

Johnson Leads West Brunswick Past Hoggard

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's Eric Johnson did everything but hawk programs Friday night as the Trojans rebounded from their worst high school football loss in eight years with a 28-6 win over Wilmington Hoggard.

In the first quarter alone, Johnson recovered a fumble, intercepted a pass, ran for a touchdown and passed for another score. The senior quarterback/defensive back finished with 231 rushing and passing yards.

"He's just a great player," West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman said. "Great players will play and they'll make great plays. He's the kind of player who makes things happen when there's nothing there."

Johnson's strong play in the opening quarter was especially important with the Trojans coming off a 41-0 loss to Dillon, S.C. It was West's first shutout loss since 1990 and the Trojans' largest margin of defeat since 1986.

"This was a big game for us. You had to wonder about the kids' confidence after we got pounded last week," Hickman said after the game.

The first-year head coach said the Trojans played the opening quarter like a team that had been soundly beaten the week before. They were nervous and unsure of themselves.

"Until we got a couple of touchdowns I thought we were playing a little tentative," Hickman said.

After taking a 14-0 lead into the second quarter, though, West Brunswick's players seemed to regain some of the swagger that helped carry them to state championships in 1992 and 1993.

Early turnovers hurt the visiting 4A Vikings. After Hoggard picked up two first downs on the game's opening possession, running back Johmar Galloway fumbled and Johnson recovered at Hoggard's 35-yard line.

On third-and-17, Johnson rolled

left out of the pocket and took off when he couldn't find an open receiver. He eluded one defender and outran the rest on his way to a 42-yard touchdown.

Derek Frink's extra point gave West Brunswick a 7-0 lead with 8:25 left in the first quarter.

But Johnson was just getting started. He ended Hoggard's next possession with an over-the-shoulder interception of a pass by Aljuan Burnette.

A clipping penalty on the interception return moved the ball back to West Brunswick's 11-yard line, but the poor field position didn't seem to faze the Trojans.

West Brunswick covered the 89 yards in 14 plays. The drive included a key 7-yard run by senior fullback James Morgan on fourth-and-3 at the Hoggard 17.

A 10-yard touchdown run by senior tailback Timothy Daniels was negated by a holding penalty. But on the next play, Johnson gunned a 24-yard pass to Frink in the left corner of the end zone.

Johnson completed four of six passes for 53 yards during the drive, including the TD pass on the final play of the quarter. Frink's kick made the score 14-0.

West threatened to increase its lead late in the second quarter. A fumble recovery by linebacker Kwabena Green set up the Trojan offense at Hoggard's 45-yard line with 3:02 left in the half.

A 21-yard pass from Johnson to senior receiver Ty Brown moved the ball to the Vikings' 13 with 47 seconds remaining. But Hoggard's defense recovered a Frink fumble three plays later at its own 2-yard line to

end the drive.

West Brunswick's players came out of the locker room after halftime shouting "No Mercy" and opened the third quarter with a merciless, 10-play, 70-yard scoring drive.

The big plays were a 17-yard run by Morgan and a 16-yard pass reception by Brown. Morgan ended the drive with a 2-yard touchdown run, and Frink's kick gave the Trojans a 21-0 lead with 7:01 to play in the quarter.

After three punts, West's offense went back to work with 10:20 left in the game. A 39-yard pass from Johnson to Frink down the right sideline moved the ball to Hoggard's 34.

Three plays later, sophomore running back Derrick Bland made his first carry as a varsity football player memorable. Bland ran off left end and bulled his way into the end zone from 15 yards out.

With a 28-0 lead, West Brunswick's starting defense was resting on the sideline when Hoggard took over possession at its own 22-yard line with 3:59 remaining.

With a shutout in the works, however, West's starters returned to the field after Hoggard gained 30 yards on its first two plays.

An unsportsmanlike conduct call against the Trojans moved the ball to the 9-yard line, and Hoggard's Steve Allen scored three plays later on a 2-yard dive with 45 seconds to play.

The Vikings went for a two-point conversion, but West freshman Ahmed Green deflected Stan Hollingworth's pass in the end zone.

For the game, West's Johnson rushed nine times for 89 yards and completed 10 of 19 passes for 142 yards. Frink caught five passes for



TROJANS Sherrell Lance (32), Timothy Daniels (10) and Ahmed Green (22) tackle Hoggard's Aljuan Burnette.

78 yards, and Brown made three receptions for 53 yards.

As a team, West Brunswick rushed 35 times for 248 yards. Morgan rushed 12 times for 70 yards, and Daniels carried eight times for 58 yards.

Hoggard used its superior size along the offensive line to its advantage, rushing for 206 yards. Galloway rushed for 68 yards and Allen gained 66.

"They pushed us around on defense because of their size," Hickman said. "Hoggard's going to win some ball games."

"Their game plan was to line up two tight ends and knock us backward, and I probably would have

done the same thing if we had their size up front."

Hickman said West Brunswick's coaching staff, which includes five new members this season, is starting to get a feel for what the Trojans can and cannot do.

"We're getting comfortable with what our kids are good at. It was hit and miss for a while," he said. "We're getting there. It's going to take a while."

West Brunswick improved its record to 2-1 with the win and will travel to Mullins, S.C., this Friday night. Hoggard, which fell to 1-2, plays this week at James Kenan.

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WEST TAILBACK TIMOTHY DANIELS rushed for 58 yards Friday as the Trojans beat Hoggard 28-6.

WAKE FOREST 12, ASU 10

Cracked Ribs Sideline Lance For Appalachian State Opener

BY DOUG RUTTER

Appalachian State University head football coach Jerry Moore didn't make many friends among the Mountaineer faithful Saturday night. In fact, he may have lost a bunch.

With ASU trailing Wake Forest 12-10 and 51 seconds left in the game, Moore elected to try a 42-yard field goal instead of leaving his offense in on fourth-and-inches at Wake's 25-yard line.

Jay Sutton's field goal attempt fell way short, allowing the host Demon Deacons to hold on for their first win of the season before 25,067 fans at Groves Stadium.

Aldwin Lance, a former West Brunswick High School football standout, was among the Appalachian State players asking the coaches for an explanation after the season-opening loss.

"They were saying we didn't have any more timeouts," a disappointed Lance said after emerging from Bridger Field House.

"Everybody was kind of upset because we had one yard, less than one yard. I don't think they could have stopped us on that. We're kind of upset, but that's something for us to learn from."

The two-time Brunswick County high school football player of the year saw limited action Saturday because of a rib injury suffered in the Mountaineers' final preseason scrimmage.

The 5-foot-7, 174-pound junior fullback should get his first significant playing time of the season Saturday afternoon when Appalachian State hosts North Carolina A&T.

"I wanted to play, but two weeks ago I cracked two ribs. That kept me limited," Lance said.

"I didn't get any contact the last two weeks and tonight my running back coach (Tim Horton) told me that he was kind of scared of me taking a shot to it this week. He said next week I'm going to get my chance to go out there."

Lance did enter the game briefly in the first half, during the Mountaineers' only touchdown drive, but he did not carry the ball.

"He put me out there just to get a feel right now. I kind of knew I wasn't going to play that much because of the injury. I'll be ready next



ALDWIN LANCE spent much of Saturday's Appalachian State-Wake Forest game on the sideline due to cracked ribs. Lance is expected to play more this weekend when the Mountaineers host North Carolina A&T.

week," Lance said.

As for the Wake Forest game, Lance said he and his teammates feel they let a win slip through their fingers.

The Mountaineers led 10-0 late in the second quarter before Wake's Bill Hollows kicked four field goals, including the game-winning, 47-yarder with 4:01 remaining.

"We basically dominated the

whole game. Penalties stalled our offense and kept their offense alive and their drives alive," Lance said.

Appalachian outplayed Wake Forest in terms of total yards (296 to 274), first downs (16 to 13) and time of possession (33:12 to 26:48). But two second-half fumbles hurt the Mountaineers.

Wake also benefited from a con-

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