

TROJAN COACH YOGI HICKMAN talks with players during a timeout in Friday night's game at East Columbus.

Hobbled Trojans Survive Storm At Gators' Swamp

BY DOUG RUTTER

Make no mistake about it. This was not one for the archives.

On a night where fumbles were as plentiful as mud puddles, West Brunswick did just enough Friday to manage a 15-6 high school football win over East Columbus at soggy Lake Waccamaw.

Weather was a major factor. Rain started falling on the already-drenched field a half-hour before game time and never let up. A strong wind whipped through the soaked stadium all night.

"Any time you get in a situation like that you're just happy to win and you don't ask questions," West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman said of his team's sixth straight victory.

Despite playing without four senior starters, West Brunswick improved to 4-0 in the Waccamaw Conference and 7-1 overall. East Columbus fell to 0-3 in league play and 1-6 for the year.

Starters James Morgan, Ty Brown and Brian Gore did not suit up for West Brunswick, and Timothy "Salt" Daniels sprained his knee in

the first quarter and did not return.

Morgan sat out with a pulled groin muscle, Brown was nursing an injured shoulder and Gore missed the game due to a family emergency.

With the rain and wind deflating West Brunswick's usually-potent passing attack, the Trojans may have missed Morgan more than anyone. The 195-pound fullback's powerful running would have been ideal under the circumstances.

Without Morgan and the equally-bullish Daniels in the backfield, West Brunswick did what it could with reserves Derrick Bland, Timmy Vaught and Sherrell Lance.

"Salt and James are the kind of big backs you need on a night like that," Hickman said. "We just don't have anybody else who can do what they can do."

Hickman said the 15-6 final score in a game the Trojans were expected to win easily was the result of three factors: East Columbus played well, the weather was an equalizer and West missed its four seniors.

"In that situation you rely on your kicking game and defense. I thought we did very well in both of those ar-

eas," Hickman said. "We did a good job holding on to the ball in those conditions and Derek (Frink) did a good job kicking the ball."

The teams combined for eight turnovers, including five by East Columbus. The Gators fumbled seven times and lost four, while West Brunswick lost two of three fumbles. Each team had one interception.

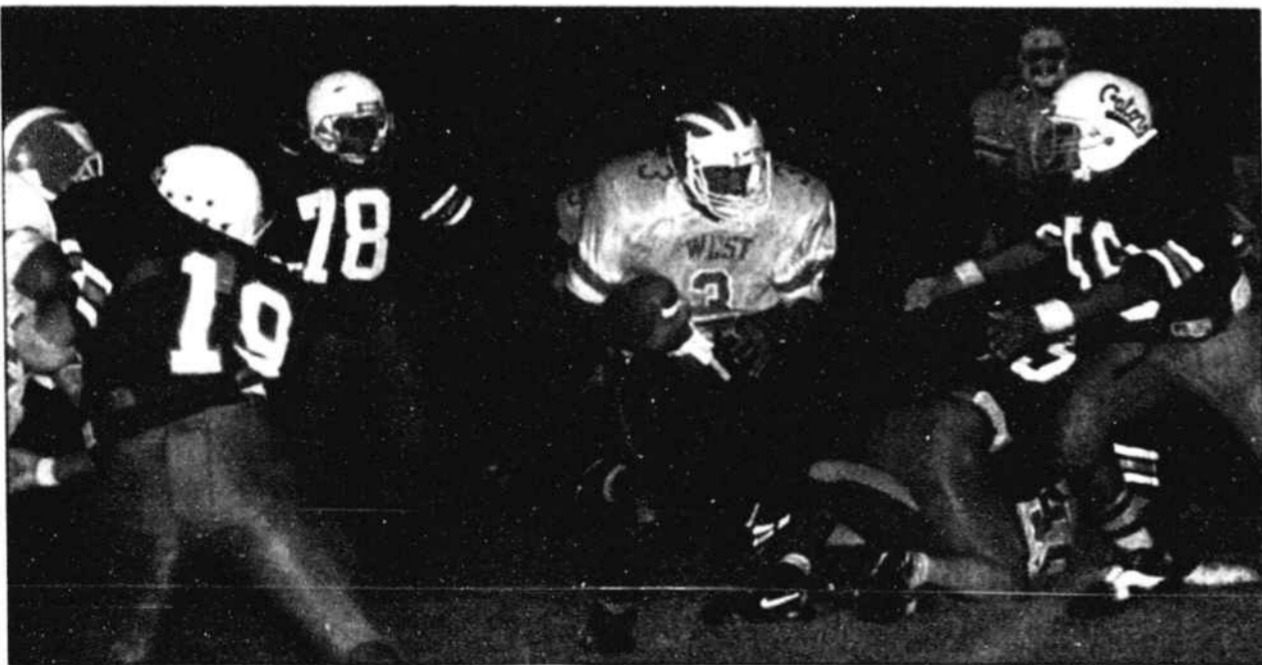
After gaining just 9 yards on its first three possessions, West Brunswick broke through on the final play of the first quarter.

Senior quarterback Eric Johnson ran around the left end on an option keeper and sprinted 53 yards down the sideline for his 10th rushing touchdown of the season.

The Trojans lined up to kick the extra point, but Johnson rolled right after receiving the snap and passed to Vaught for a two-point conversion and an 8-0 lead.

In a game filled with mistakes, East Columbus made the biggest on the opening play of the second half.

The Gators started in a deep hole after Frink's kickoff skipped off an (See TROJANS, Following Page)



WEST BRUNSWICK QUARTERBACK ERIC JOHNSON (3) finds a crack in the East Columbus defense.

West Wins Share Of Waccamaw Tennis Title

West Brunswick wrapped up a share of the Waccamaw Conference girls' tennis championship last week with a pair of 8-1 wins over South Brunswick and East Columbus.

The Lady Trojans defeated South Brunswick last Thursday to finish the conference season with an 11-1 record and tied for first place with Whiteville.

The conference championship is the third straight for West Brunswick, which won its last nine league matches and finished the regular season 11-3 overall.

In the South Brunswick match, West Brunswick got singles wins from Blair Milligan, Jessica Robertson, Allison Hardee, Jacqui Moll and Amanda Reeves. Ginger Hegler was the lone winner for South.

Winning doubles matches for the Lady Trojans were the teams of Milligan and Robertson, Yabi Lemon and Moll, and Hardee and Tracy Kirtley.

West Brunswick won all six singles matches and two out of three doubles matches in its 8-1 victory over East Columbus last Tuesday. Doubles winners included the team of Erica Cumbee and Julia Fort.

West Brunswick was scheduled to open the state 3A

dual team playoffs Tuesday at home against Reidsville, the second-seeded team out of the Triad Conference.

Coach Rahn Adams will take the top six seeds—Milligan, Lemon, Robertson, Hardee, Moll and Kirtley—to the Eastern 3A Regional tournament Friday and Saturday in Wilson.

South Brunswick Results

Singles: Milligan (WB) def. Galloway, 6-4, 6-0; Hegler (SB) def. Lemon, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6; Robertson (WB) def. Worley, 6-0, 6-0; Hardee (WB) def. Brinson, 7-5, 6-2; Moll (WB) def. Porterfield, 6-2, 7-6; Reeves (WB) def. Rogers, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

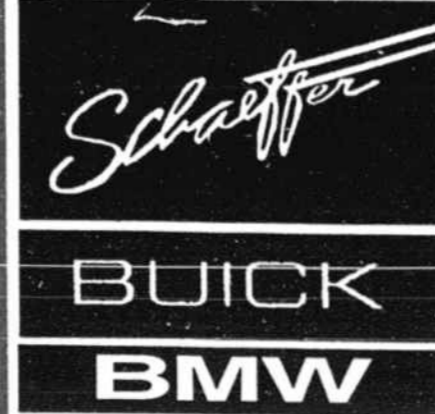
Doubles: Milligan/Robertson (WB) def. Galloway/Hegler, 8-3; Lemon/Moll (WB) def. Worley/Brinson, 8-6; Hardee/Kirtley (WB) def. Porterfield/Powell, 8-3.

East Columbus Results

Singles: Milligan (WB) def. Bray, 8-2; Lemon (WB) def. Young, 8-1; Robertson (WB) def. Blanks, 8-0; Hardee (WB) def. Robinson, 8-3; Moll (WB) def. Graham, 8-0; Reeves (WB) def. Murphy, 8-0.

Doubles: Milligan/Robertson (WB) def. Bray/Graham, 8-1; Cumbee/Fort (WB) def. Young/Blanks, 8-3; Murphy/Greene (EC) def. Redwine/Gregory, 8-4.

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