



DEREK FRINK, a 6-foot-5-inch junior, could be one of the keys to West Brunswick's success this season.

SEASON OPENER FRIDAY NIGHT

Lay Aims To Restore West Brunswick Trojans Winning Basketball Tradition

BY DOUG RUTTER

For a high school steeped in basketball tradition like West Brunswick, the folks in Shallotte have found three straight losing seasons mighty hard to swallow.

West Brunswick's boys put together 13 consecutive winning seasons from 1973 to 1985, but the Trojans have fallen on hard times lately with only three winning seasons in the last nine years.

Which brings us to Emmett Lay. The former basketball star at Tabor City High School who went on to play at N.C. State University hopes to restore the once-strong cage tradition that put West Brunswick on the map.

From the time the school opened in 1972 through the end of the 1978-79 season, West's basketball record was an amazing 153-25. It was 20 years ago this winter that the Trojans captured the state 3A championship.

"I think the community wants a good basketball team back here. The school tradition here was built on great basketball back in the '70s," said Lay, hired as boys' basketball coach last summer to replace Charlie Stevens.

"We're going to try to re-establish that tradition here, and I think we have the potential to do that," Lay said. "Our faculty and staff and the other coaches here are ready for good basketball again."

Lay, whose last job as head basketball coach was at Wallace-Rose Hill in 1990, has taken the reigns of a West Brunswick team with an endless supply of athletic ability.

Returning from last year's varsity squad are seniors Eric Johnson, Timothy "Salt" Daniels and Jonathan Williams and juniors Derek Frink and Brandon Hill.

Newcomers include senior Jonathon Fisher, juniors Jamal Stanley, Dominique Hewett and Ricky Hill and freshmen Ahmed Green and Aquil Bryant.

Seven of the 11 basketball players also played on the West Brunswick football team that won this year's Waccamaw Conference championship.

Lay said he expects everyone on the team to play every game and nine of the kids could play at least 12 minutes per contest.

"This is going to be a team where it doesn't really matter who starts for us," he said. "I see all 11 of these guys playing, and I'm talking possibly every quarter."

Lay plans to use different combinations of players depending on the type of defense opponents use.

In general, he hopes to provide an exciting brand of basketball fans would likely see from North Carolina, Duke or Georgetown. West will play man-to-man defense and a motion offense predicated on the pass, not the dribble.

"We're going to try to be very disciplined in terms of defense and ball possession and rebounding. On offense we're going to let the kids play and have fun," he said.



NEW COACH EMMETT LAY works with freshman Ahmed Green during a recent practice.

"I feel like people will enjoy watching us play offense. We'll be playing up-tempo. But at the same time we want to make it run and shoot, not run and gun."

Lay says it will be important for West Brunswick to convert turnovers and fast-break opportunities into points because the team that runs the most halfcourt offense usually loses.

"With our personnel we have some athleticism, and we're going to push the ball up the floor," he said.

Lay said the three things he's been emphasizing the most in practice are taking care of the ball, defense and rebounding.

"Right now we don't take very good care of the ball and we don't rebound as well as we should. I think we're going to be able to play pretty good defense and be a pretty good team before all is said and done," he said.

"This team has been notorious over the last few years for fouling people and putting people on the

line. We're going to play with much more discipline," he added.

The Trojans tied for third in the Waccamaw Conference last season with a record of 5-7. West finished 10-16 overall and advanced to the second round of the state 3A playoffs.

Despite the playoff appearance, West hasn't had a winning season

since Ricky Daniels' senior year in 1991. Daniels went on to star at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College and is entering his senior season at N.C. State University.

West Brunswick will open the season Friday night at North Brunswick. The Hoggard Vikings visit Shallotte next Tuesday for the Trojans' home opener.

Decker Leads Men's League

Terry Decker rolled the high game of 289 and high series of 795 in the Men's Classic League Nov. 21 at Brunswick County Bowling Center.

The second-place team, JDGAF, had the high team game of 1115 and high team series of 3284.

Men's Classic League Standings As Of Nov. 21

Team	Wins	Losses
Seafood Barn	40	8
JDGAF Again	33	15
Joyner Electric	28	20
Strickly Bizness	27	21
Bowlers Anon.	26	22
Williams Carpet	26	22
Furious Finish	25	23
Spoilers	24	24
Coastal Vinyl	24	24
Fearsome Five	24	24
Dream Team	23	25
BC Bowling Center	21	27
HB True Value	21	27
Kay-Burn Builders	15	33
Cal. Seafood Hut	15	33
Bet A Dollar	12	36

WEST BRUNSWICK BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

TEAM	OPPONENT
Dec. 2	at North Brunswick
Dec. 6	Hoggard
Dec. 8	at Laney (4:30)
Dec. 13	at Hoggard (4:30)
Dec. 16	North Brunswick
Dec. 28-29	Boys Holiday Tourn. at State College, Pa.
Dec. 28-30	Girls Holiday Tourn. at South Brunswick
Jan. 3	Laney
Jan. 6	South Brunswick
Jan. 10	at South Columbus
Jan. 13	at Pender
Jan. 17	Whiteville
Jan. 20	at East Columbus
Jan. 24	at West Columbus
Jan. 27	OPEN
Jan. 31	New Hanover
Feb. 3	South Columbus
Feb. 7	Pender
Feb. 10	at Whiteville
Feb. 14	East Columbus
Feb. 17	West Columbus
Feb. 22	at New Hanover (4:30)
Feb. 24	at South Brunswick

—Games start at 5 p.m. unless noted

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