

SPORTING SCENE

West's Eric Johnson Preparing Shrine Bowl

West Brunswick High School senior Eric Johnson is in Charlotte this week preparing for the 58th annual Shrine Bowl to be held Saturday afternoon in Memorial Stadium.

The all-star game pits 35 of the best high school football players from North Carolina against 35 of the best from South Carolina.

Eric, selected to the Tar Heel squad as a defensive back, helped lead West Brunswick to the Waccamaw Conference championship and an overall record of a 10-2 this fall.

A starter at quarterback and safety for the last two years, Eric was one of the reasons West Brunswick won consecutive state football championships in 1992 and 1993.

After all we've seen him do the last few years, it would be unusual if Eric didn't do something spectacular during Saturday's Shrine Bowl.

WECT-TV in Wilmington, WRAL-TV in Raleigh and WBTW-TV in Florence are among nine television stations that will broadcast the game live starting at 12:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, Eric is missing two West Brunswick basketball games this week against Hoggard and North Brunswick.

It will be interesting to see how the Trojans react without their primary ball-handler and second-leading scorer.

Eric gives the Trojans a lot more than 18.3 points per game. He gives them a certain swagger and confidence that every team needs.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



Daniels Starts Strong

West Brunswick basketball legend Ricky Daniels is off to a good start in his senior season with the N.C. State University hoops team.

A 6-foot-6-inch forward, Daniels started each of the Wolfpack's first four games and averaged 7.5 points and 3.3 rebounds per contest.

Through four games Daniels was shooting 50 percent from the field (14-28) and 67 percent from the free throw line (2-3). He had five steals and four blocked shots.

Daniels, who played two years at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College before transferring to N.C. State in 1993, averaged 5.6 points and 4.5 rebounds per game last season.

Jones Resigns

The Waccamaw Conference boys basketball race, always unpredictable, is even more unpredictable this season with the recent resignation of Pender High School coach Joe Clay Jones.

Jones stepped down two weeks ago as boys basketball coach and athletic director at Pender, reportedly over a disagreement with school administration.

Jones is the only boys basketball coach Pender has ever had, and he was entering his 32nd season. His career record of 484-272 was one of the best in the state among active coaches.

Gary Lewis, head coach of Pender's football team, has taken over as the new basketball coach.

The Patriots will be competing with West Brunswick and South Brunswick for the Waccamaw Conference's lone berth in this year's state 3A playoffs.

Smiths Aplenty

The South Brunswick High School girls basketball team doesn't seem to be as strong this season as it's been in recent years, but the Lady Cougars will certainly win their share of games.

If nothing else, South Brunswick must lead the region and possibly the state in team members named Smith. They have Natalie, Shannon, Dawn and Adrienne Smith.

Trojans Knock Off Laney 74-66

BY DOUG RUTTER

Coming off an emotional overtime loss to Hoggard, West Brunswick's boys' basketball team had a tough assignment last Thursday when it traveled to Wilmington to play in the gym that Michael Jordan made famous.

But the Trojans showed their resilience, putting the Hoggard loss behind them and knocking off the Laney Buccaneers 74-66.

"I told the guys it wasn't good enough to come up here and play well," West Brunswick coach Emmett Lay said. "Playing well is not good enough. Playing well you lose. We came up here expecting to win."

The Trojans took an 8-7 lead midway through the first quarter and never trailed again. Laney trimmed a 13-point deficit down to four points late in the fourth quarter, but the Trojans held on to put their record at 2-1.

Juniors Derek Frink and Brandon Hill scored 19 points apiece to lead the Trojans, and senior Eric Johnson added 14.

Gary Lennon scored 13 points and William Dudley had 11 to pace Coach Fred Lynch's Buccaneers (2-2).

West Brunswick trailed Laney in the opening minutes but took the lead for good on Frink's tip-in with 4:38 left in the first quarter.

The Trojans led 19-17 after one period and scored the first six points of the second quarter to take a 25-17 lead.

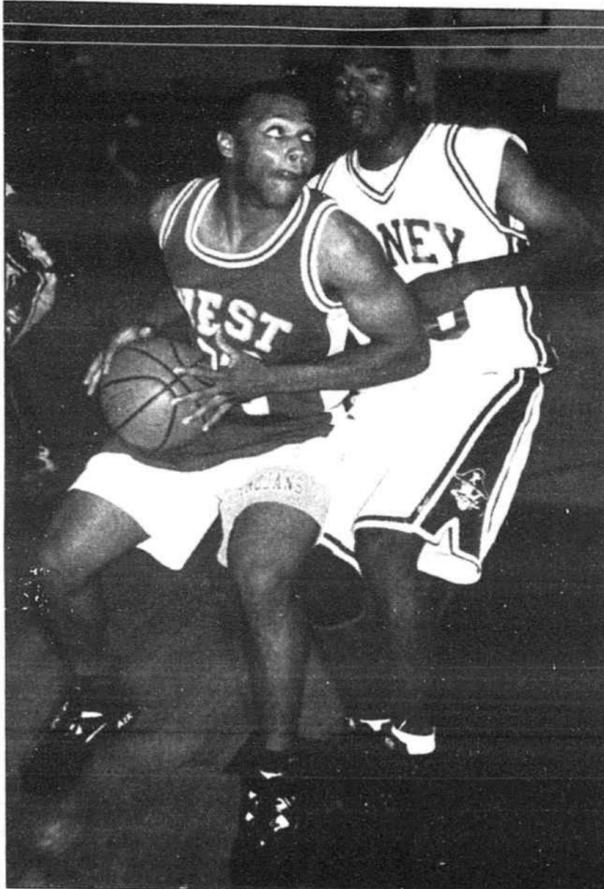
Laney cut the margin to 28-25 with 3:30 left in the first half, but West responded with a 7-0 spurt and led 38-29 at intermission. Hill scored 11 points in the first half, and Frink had 10 to lead the Trojans.

The Buccaneers pulled to within 40-34 early in the third quarter, but West Brunswick put together a 6-0 run. Hill's jumper with 2:41 left in the period gave the Trojans a 48-36 lead.

West carried a 51-40 advantage into the fourth quarter and pushed it to 64-51 with 3:59 remaining before the Bucs stormed back.

Lennon scored six points during a 13-4 run, and George DeChamps' three-pointer cut the Trojans' lead to 68-64 with 1:20 left in the game.

West Brunswick got two clutch baskets from Timothy Daniels and two free throws by Johnson in the final 54 seconds to seal the victory.



TROJAN FORWARD TIMOTHY DANIELS (left) drives toward the basket while defended by Lawrence Jones of Laney.

"We've really picked up our effort since the first game," Lay said. "I thought our guys did a great job keeping their composure in the fourth quarter."

The Trojans continued to get solid play from their bench as Jonathon Fisher and Jamal Stanley scored six points each.

"Fish played well. Jamal played well. Aquil Bryant came in in the third and fourth quarters and played well on the boards for us," Lay said. "That's what we need because we're not real big. We've got to scrap, against the big boys especially."

Lay said the Trojans executed on the offensive end and played good

half-court defense, but they did not rebound or shoot free throws well. West was 15-for-31 (48 percent) from the foul line.

In the junior varsity boys game, Marques Dickerson scored 19 points to lead Laney to a 73-47 win. Lionel McNeil had 16 points for the Trojans.

West Brunswick was scheduled to play Tuesday night at Hoggard and Friday night at home against North Brunswick.

The Trojans must play both games without Johnson, who is in Charlotte this week preparing for Saturday's Shrine Bowl all-star football game. The senior guard is averaging 18.3 points per game.

Game Summary

W. Brunswick 19 19 13 23—74
Laney 17 12 11 26—66

West Brunswick scoring: Frink, 19; B. Hill, 19; Johnson, 14; Daniels, 7; Stanley, 6; Fisher, 6; Williams, 3.

Laney scoring: Lennon, 13; Dudley, 11; L. Jones, 9; Breeding, 8; DeChamps, 6; Ferguson, 4; Murphy, 4; Dombroski, 4; Keen, 3; Baham, 2; T. Jones, 2.

Special Price On Aerobics Classes

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department has a special deal for people who plan to make physical fitness a high priority in 1995.

The county is offering two months' participation in aerobics classes for the price of one month. Classes normally cost \$15 per month or \$3 per class.

Low-impact aerobics classes are held every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Town Creek and Lockwood Folly community buildings.

A step aerobics class is held each Monday and Thursday at 6:15 at the Leland Community Building. Participants must bring their own step.

For more information, call special events coordinator Emma T. McGraw at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

Hoggard Trips Trojans In OT

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick overcame a 12-point halftime deficit before falling to Hoggard in overtime, 69-64, in a high school boys basketball game last Tuesday in Shallotte.

West's Derek Frink grabbed an offensive rebound and made a layup with 3 seconds left in regulation to tie the score at 57-57, but the Vikings dominated in overtime.

Steve Allen, who led Hoggard with 16 points, opened the extra period with a three-point play. The Vikings reeled off 7 unanswered points, and the Trojans never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

"We had some good intensity tonight. The kids got after it real well. We just came up a little bit short," said West Brunswick coach Emmett Lay.

Frink scored a game-high 18 points for the Trojans. Eric Johnson added 17 points and Jonathan Williams chipped in 10 for West Brunswick (1-1).

Allen led four Hoggard players in double figures. DeAndrea Jackson added 14 points, George Pellom had 13 and Jamie King 10 for the

Vikings (2-0).

The lead changed hands six times in the game's first 11 minutes before Hoggard took control by scoring 10 straight points as part of a 14-1 run at the end of the second quarter.

Trailing 35-23 at halftime, West Brunswick slowly chipped away at the Hoggard lead and used a 7-0 spurt midway through the third quarter to pull to within 41-38.

Hoggard led 45-40 heading into the fourth quarter and built its lead to 49-42 before West Brunswick rallied.

A three-pointer by Jamal Stanley and tip-ins by Frink and Brandon Hill tied the score at 49-49 with 4:23 left in regulation.

Hoggard scored two straight baskets, but the Trojans came back again with a 15-foot jumper by Hill and two Williams free throws to make it a 53-53 game.

The teams traded baskets one more time before Hoggard took a 57-55 lead on Jackson's layup with 1:12 remaining.

West Brunswick missed a one-and-one opportunity with 50 seconds left, but a Hoggard turnover with 32 seconds to play gave the

Trojans one more chance and Frink's bucket with three ticks left forced overtime.

"We were down 12 at the half and came back to force overtime. I'm proud," Lay said. "In overtime we broke down defensively."

Lay said the team played much better against Hoggard than it did in its season opener, a 77-61 win over North Brunswick.

"It was a great effort. It was great improvement over Friday. We just came up a little short," he said. "We're making strides. Hoggard is supposed to be the best team in the Mideastern Conference."

Hoggard won the junior varsity boys game 70-45. Sam Mintz scored 12 points and Bert Johnson had seven to lead West Brunswick.

Game Summary

Hoggard 14 21 10 12 12—69
W. Brunswick 12 11 17 17 7—64

Hoggard scoring: Allen, 16; Jackson, 14; Pellom, 13; King, 10; Burnett, 8; Johnson, 6; Taylor, 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Frink, 18; Johnson, 17; Williams, 10; B. Hill, 9; Stanley, 5; Fisher, 3; Daniels, 2.

Buccaneers Stop Trojans 39-21

After opening the season with a 54-12 loss to Laney, West Brunswick's wrestlers couldn't have been looking forward to a rematch with the Buccaneers last Tues. in Wilms.

The Trojans narrowed the gap significantly, but still came up short in a 39-21 loss to the most dominant high school wrestling team in southeastern North Carolina.

The Buccaneers won four weight classes by pinfall and two by forfeit to remain undefeated at 6-0. West Brunswick fell to 1-3.

Heavyweight Kwabena Green had the only pin for West Brunswick. Winning decisions for the Trojans were Joe Stanley at 130 pounds, Chris Jackson at 135, Billy Noble at 140, Al Johnson at 160 and Cliff Gore at 189.

West Brunswick was scheduled host South Brunswick Tuesday night and entertain Hoggard on Thursday.

In their final match before Christmas, the Trojans will host New Hanover and Socastee next Monday at 5 p.m.

West-Laney Results

103 pounds: Williams (L) pinned Hill, 1:19; 112: Johnson (L) won by forfeit; 119: Richey (L) won by forfeit; 125: Todd (L) pinned Sampson, 1:32; 130: Stanley (WB) def. But-

cher, 16-14; 135: Jackson (WB) def. Beery, 7-5; 140: Noble (WB) def. Hoppough, 9-4; 145: Parker (L) def. Pickett, 11-9; 152: Lewis (L) pinned Johnson, 3:32; 160: A. Johnson (WB) def. Dorlus, 12-10; 171: Miller (L) pinned Marlowe, 1:51; 189: Gore (WB) def. Gorum, 5-3 in overtime; Heavyweight: Green (WB) pinned Holliday, 2:26.

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