

Streaking Trojans Slam South Brunswick 34-14

BY DOUG RUTTER

Quarterback Eric Johnson rushed for 100 yards and three touchdowns Friday as West Brunswick wrapped up the high school football regular season with a 34-14 win over visiting South Brunswick.

Johnson, one of nine West Brunswick seniors recognized in pre-game ceremonies at Rourk Stadium, led a potent running attack that amassed 266 yards against the Cougars.

Fullback James Morgan rushed for 82 yards and tailback Ty Brown gained 70 yards as the Trojans closed out the regular season with a record of 6-0 in the Waccamaw Conference and 10-1 overall.

"I thought we totally dominated the game with the exception of a couple plays," West Brunswick head coach Yogi Hickman said.

"We got tired in the third quarter, but when they got their backs to the wall they did what they had to do."

West Brunswick's defense continued its recent strong play, holding South's offense to 25 total yards in the first half and 149 for the game.

Senior defensive tackle Jonathan Faulk had two quarterback sacks

THE YARDSTICK	
W. Bruns.	S. Bruns.
20.....First Downs.....9	
38-266.....Rushing.....36-139	
5-11-54.....Passing.....1-10-10	
2-2.....Fumbles-Lost.....1-0	
1.....Ints. Thrown.....2	
1-34.....Punts(No-Avg).....5-32	
7-75.....Penalties-Yards..10-107	
Score By Quarters	
W. Bruns.	13 6 7 8—34
S. Bruns.	0 0 14 0—14

and senior end Kelly Wooten had one sack. Aquil Bryant and Jamal Stanley each had an interception.

With the win over its county rival, West Brunswick concluded its first undefeated conference season since 1975 and won its first outright conference championship since 1988.

The Trojans, four-time county champions, also set a new school record with their ninth consecutive win and won 10 regular-season games for the first time in school history.

West Brunswick jumped out to a 19-0 lead in the first half, but South

Brunswick pulled to within 26-14 midway through the third quarter. The Trojans responded with a defensive stand inside their own 10-yard line and then drove 90 yards for the final score.

The 27th meeting between West and South looked like a laugher early as West's Bryant intercepted an Adam Kaufhold pass on the first play from scrimmage to set up the Trojan offense at South's 28-yard line.

Johnson passed 18 yards to Eric Hewett on the next play, and Johnson dove into the end zone from 1 yard out three plays later. Derek Frink's extra point gave the Trojans a 7-0 lead just 1 minute, 44 seconds, into the game.

West bumped its lead to 13-0 less than five minutes later when running back Sherrell Lance busted through the middle of the line for an 11-yard touchdown run. Frink's PAT attempt was wide right.

Following the third of five, first-half punts for South, West's offense put together one of its longest drives of the year. The Trojans took over at their own 8 and marched 92 yards in nine plays.

Johnson, who has rushed for 14 touchdowns this season and passed for eight, capped the drive with a 35-yard TD run on an option keeper. An attempted two-point conversion run failed, and West led 19-0 at the half.

South Brunswick's defense revived the Cougars' upset hopes early in the third quarter when line-backer O.J. Morris scooped up a fumbled pitch and ran 10 yards for a touchdown.

Jamie Bruner's extra point cut West Brunswick's lead to 19-7 with 11:05 left in the third quarter.

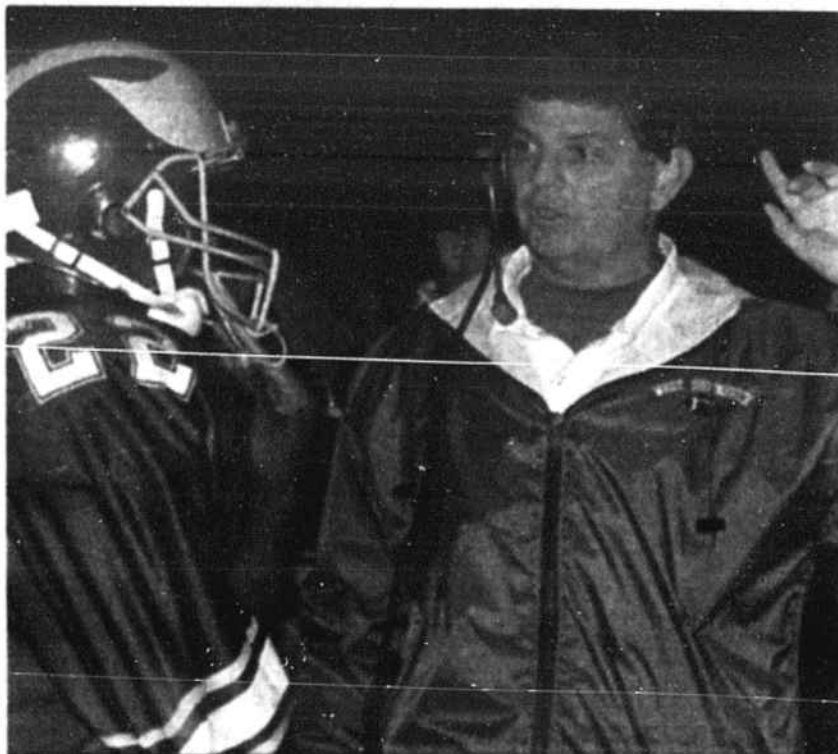
West Brunswick took the ensuing kickoff and drove 60 yards in eight plays. Johnson's 26-yard run and two 15-yard penalties against the Cougars set up a 2-yard touchdown run by Brown.

Frink's kick gave the Trojans a 26-7 lead with 6:35 to play in the third quarter.

South Brunswick responded with a four-play, 59-yard scoring drive which ended with a 48-yard touchdown run by Morris. The senior running back was held to 19 yards rushing in the first half but finished with



TAILBACK TY BROWN (40) rushed for 70 yards and scored a touchdown for the Trojans. Making the tackle for South Brunswick is Kevin Brown.



WEST BRUNSWICK COACH YOGI HICKMAN talks with Ahmed Green during Friday night's 34-14 win over South Brunswick.

123 on 26 carries.

Trailing 26-14, the Cougars got a big break when they recovered West Brunswick's second fumble of the quarter at the Trojan 32-yard line.

South moved the ball inside the West Brunswick 10 behind five straight running plays before the Trojan defense stiffened. West threw Morris for a 1-yard loss on first-and-goal at the 9, and three straight Kevin Brown passes fell incomplete.

West Brunswick took over at its own 10-yard line with 11:48 left in the game and bullied its way down the field. Hickman called 10 consecutive running plays, and Johnson scored from 1 yard out with 6:49 remaining.

Hickman said later he was impressed with his team's defensive stand and 90-yard drive at such a crucial point in the game.

"They got challenged and they came through and then they took the ball 90 yards. That was impressive. It really was," he said.

"It was all done on the ground with Eric, James and Ty doing the work and the guys up front just gutted it out and did a good job. That was a really impressive drive, lot of character involved in that," Hickman said.

"That was a gutty, gutty drive. That was a character drive. Bad teams don't make that drive. That's 90 yards. We did that all on the ground too. That's something we haven't done all year."

West Brunswick, the defending state 3A champion and 1992 state 2A champion, was scheduled to open the 1994 3A playoffs Friday night at home against Eastern Randolph (9-2).

South Brunswick, which has now lost seven straight to West Brunswick, finished 2-4 in the Waccamaw Conference and 3-8 overall. West had opened the season with a 28-7 non-conference win over South.

"South is really improved," Hickman said. "That's not the same football team we played in August. They found out what they did well and they did it. I was impressed with

their improvement. We knew we had a battle on our hands."

Scoring Summary

- (WB) Johnson, 1-yard run (Frink kick)
- (WB) Lance, 11-yard run (kick failed)
- (WB) Johnson, 35-yard run (run failed)
- (SB) Morris, 10-yard fumble return (Bruner kick)
- (WB) Brown, 2-yard run (Frink kick)
- (SB) Morris, 48-yard run (Bruner kick)
- (WB) Johnson, 1-yard run (Hewett run)

Individual Rushing

- South Brunswick: Morris, 26-123; I. Brown, 4-14; K. Brown, 4-11; Kaufhold, 2-minus 8.
- West Brunswick: Johnson, 13-100; Morgan, 12-82; Brown, 11-70; Lance, 2-14.

Individual Passing

- South Brunswick: K. Brown, 1-6-10; Kaufhold, 0-4-0.
- West Brunswick: Johnson, 5-10-54; Frink, 0-1-0.

Individual Receiving

- South Brunswick: Peterson, 1-10.
- West Brunswick: Hewett, 2-22; Brown, 1-18; A. Green, 1-13; Frink, 1-5.

Bengals Boot West From Soccer Playoffs

BY DOUG RUTTER

Fuquay-Varina scored two second-half goals to beat West Brunswick 4-2 in the opening round of the state 3A high school soccer playoffs last Tuesday in Shallotte.

The Trojans, behind goals from seniors Chris Payne and Gabe Cooper, battled to a 2-2 halftime tie before succumbing to the Bengals in the second half at Rourk Stadium.

"They deserved to win," West Brunswick coach Teak Hemphill said. "In the second half they passed the ball better than we did. They made better adjustments at halftime, and I think that was the difference."

Despite the opening-round playoff loss, Hemphill said he was pleased with his club's effort against Fuquay-Varina, the second-place team out of the Triangle Conference.

"That's pretty good against a school like that. It was shown that at least we can compete with anybody," Hemphill said.

"They outplayed us as far as passing the ball. Their defense stepped up a notch in the second half and shut us down. We had a couple of chances there and couldn't capitalize."

Said Fuquay-Varina assistant coach Rob Morrison, "I thought West Brunswick had a really good team. They were very strong defensively. We had the ball in their end a lot but weren't able to get off a lot of good shots."

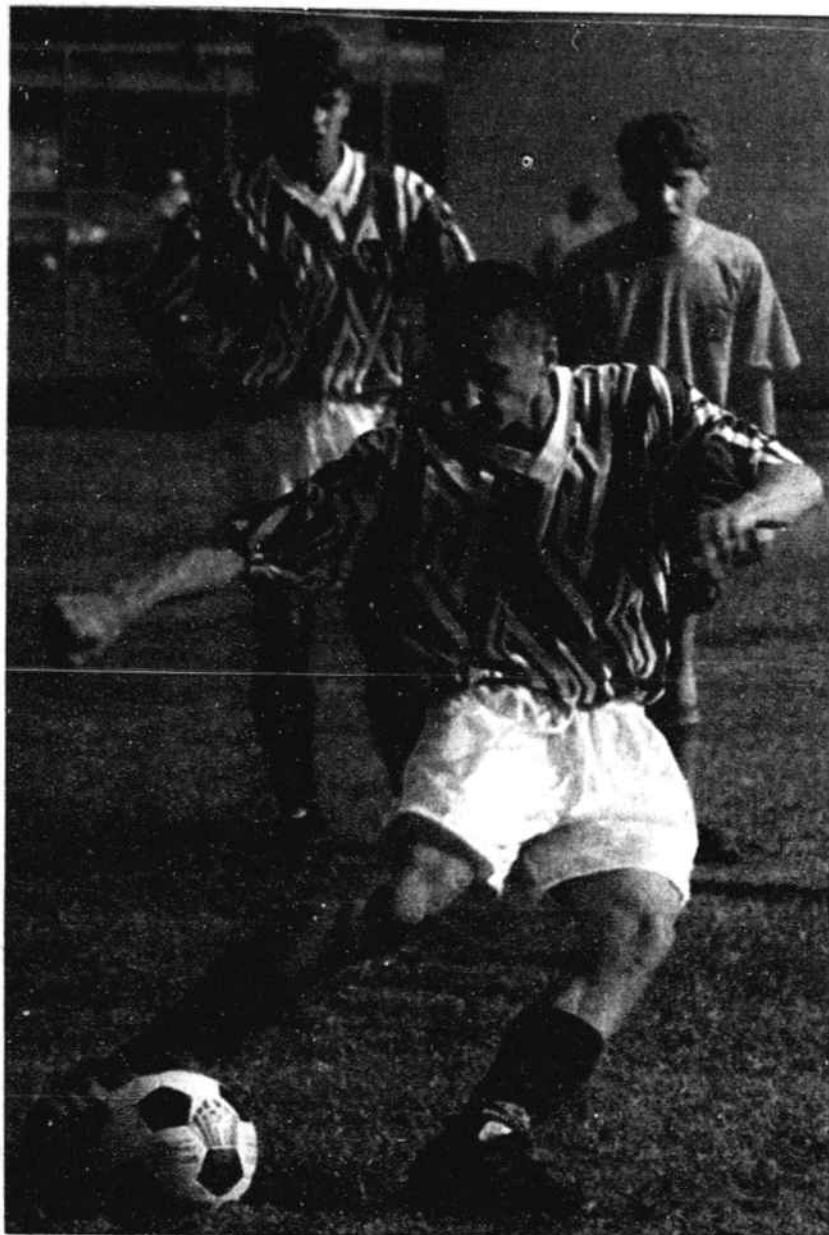
West Brunswick used its superior quickness to its advantage in the first half, but the Trojans grew tired in the final 40 minutes and were not able to mount much offense.

The three-time Brunswick County and Waccamaw Conference champions opened the scoring about seven minutes into the match when Payne unleashed a left-footer into the Bengal net.

But before the buzzing on the West Brunswick sideline had stopped, Fuquay-Varina came back to tie the score. West goalie Jay McRoberts made the initial save on a cross from the left wing, but the Bengals scored on the rebound.

The visitors moved ahead 2-1 four minutes later when a hard crossing pass from the left wing accidentally bounced off a Trojan defender and rolled into the net.

With about eight minutes left in the first half, West Brunswick tied



CHRIS PAYNE has led West Brunswick to three straight county and conference soccer championships. Payne has scored 51 goals since 1992 and the Trojans have put together a three-year record of 30-7-5.

the score at 2-2 on Cooper's goal.

Fuquay-Varina pulled ahead 3-2 early in the second half and tacked on an insurance goal on a penalty kick with about 10 minutes left to advance to the second round of the playoffs against Havelock.

James Maumford scored both second-half goals for Fuquay-Varina (17-6). Gino Anacleto and Richard Rattray also scored for the Bengals, who won their first playoff match in

school history.

West Brunswick, still looking for its first playoff win, missed senior halfback Cameron Kinlaw. He was declared ineligible for the match after being ejected from the Trojans' final regular-season contest.

"It hurt us a lot without Cameron," Hemphill said. "That's just somebody big and strong in the middle who would have helped."

This was the third straight year

that West Brunswick was eliminated in the first round of the state playoffs. The Trojans lost to Dixon 9-1 in 1992 and Northwest Guilford 7-1 last year.

"I'm disappointed that we lost, but it was a better showing than the last two years. It shows how far we've come as far as our program," Hemphill noted. "I was hoping the seniors would win a playoff game before they left."

Hemphill will lose 11 seniors to graduation this spring and will need to rebuild next year around returning players such as Jeremie Varnam, Zack Hicks, Christian Tompkins, Alex Karagiannis and Adam Nixon.

"I'm going to try to get some of these younger kids to a camp this year. If they put their mind to it I think they'll do just fine," he said.

"The good thing about the kids we have coming back is they all have a good attitude. They all do well in school. They have their act together."

Hemphill said West's defense—comprised of fullbacks John Branning, Tony Shreve, Scott Summerfield, Cameron Jones and Neil Warren and McRoberts in goal—showed a lot of improvement during the season.

Offensively, the Trojans (12-3) were led by Payne with 23 goals, Cooper with nine and Kinlaw with six.

Payne has scored 51 goals the last three years to lead West Brunswick to an overall record of 30-7-5.

The center forward made a good impression on Fuquay-Varina's coaches. "He was one of the better forwards we've seen all year. He's very quick. He's very good," Morrison said.

Hemphill said West Bruns. would benefit if the Wac. Conference's other schools started soccer programs. South Brunswick is the only other league school with a team.

"It's shown in our school that having a soccer program is not going to take away from football," he said. "To me it's getting more kids off the streets and having them do something productive."

Hemphill said he appreciated all of the parents who attended matches this year, especially Mr. and Mrs. Billy Russ for donating uniforms and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lassiter for donating T-shirts.

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