

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

Trojans Face Nationally-Ranked Dillon Wildcats In Home Opener

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's reputation as one of the best high school football teams in North Carolina will be put to the test this week when the Trojans face one of the undisputed kings of South Carolina.

The Dillon Wildcats, regarded as one of the top prep football teams in the country, will provide the opposition when the Trojans take the field at M.H. Rourk Stadium for their home opener Friday night.

Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. It will be the first time the schools have ever met on the gridiron.

West Brunswick, coming off a 28-7 win over South Brunswick, could not have found a tougher opponent for its first home game of the year.

Dillon entered the season ranked sixth in the South and 13th in the nation by USA Today. The Wildcats opened last week with a 34-0 win over Lakeview.

"This is the best team in the state of South Carolina based on everything I've heard," West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman said Monday.

"They are very, very talented. You don't come up with the reputation they have without having very good

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—West Brunswick Coach Yogi Hickman

football players," Hickman said.

Dillon has 15 starters back from last year, when the Wildcats finished 11-2 and advanced to the state 4A semifinals. Both losses in 1993 were to Hartsville, which went on to win the state 4A championship.

Quarterback Theo Baker passed for 1,070 yards and 21 touchdowns with no interceptions last season, while running back Stan Manning rushed for 1,826 yards and scored 23 TDs.

Dillon's offensive line averages 260 pounds, while the defense is led by end Marcus McLellan (6-4, 245), who had 97 tackles and 15 sacks a year ago.

"It's a great team. No doubt about it," Hickman said. "A friend of mine in Rockingham told me this is the finest team I will ever coach against."

Hickman describes Dillon as a physical team. "They just come up hard and smack you in the mouth. They don't play. There's no deception in what they do. They are the most physical team we'll play this year," he said.

That physical style could cause problems for West Brunswick. The Trojans lack depth, especially on the offensive and defensive lines.

Depth is not a problem for the Wildcats, who have 55 players on

their varsity squad. Dillon also carries 60 players on the junior varsity and 70 on its ninth-grade team.

"Dillon had a great tradition up until about 10 years ago," Hickman said. "Then they kind of went downhill, and now they've got it back up again."

Hickman said West Brunswick will not make many offensive changes from last week, when the Trojans ran the ball 36 times and attempted 19 passes.

"The basic philosophy will be the same. We're going to mix the run and pass," Hickman said. "We try to look where we can attack the defense and go with that."

Hickman said West Brunswick's offense will not be able to pound the ball straight ahead against Dillon. The Trojans will try to spread the field and work the corners.

"Defensively we need to be a little more active than we were the other night and do a better job of tackling," Hickman said.

West senior lineman Jonathan Faulk, who bruised his shoulder two weeks ago in a car accident and missed last week's game, may be ready to play Friday night.

"We certainly need him," Hickman said. "If we're going to be successful long term we need Jonathan Faulk. He's one of our

leaders, especially on defense." Senior Dexter Bass, a speedy defensive back/tailback/flanker, also could see action against Dillon. Bass has been out with a back injury.

Four other Waccamaw Conference teams are home this week. South Brunswick hosts East Duplin, Whiteville entertains Lumberton, South Columbus hosts Loris, S.C., and Clinton visits West Columbus.

East Columbus will play at South Robeson Friday, while Pender travels to James Kenan.

- LAST WEEK'S RESULTS**
- W. Brunswick 28, S. Brunswick 7
 - E. Columbus 20, Fairmont 0
 - SW Onslow 20, Pender 19
 - E. Bladen 24, Whiteville 7
 - S. Columbus 20, Bladenboro 18
 - W. Columbus 29, Laney 13

- FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES**
- Dillon (S.C.) at W. Brunswick
 - E. Duplin at S. Brunswick
 - E. Columbus at S. Robeson
 - Pender at James Kenan
 - Lumberton at Whiteville
 - Loris (S.C.) at S. Columbus
 - Clinton at W. Columbus
- All games start at 7:30 p.m.

WEST BRUNSWICK JV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Date.....Opponent
- Sept. 8.....at Hoggard
 - Sept. 15.....Mullins, S.C.
 - Sept. 22.....South Columbus*
 - Sept. 29.....Pender*
 - Oct. 6.....at Whiteville*
 - Oct. 13.....East Columbus*
 - Oct. 20.....at West Columbus*
 - Oct. 27.....OPEN
 - Nov. 3.....at South Brunswick*
- *Waccamaw Conference game
—All games start at 7 p.m.

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- West Brunswick at Pender in volleyball, 5 p.m.
- North Brunswick at Topsail in volleyball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick at West Columbus in volleyball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick at East Duplin in JV football, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- West Brunswick hosts Dillon, S.C., in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- S. Bruns. hosts East Duplin in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- West Brunswick at Whiteville in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- South Brunswick at East Columbus in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
- West Brunswick hosts Waccamaw Academy in soccer, 4 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in soccer, Northwest Township Park, 4:30 p.m.
- West Brunswick hosts Whiteville in volleyball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts East Columbus in volleyball, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- West Bruns. hosts East Columbus in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
 - South Brunswick hosts Whiteville in girls' tennis, 4 p.m.
 - West Brunswick and Dixon at Laney in volleyball, 5 p.m.
 - South Brunswick at Lejeune in soccer, 7 p.m.
- This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	O'all	PF	PA
W. Bruns.	0-0	1-0	28	7
S. Colum.	0-0	1-0	20	18
W. Colum.	0-0	1-0	29	13
E. Colum.	0-0	1-0	20	0
Whiteville	0-0	0-1	7	24
S. Bruns.	0-0	0-1	7	28
Pender	0-0	0-1	19	20

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West Brunswick Trojans -vs- Dillon, SC
Friday Night-7:30 PM at WBHS



Offensive Backs: 1st row (l-r): 2-Timmy Vaught, 34-Brian Gore, 21-Dexter Bass, 35-Aqui Bryant, 4-Cory Hill, 32-Sherrell Lance. 2nd row (l-r): 44-Michael Johnson, 10-Timothy Daniels, 5-Derek Frink, 46-James Morgan, 3-Eric Johnson, 45-Derrick Bland.

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