did not look promising after three quarters in cold, rainy Chapel Hill.

West Brunswick trailed 14-0 heading into the final period, but somehow swiped momentum from the Red Raiders and scored three unanswered touchdowns to claim a stunning 19-14 victory.

West Brunswick became the first high school in North Carolina history to win a state football championship and repeat as champs the following year in a higher classification.

These eight seniors have given West Brunswick High School a strong reputation around the state. Will there ever be another football-rich class like the Class of '94?

Only time will tell. Waiting in the wings are four juniors—Timothy Daniels, Eric Johnson, Neil Warren and Kelley Wooten—who have already made three trips to Chapel Hill. They'll try for a fourth next fall.

Doug Rutter  
Sports  
Editor



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