

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

Trojans Seek Homecoming Win Over West Columbus

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's football team can clinch a berth in the state playoffs and move one giant step closer to the Waccamaw Conference championship with a homecoming win Friday night.

For a change, though, the homecoming opponent won't be a patsy. The West Columbus Vikings come to Shallotte with a 5-2 record and very much in need of a conference win.

West Brunswick (4-0 conference, 7-1 overall) beat East Columbus 15-6 last Friday for its sixth straight win. West Columbus (2-1, 5-2) had a four-game winning streak snapped Monday night in a 21-12 loss to South Columbus.

The Trojans and Vikings will square off Friday at 7:30 p.m. at M.H. Rourke Stadium. West Columbus hasn't won in Shallotte since 1982.

"I think West Columbus has got a good team. They're the kind of team that can give us some problems because they have a power running game," said West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman.

West Brunswick is no slouch either. The Trojans are the fifth-ranked 3A team in North Carolina and they've won their last eight homecoming games by a combined margin of 290-47.

Whether or not the Trojans make it nine happy homecomings in a row will depend in large part on the team's health come Friday night.

West played last Friday without four senior starters, including two-way starters James Morgan and Timothy "Salt" Daniels.

Morgan, who plays fullback and linebacker, sat out with a groin injury. Daniels, a tailback and cornerback, sprained his knee in the first quarter against East Columbus and did not return.

Also sitting out the East Columbus game was wide receiver Ty Brown with a shoulder injury and cornerback Brian Gore, who missed

the game because of a family emergency.

Hickman said Monday he expects Morgan to return to the lineup Friday against West Columbus, but he was unsure about the others. With only 23 players on the active roster, the Trojans can't afford many injuries.

"If we get our guys back we've got a chance to win," Hickman said. "If we lose one person we've got a problem. If we've got four out we've got monumental problems. We might be able to overcome one, but four senior starters out is too many."

West Columbus has conference wins over East Columbus (22-7) and South Brunswick (32-21). Coach Wayne Williamson's Vikings have non-conference wins over Lancy (29-13), Fairmont (37-6) and East Montgomery (47-12).

Besides South Columbus, the only other blemish on West Columbus' record is a 28-0 loss to Clinton in the second week of the season. The undefeated Dark Horses are ranked first in the state 2A class.

West Columbus is led by senior Howard McCollum (6-0, 235), a major college prospect who starts at fullback and linebacker, and senior linemen Maris Singletary and Jason Fowler.

McCollum has rushed for over 1,000 yards each of the last two years and is on pace to do it again in 1993. Through seven games, he has rushed for 908 yards.

"He's a terrific player, probably the best running back we've seen this year other than the guy from Dillon (Stan Manning)," Hickman said. "I feel pretty good about our chances if we can keep him under control."

For the Trojans to control McCollum, they will probably need a big game from junior middle linebacker Kwabena Green. McCollum is a strong back who gains much of his yardage up the middle.

West Brunswick has not lost since

"I think West Columbus has got a good team. They're the kind of team that can give us some problems because they have a power running game."

—Trojan Coach Yogi Hickman

Sept. 2. Since the 41-0 loss to Dillon (S.C.), the Trojans have outscored their opponents 187-51.

The Trojans should have no problem getting motivated for Friday's game after last year's controversial 7-6 loss to the Vikings at Cerro Gordo.

West Brunswick dominated West Columbus statistically. The Trojans had 299 yards of offense and held the Vikings to 124 yards, but West Brunswick was victimized by three fumbles.

Trailing 7-6, the Trojans drove the length of the field in the final minutes before Derek Frink attempted a 26-yard field goal with 1:40 left. Game officials ruled the kick wide left, but most observers thought it was good.

The outcome left West Brunswick, West Columbus and White-

ville tied for the Waccamaw Conference lead, and the three teams ended up sharing the league championship with 5-1 records.

"Our kids remember they lost to them last year and it was controversial," Hickman said Monday. "If we can get people healthy our kids will definitely be ready to play."

Last year's loss at Cerro Gordo not only cost West Brunswick the outright conference title, it also snapped the Trojans' seven-game winning streak against West Columbus.

The Trojans and Vikings have met on the gridiron every year since West Brunswick opened in 1972. The Trojans lead the series 14-8.

West Brunswick won the first four football games between the schools, but West Columbus won the next four. The Vikings' 78-0 win

over the Trojans in 1979 is the worst loss in West Brunswick football history.

The series was tied at 7-7 before West Brunswick reeled off seven straight wins starting in 1986.

West Brunswick can lock up the Waccamaw Conference's only berth in the state 3A playoffs with a win Friday.

The Trojans have been to the playoffs each of the last three years. They were the state 2A runner-up in 1991, state 2A champions in 1992 and state 3A champions in 1993.

West Columbus, Whiteville and South Columbus are battling for the two state playoff berths that will be awarded to the Waccamaw Conference's 2A teams this year.

Whiteville stands at 3-1 in the conference, West Columbus is 2-1 and South Columbus is 2-2. Whiteville and West Columbus will play Oct. 28.

After this week, West Brunswick has two regular-season games remaining. The Trojans travel to Lumberton next Friday for a non-conference contest and close out the schedule at home Nov. 4 against league rival South Brunswick.

In other Waccamaw Conference games this week, South Brunswick

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	O'all	PF	PA
W. Bruns.	4-0	7-1	215	99
Whiteville	3-1	5-3	176	126
W. Colum.	2-1	5-2	179	108
S. Colum.	2-2	5-3	168	154
S. Bruns.	1-1	2-5	136	187
E. Colum.	0-3	1-6	65	139
Pender	0-3	0-7	73	252

(1-2, 2-6) will host Pender (0-3, 0-7) and South Columbus (2-2, 5-3) will entertain East Columbus (0-3, 1-6).

Whiteville (3-1, 5-3) is idle Friday night.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

- W. Brunswick 15, E. Columbus 6
- Whiteville 29, S. Brunswick 27
- S. Columbus 21, W. Columbus 12

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES

- W. Columbus at W. Brunswick
- Pender at S. Brunswick
- E. Columbus at S. Columbus
- Whiteville idle

—All games start at 7:30 p.m.

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HOME COMING

Trojans -vs- West Columbus

Friday Night-7:30 PM at WBHS




Trojan Defensive Line

Front row (l-r): 65-Kelly Wooten, 55-Jonathan Faulk, 53-Walt Sellers, 11-Al Johnson, 62-Clifford Gore.
Back row (l-r): 52-Brian McDowell, 67-Brian Nealy, 40-Ty Brown, 42-Jamal Stanley.

Trojan Defensive Backs

Front row (l-r): 2-Timmy Vaught, 35-Aqui Bryant, 21-Dexter Bass, 22-Ahmed Green, 34-Brian Gore. Back row (l-r): Coach Mike Alderson, 4-Cory Hill, 80-Eric Hewett, 5-Derek Frink, 3-Eric Johnson, 10-Timothy Daniels






FORD

Go Trojans!
Best of Luck

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