

**YOGI HICKMAN**, head football coach at West Brunswick, will get a good look at his team Saturday at C.B. Aycock.

## SPORTING SCENE

### Cal Ripken's Streak Has Gone Long Enough

Cal Ripken Jr. played his 2,000th consecutive Major League Baseball game last week, pulling him ever closer to breaking the all-time record held by New York Yankees' great Lou Gehrig.

More than 25,000 baseball fans in Minnesota showed their respect with a standing ovation as Ripken took the field for Game 2,000. It left Ripken just 130 games short of Gehrig's legendary mark.

With all due respect to the folks in Minnesota, I wouldn't even consider applauding Ripken's streak. Here's a man who is doing everything he can to manufacture his own place in baseball history.

Barring injury, the Baltimore Orioles' shortstop will break Gehrig's mark next season. And at this stage, I think it would have to be an injury of the life-threatening variety to keep Ripken out of the lineup.

Ripken has said in interviews that the consecutive-games streak and Gehrig's record don't mean that much to him, but I find that hard to believe. If the record didn't mean anything, Ripken would take a day off once in a while like every one of his teammates and every other baseball player. At age 33, I'm sure Ripken could use at least one break during a 162-game season.

He hasn't missed a game since May 30, 1982, when he was a rookie third baseman with the Orioles.

During the streak, Ripken has batted around .280, hit more than 300 home runs and collected over 1,150 RBI. His home run count is higher than any shortstop in history, and he owns the single-season record for fewest errors at his position.

Ripken is a great player with Hall of Fame credentials. But in my mind, the streak has tainted his career. When baseball fans think of Ripken they think of the streak, not his outstanding glove or his powerful bat.

I think the streak has gone long enough.

#### Martie On The Rocks

Former West Brunswick High School tennis coach and assistant athletic director Martie Gillis Arrowood will be teaching this year at Rocky Mount High School. That's the good news for Martie.

The bad news is that her husband, former Trojan assistant football coach David Arrowood, will be teaching and coaching at Rocky Mount's arch rival, Northern Nash.

Things could get mighty interesting around the Arrowood household Nov. 4, when Rocky Mount and Northern Nash meet in the regular-season finale with the possibility of a playoff berth at stake.

In need be, Martie could always come back to Shallotte that night for the West Brunswick-South Brunswick clash.

In any event, I'll miss having Martie at West. Not only was she a good tennis coach who truly cared about her athletes, she always went out of her way to accommodate the press and was an inexhaustible source of juicy gossip.

#### One Man's Opinion

Everett Lee of Holden Beach had a letter published in the July 25 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

It was one of six letters published in response to a recent article comparing the National Basketball Association to the National Hockey League. SI portrayed the NHL as the "hotter" league.

Lee's opinion: "If there's one thing hurting the NBA, it's that the players have become too big for the court. The defense can overwhelm the offense because the court is too small for today's players."

**Doug Rutter**  
Sports Editor



## Trojans Battle Aycock Falcons Saturday

BY DOUG RUTTER

With two weeks of practice under its belt the West Brunswick football team will travel to Pikeville on Saturday for a pre-season scrimmage against C.B. Aycock High School.

The contest starts at 7 p.m. at the Golden Falcons' stadium north of Goldsboro. It will be the first of two practice games for West Brunswick prior to its season opener Aug. 26 at South Brunswick.

First-year head coach Yogi Hickman said he'll evaluate individual talent Saturday and see how the team is grasping his offensive system, which is vastly different than the one the Trojans ran the last two years.

"We'll evaluate our players more than anything," Hickman said of the scrimmage. "As far as the outcome, that's for the birds. You work on getting better and that's what we're going to do."

West's coaching staff may have gotten a sneak preview of Saturday night's contest on Monday, when senior fullback James Morgan broke loose for 50 yards on the first play of an intra-squad scrimmage.

"You can see the kids are starting to believe in what we're teaching them," Hickman said. "Right now we're at a level where I'm glad we don't have a regular season football game, but we're ready to scrimmage."

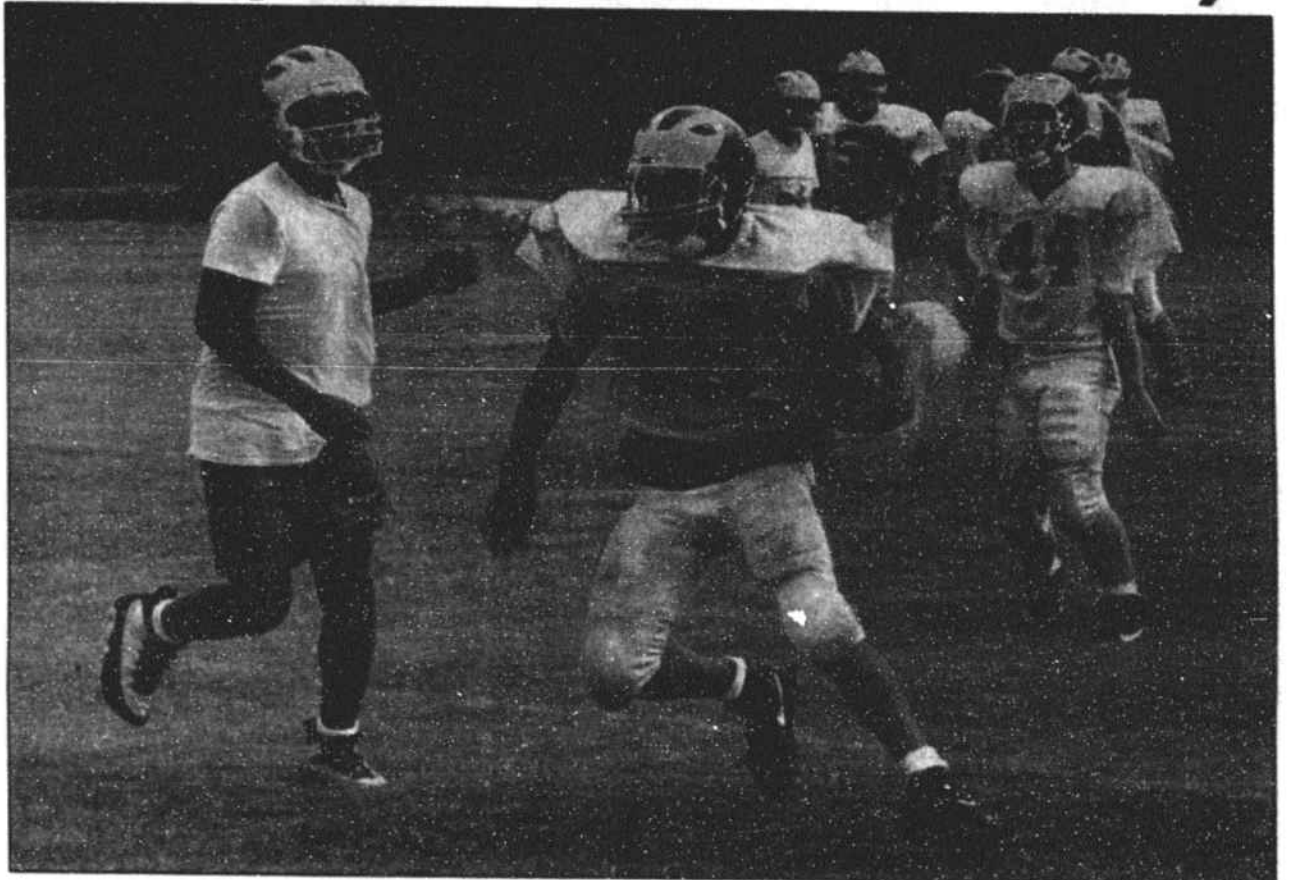
Since football practice started July 30, Hickman said most of the time has been devoted to teaching the new offense. The Trojans will use the same defense as last season.

Hickman said about half of his offensive schemes had been installed as of Monday.

"The kids have done a real good job, especially the last four days. They're starting to get confidence in the I-formation," he said.

Hickman said his main focus Saturday night will be offense, and most of the returning starters from last season will not see much action on defense.

"Philosophically it never has



**WEST BRUNSWICK RUNNING BACK Timmy Vaught (19)** cuts through the defense during a recent practice.

made much of a difference to me if we give up one touchdown or six or eight," he said. "We're not going to stick a bunch of starters out there and make them play all night long."

Hickman's concern about low turnout the first few days of practice has all but vanished. With the number of kids out now, West should be able to carry close to 30 on the varsity squad.

"We had 47 in uniform this morning. That's varsity and JV," Hickman said. "Things are looking much better with the number situation. We've got enough to practice and play with."

C.B. Aycock competes in the East Central 2A Conference against the likes of Clinton, James Kenan and Wallace-Rose Hill. The Falcons

were 2-3 in the league and 6-4 overall last season.

C.B. Aycock Coach Mike Goynes said he's looking forward to the practice game against West Brunswick, which won the state 2A championship in 1992 and the 3A title last year.

"In my scrimmages I try to play the best I can play so my guys know what to expect if they want to get in the playoffs," Goynes said. "West Brunswick is one of the best teams in the state in any classification."

"We may look really bad, but at least we'll know what we need to work on," Goynes added.

To get to C.B. Aycock, take U.S. 17 north to Wilmington and I-40 west to the Mount Olive exit. Follow U.S. 117 north through Goldsboro into

Pikeville. The school is on the right about a quarter-mile past Hardee's.

West Brunswick will play its final pre-season contest next Friday, Aug. 19. The Trojans will square off against Wallace-Rose Hill in the UCB Football Jamboree at Wilmington's Legion Stadium.

The jamboree, which begins at 6 p.m. with a cheerleading competition, is a series of four, 24-minute scrimmages. Other matchups are New Hanover versus Whiteville, Hoggard against South Brunswick and Laney versus South Columbus.

Tickets to the jamboree are on sale at UCB branches in Shallotte, Southport, Whiteville, Wilmington, Wallace, Rose Hill and Tabor City. Tickets cost \$3 in advance and \$4 at the gate.

## Stevenson Grabs Starting Spot At Elon

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shawn Stevenson, a two-way starter on West Brunswick High School's state championship football team of 1992, will be starting at defensive end this fall at Elon College.

A red-shirt freshman, Stevenson earned the starting position with an outstanding showing in spring practice, said Elon Head Coach Leon Hart.

"He had the most impressive spring of any of our kids. He was extremely impressive in spring drills. He made more plays than anyone out there. He came out of spring drills as a starter at defensive end," Hart said.

Recruited as an inside linebacker, Stevenson has moved to the defensive front because Elon has four inside linebackers returning from last season but doesn't have much depth at end.

"We had a need for some players to try defensive end because we were hit by graduation there," Hart said. "Shawn stepped in and was apprehensive at first but then he started making some plays."

"We're expecting big things from him," Hart added. "We're very pleased with how quickly he adapted to the position and how well he performed throughout spring practice."

Hart said it's usual to start a freshman, even a red-shirt freshman, but

*"He was extremely impressive in spring drills. He made more plays than anyone out there. He came out of spring drills as a starter at defensive end."*

—Elon Coach Leon Hart

Stevenson has been that strong.

"We haven't had to start a freshman in the last couple of years," Hart said. "It's a combination of us graduating a couple players at the position, and he has developed so quickly."

"We recruited him because he could run so well. He leap-frogged over a couple people in a hurry," Hart said. "He's got good athletic skills, but his intensity is what makes the difference."

Stevenson, the son of Valereeta Grant, played at 6-foot-2, 210 pounds in high school.

Hart said Stevenson has gained about 10 to 15 pounds in the past year. "He's going to be a big person before he gets done playing college football," he said.

Stevenson, who played three years of football at West Brunswick,

started at middle linebacker and tight end for the Trojans' state 2A championship team in 1992. He made 128 tackles as a senior for an average of 9.1 per game.

Stevenson's coach his final year at West Brunswick, Jim Brett, said Stevenson was the finest middle linebacker he had coached in 19 years as a high school head football coach.

Elon is a private, liberal arts college near Greensboro. The Fighting Christians, winners of NAIA national football championships in 1980 and 1981, now compete on the NCAA Division II level in the South Atlantic Conference.

Elon is coming off an 8-3 season and is picked to finish second in the SAC this fall.

"Hopefully we can improve on that pre-season pick," Hart said.

### Elon College Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT
Sept. 3.....	at West Georgia
Sept. 10.....	at Catawba
Sept. 17.....	Concord
Sept. 24.....	Carson-Newman
Oct. 1.....	at Lenoir-Rhyne
Oct. 8.....	at Mars Hill
Oct. 15.....	Presbyterian
Oct. 22.....	Gardner-Webb
Nov. 5.....	Wofford
Nov. 12.....	at Wingate

"We believe we can be in contention for the conference championship."

Elon opens the season Sept. 3 at West Georgia College. The Fighting Christians have home games against Concord, Carson-Newman, Presbyterian, Gardner-Webb and Wofford.



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