



TROJAN RUNNING BACK JAMES MORGAN nearly had his jersey removed on this play by South Brunswick's O.J. Morris (32).

West Whips South 28-7

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick, led by the pinpoint passing of Eric Johnson, defeated rival South Brunswick 28-7 Friday night in the high school football season opener for both teams.

Johnson completed 9 of 13 pass attempts for 143 yards and one touchdown. The senior quarterback also ran for a TD as the Trojans defeated the Cougars for the sixth straight time.

West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman said he was "very pleased" with his team's performance, particularly since the Trojans were coming off a poor showing one week earlier at the UCB Football Jamboree.

"Obviously it wasn't the same football team that showed up last Friday night in Wilmington," Hickman said. "They're a lousy bunch of practice players, but when the lights come on..."

When the lights came on Friday at Jack Campbell Stadium, West Brunswick wasted no time showing its stuff. The Trojans scored on three of their first five possessions to build a 21-0 halftime lead.

In addition to Johnson's passing, West's running game wasn't bad either. The Trojans gained 247 yards on the ground, led by senior Timothy "Salt" Daniels with nine carries for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

Hickman said the non-conference win was important because it will give the players confidence in the coaching staff, which has five new members, and Hickman's 1-formation offense.

"It's taken us a while to sell the kids on the passing game because they've never done it before," Hickman said following his West Brunswick coaching debut.

"Overall I'm very pleased. I thought Eric Johnson was fantastic and Derek Frink also had a great game," Hickman said.

Frink was Johnson's primary target with five receptions for 79 yards. Senior receiver Ty Brown caught three balls for 53 yards.

Hickman credited offensive coordinator Heath Hewett for the success. "He knows offensive football. He knows the passing game. I thought his game plan was outstanding."

South Brunswick head coach Derrell Force said the Cougars were their own worst enemy with four turnovers.

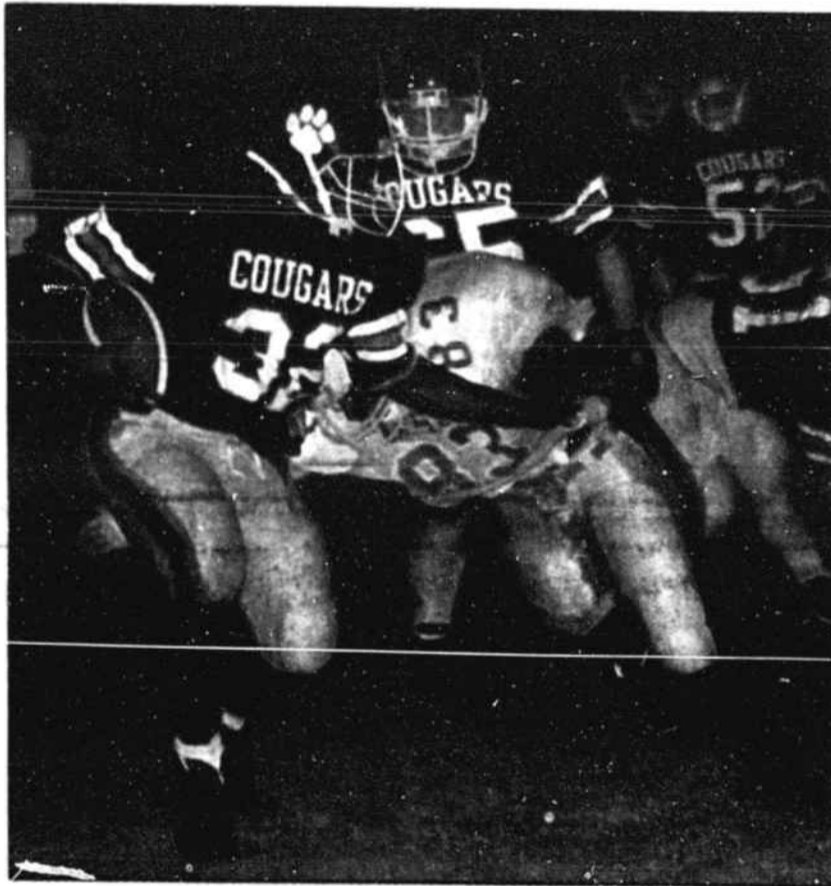
"You can't do that against a seasoned, veteran team like West Brunswick," Force said. "We just made too many mistakes and they capitalized on the majority of them. I think that was the key to the ball game."

West Brunswick, which had three turnovers of its own, got a big break early when South's Izesta Brown fumbled the opening kickoff and Al Johnson recovered at the Cougar 29-yard line.

Just four plays into the game, Daniels plowed 8 yards up the middle for West's first TD of the season. Frink's extra point gave the Trojans a 7-0 lead at the 10:03 mark.

The visitors bumped their lead to 14-0 with 2:48 left in the first quarter when Johnson tossed a 29-yard touchdown to Brown to cap a six-play, 80-yard drive.

Brown had caught two short passes earlier in the drive, and when



WEST LINEBACKER TERRELL THOMAS (83) tackles South Brunswick running back O.J. Morris (32).

Johnson faked a third short one Brown was able to slip through the secondary and down the right sideline for the easy score.

West Brunswick jacked its lead to 21-0 with 2:18 left in the first half when Johnson scored on an 11-yard keeper around the left end.

The play ended an impressive 10-play, 75-yard drive highlighted by a spectacular 45-yard pass play from Johnson to Frink. The 6-6 junior made a leaping catch over the middle and nearly broke loose for a TD.

The Trojans scored their final touchdown of the night three minutes into the second half when Daniels took a pitch around the right end and dashed 56 yards down the sideline.

South Brunswick's only score came with 51 seconds left in the third quarter. Junior quarterback Jeremy Baker rolled left and weaved 36 yards through the Trojan defense.

"We got tired in the second half," Hickman said. "They're so much bigger than we are. They beat up on us. We really didn't execute well in the second half."

Johnson came out of the game midway through the third quarter with leg cramps. At the end of the first half, he also suffered a minor injury to his left wrist.

Baker completed just 3 of 15 pass attempts for 35 yards, and led South Brunswick's rushing attack with 52 yards on 10 carries. Senior running back O.J. Morris rushed 13 times for 51 yards.

"We ask our kids to give us everything they got every week. I was proud of their fortitude. They played hard for 48 minutes," Force said.

"We are a young football team and we'll get better," he added. "I feel like before it's over we'll have something to say about who goes to the playoffs."

Other highlights for West Brunswick included a first-quarter interception by freshman Ahmed Green, the younger brother of junior offensive tackle/middle linebacker

Kwabena Green.

West Brunswick and South Brunswick play again Nov. 4 in Shallotte. That contest will count in the Waccamaw Conference standings and could determine the league's lone state 3A playoff berth.

The Trojans host Dillon, S.C., this Friday night while South Brunswick continues non-conference play with a home game against East Duplin.

THE YARDSTICK

| W. Brunswick | S. Brunswick |
|--------------|--------------|
| 17 | 7 |
| 36-247 | 33-122 |
| 10-19-148 | 3-15-35 |
| 5-3 | 5-3 |
| 0 | 1 |
| 3-39 | 7-37 |
| 4-45 | 2-10 |

Score By Quarters

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|---|---|------|
| W. Brunswick | 14 | 7 | 7 | 0-28 |
| S. Brunswick | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0-7 |

Scoring Summary

- (WB) Daniels, 8-yard run (Frink kick)
- (WB) Brown, 29-yard pass from Johnson (Frink kick)
- (WB) Johnson, 11-yard run (Frink kick)
- (WB) Daniels, 56-yard run (Frink kick)
- (SB) Baker, 36-yard run (Bruner kick)

Individual Rushing

- West Brunswick: Daniels, 9-77; Gore, 7-73; Johnson, 3-37; Morgan, 7-33; Hill, 5-14; Vaught, 4-12; Frink, 1-1.
- South Brunswick: Baker, 10-52; Morris, 13-51; Brown, 8-18; Lowe, 2-0.

Individual Passing

- West Brunswick: Johnson, 9-13-143; Frink, 1-6-5.
- South Brunswick: Baker, 3-15-35.

Individual Receiving

- West Brunswick: Frink, 5-79; Brown, 3-53; Daniels, 1-11; Hewett, 1-5.
- South Brunswick: Brown, 2-31; Pelham, 1-4.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Payne Powers Trojans Past North, Waccamaw

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's Chris Payne scored five goals last week as the Trojan soccer team opened the season with a pair of shutout victories over North Brunswick and Waccamaw Academy.

The senior forward scored three goals last Thursday to lead West to a 5-0 win over county foe North Brunswick at Northwest Township Park in Leland.

In the Trojans' season opener last Tuesday, Payne had a pair of goals in a 4-0 win at Waccamaw Academy in Whiteville.

Senior goalkeeper Jay McRoberts posted the shutout at Waccamaw Academy, and McRoberts combined with freshman Jarvis Davis to hold North Brunswick scoreless.

West Brunswick Coach Teak Hemphill said he was pleased with the first two games, which were played on the first and third days of the new school year.

"The guys are getting a better attitude," Hemphill said. "They're getting out of the summer mode and back into the school mode."

In the North Brunswick match, Payne scored all three of his goals in the first half and narrowly missed another in the second half when a shot hit the left goal post.

Payne opened the scoring nine minutes into the match when he ran down a pass from Jeremie Varnam to the right of the goal and beat North goalie Guy Royal from 10 yards out.

Payne scored an unassisted goal from the nearly same spot three minutes later, again beating Royal just inside the far post.

West Brunswick bumped its lead to 3-0 at the 14-minute mark when Payne lobbed a pass to Cameron Kinlaw just right of the goal. Three players collided and fell going after the ball, but Kinlaw jumped up immedi-

ately and managed to jam it into the empty net.

Payne completed his hat trick midway through the period when he knocked down a North Brunswick goal kick and blasted the ball into the lower left corner of the net from 18 yards out.

The Trojans ended the scoring 33 minutes into the second half when Gabe Cooper converted a penalty kick. North's Royal got a hand on the ball, but it bounced into the left corner.

Hemphill said he was glad to get the shutout. It extended West's unbeaten streak against county opponents to 16 matches.

"When our defense had to clear the ball they did it," Hemphill said. "We still have quite a bit of work to do on defense. Sometimes we got out of position and a good team is going to take advantage of that."

North Brunswick Coach Randy Collins said he was pleased with his team's effort in its first match of the year. But he said the Scorpions must become more aggressive.

"We're just going to have to pick up the loose balls. Right now we're just staying back and waiting," he said.

"It was a learning experience. It was a good ice-breaker," Collins added. "We can learn a lot playing these guys because they play well together."

In West Brunswick's 4-0 win at Waccamaw Academy, Payne, Zack Hicks and freshman Alex Karagianis tallied goals. Andy Russ, Cooper and Varnam were credited with assists.

"I was real happy with the way they played for a first game," Hemphill said. "Offensively the passing wasn't real crisp. It just seemed like we were a little sluggish and they were too."

West Brunswick was scheduled to play Tuesday night at Wilmington Laney. The Trojans will play their first home match on West's new soccer field Sept. 6 against Waccamaw Academy.

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Brooks To See Action For Aggies

BY DOUG RUTTER

Just three months ago, Steve Brooks was sweating over final exams and preparing for one of the biggest nights of his young life—graduation night at West Brunswick High School.

Twelve weeks later, Brooks is getting ready for another big day. He will play in his first college football game this weekend when North Carolina A&T opens its season against North Carolina Central.

Brooks could be at offensive guard or tackle for as many as half of the Aggies' plays Saturday, according to Joe Godette, offensive line coach at North Carolina A&T.

"Normally you don't depend on your true freshmen to step in like that," Godette said last week. "You don't really count on them. If one does it's a real plus."

Godette said Brooks reported to A&T's campus in Greensboro in excellent physical condition. The 6-foot-3-inch, 275-pounder spent much of his summer in West Brunswick's weight room.

"He came in in outstanding shape," Godette said. "His biggest thing is he's just trying to learn the system now. We move pretty fast at the college level, but he's picking it up."

Godette said the coaches usually ask incoming freshmen to run a series of eight 40-yard dashes to gauge their speed, but Brooks ran it 16 times like the returning players.

"We've been real pleased with Steve. He has a good attitude and

"We've been real pleased with Steve. He has a good attitude and he's very coachable. That will take him a long way." —Joe Godette, N.C. A&T coach

he's very coachable. That will take him a long way," Godette said.

"He may not start because we have older guys in front of him. He'll be playing a lot, at least 40 or 45 percent of the time. He'll be making a big contribution this year."

Brooks, who started playing football as a seventh-grader at Shallotte Middle School, was a key member of West Brunswick's state championship teams in 1992 and 1993 on the offensive and defensive lines.

The son of Effie S. Brooks of Shallotte, Brooks also wrestled at

West Brunswick. He is studying chemical engineering and computer science at North Carolina A&T.

The Aggies, under head coach Bill Hayes, finished 8-3 last year. They are members of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, a Division 1-AA league.

The Aggies won the MEAC in 1991 and 1992 and were ranked as high as fifth in the nation last year in Division 1-AA.

Soccer Clinic Slated Sept. 10

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department will offer a free soccer clinic Saturday, Sept. 10, at Shallotte Middle School.

Boys and girls of all ages are invited to the clinic, which will run from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. It will be conducted by Fun & Finesse Soccer of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

A free clinic for local soccer coaches also will be held Sept. 10 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

For more information call Joe Rosselli at the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|----------|--------------------|
| Sept. 3 | at N.C. Central |
| Sept. 10 | Winston-Salem St. |
| Sept. 17 | at Appalachian St. |
| Sept. 24 | Jacksonville St. |
| Oct. 1 | Southern* |
| Oct. 8 | at Florida A&M |
| Oct. 15 | Morgan State |
| Oct. 22 | at Howard |
| Oct. 29 | Bethune-Cookman |
| Nov. 5 | at Delaware St. |
| Nov. 19 | South Carolina St. |

*at Indianapolis, Ind.

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