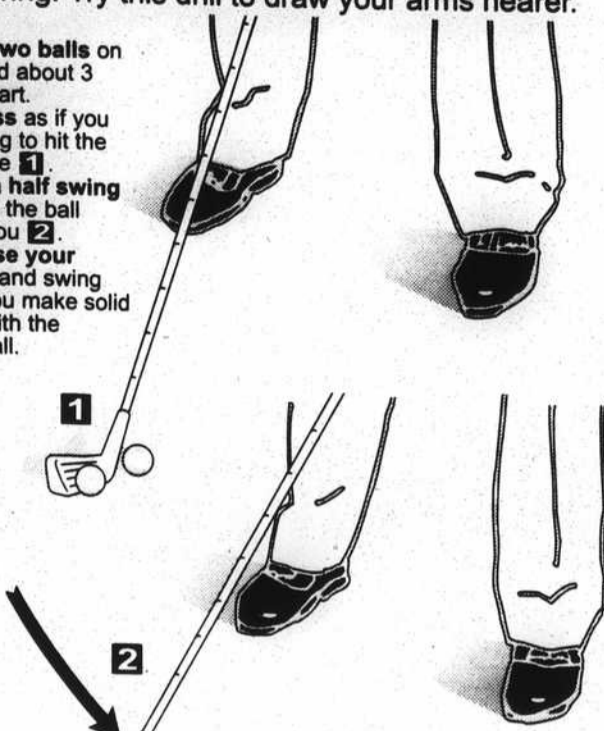


TEERING OFF

Stopping heel hits

If you are hitting the ball with the heel of the club, your arms are probably drifting too far forward in the downswing. Try this drill to draw your arms nearer.

- Place two balls on the ground about 3 inches apart.
- Address as if you were going to hit the farther one 1.
- Make a half swing and strike the ball nearest you 2.
- Increase your strength and swing size as you make solid contact with the closest ball.



Other heel-hitting tips

- Change your distance from the ball.
- Keep your weight evenly distributed.
- Don't lurch forward.
- Make sure you are not jerking the club around in the swing path.

SOURCE: Golf Digest's Book of Drills

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

Surprise

Continued from page 14

four innings, hit the first two batters -- Jason Bracey and Joey Medlin.

Both advanced on a wild pitch and, with one out, catcher Mike Clewis executed a squeeze bunt to score Bracey with the tying run. Medlin then scored when the pitcher overthrew first base.

West Brunswick had taken a one-run advantage in the first frame when leadoff batter Greg Mott drew a base-on-balls, stole second, advanced to third on a ground-out and scored on a single by Aaron Butler.

Ricker, who picked up the win, struck out two and walked three Trojan batters.

West Brunswick's Turner was relieved by Eric Johnson after four innings and yielded two runs to go along with two strikeouts and two hit-batsmen. He didn't walk a batter.

Trojan head coach Mike Alderson had little to say after he had seen his team suffer through three heart-breaking defeats during the week to East Bladen, Whiteville and South Brunswick.

Brown was elated with the victory, especially since his team had experienced so many close losses, including three consecutive 3-2 defeats.

West Brunswick 100 000 0 -- 1 3 2
South Brunswick 002 000 x -- 2 3 2
Turner, Johnson (5) and Fleming; Ricker, Willoughby and Clewis; WP: Ricker; LP: Turner.

West, South in chase for third playoff slot

By George Cox
Sports Editor

The mission is simple for the South Brunswick and West Brunswick high school teams in the Wac-camaw 2A Conference baseball race.

With first place no longer a possibility going into this week's action, both teams will be concentrating on finishing in third place to procure a post-season playoff berth.

South Brunswick played East Bladen on the road Tuesday night, hosts Marion, S. C., in a non-league game tonight at 7 p.m., and hosts East Bladen at 7 p.m. Friday night.

West Brunswick played at North Brunswick Tuesday night and hits the road hoping to give Whiteville its first league defeat of the season on Friday night.

What a difference one week can make, especially for the Trojans of coach Mike Alderson. West Brunswick, with a 2-1 record in the Seashell Invitational Baseball Tournament, entered play last week with an unblemished 2-0 league mark along with cross-county rival North Brunswick.

Alderson's team, however, lost three loop games last week to East Bladen, Whiteville and South Brunswick. That took a contending team for the regular season championship and placed it into a contender's role for just a playoff spot.

Meanwhile, for South Brunswick, last Friday night's win over the Trojans at Cougar Field took a little pressure off coach Jack Brown's team, yet in the long run applied as much or more on the team this week.

The victory kept alive South Brunswick's hope for a third spot in the final standings and a playoff slot.

The Cougars won their first league game of the season over West Brunswick, played a spoiler role, and also produced the team's second victory of the campaign in 12 outings.

DIAMOND DUST -- After the Seashell Invitational Baseball Tournament in Wilmington, two of

the three head coaches in Brunswick County had been ejected from a game this season. Now, after last week's action, all three have seen the umpire's thumb.

North Brunswick's Wes Coward was the first -- being ejected in the Scorpions' victory in the Seashell against Wilmington Laney. Then, the next day it was West Brunswick coach Mike Alderson when the Trojans beat the Buccaneers.

And finally, South Brunswick coach Jack Brown was tossed out last week in a contest in Whiteville. There was only a slight difference, though. Brown's team lost.

Statistics released by North Brunswick's Coward last week revealed that pitcher-outfielder Jared McGee led the team with a .448 batting average, followed by pitcher-outfielder Demetrious Bell at .346. Infielder Jeremy Child was hitting at a .318 clip.

Scorpion sophomore righthander Casey McBride, thrower of two consecutive one-hitters, had the leading ERA at 0.7 in 20 innings of pitching. That was prior to the Scorpions victory over South Robeson in which he yielded one earned run... In 17 innings of pitching, McGee had a 2.4 ERA.

'Fiddlers, Cards open softball season with wins, tight contest

The Sandfiddlers overwhelmed the Tigers 18-2 in initial Dixie Youth softball competition April 19 and the Cardinals drubbed the Lions 11-3 that same day.

But lopsided scoring ended two days later with the Sandfiddlers taking a 14-13 decision over the Cards.

In the initial Sandfiddler victory, Carla Pollard and Crystal Clemmons each had three hits to support the pitching of Ashley Reaves.

Cardinal Echo Dowling had three hits to back up her own pitching in the win over the Lions.

In the Sandfiddlers-Cardinals slugfest Meris Burton, Kimberly Yates and Brandy Beard each had three hits for the winners and Lindsey Dishman, Corey Lastinger and Brittney Collier had three hits each for the Cardinals.

Dixie Youth softball games are

played at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays behind the Long Beach police station. Rain games will be made up on Fridays; no games are scheduled Memorial Day and the final scheduled games are Monday, June 7.

GOLF REPORT

Oak Island invitational set

The Oak Island Ladies Invitational golf tournament will be held Wednesday, May 12, with an 8:30 a.m. check-in and 9 o'clock shotgun start.

The \$35 entry fee includes greens fee and cart, lunch at The Gauntlet at St. James Plantation and a variety of prizes.

A player's name, handicap index and entry fee should be sent to Enid Shea, 15 Greenview Drive, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

Tourney helps Easter Seals

Brunswick County Lodge #53 Fraternal Order of Police will sponsor its second annual Easter Seals Golf Tournament on May 22 at The Gauntlet Golf and Country Club.

The tournament will use a captain's choice format with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and for longest drive and closest to the pin.

The entry fee is \$45 per player with a discounted fee of \$40 for entries received before May 10.

Council sponsors golf event

The Brunswick County Literacy Council Inc. will host a golf tournament on Saturday, June 13, at Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club in Calabash, which is donating the use of the course and golf carts.

Tee times are available from 11:30 a.m. and 1:37 p.m. The format is a four-person captain's choice with two divisions (men's or mixed, and women). The \$30 per person entry fee includes greens fee, cart, refreshments, food and prizes.

All proceeds will be used by the literacy council to help improve the reading skills of Brunswick County residents.

For more information or to register for the tournament, persons should call Joe Giamalva, 919-579-2921; John Deming, 919-579-8925; or the literacy council office, 919-579-READ.

Cox column Continued from page 14

Hill at the West Brunswick-Maiden state football title game in the Kenan Stadium press box.

"Neil," I asked that day as we sat down to eat, "has anyone ever told you that you are a spittin' image of Bobby Hurley?"

Realizing that Patrick, who comes up to my shoulders, still couldn't see the autograph table, I looked up at Neil as he approached us and said, "Bobby, would you give Patrick an autograph?"

Patrick bought the trick -- hook, line and sinker. He thought he was finally seeing his hero. Of course, we told him soon after that Neil wasn't Bobby and he suddenly remembered the Wilmington sports writer from a basketball game he'd attended at South Brunswick this past winter.

Patrick, Carrie go silent

Shortly afterward, Patrick was jumping around like a gazelle in anticipation of finally seeing his star. As we approached the table, I introduced Patrick and Carrie (Dawn had already jumped ahead and was done).

Bobby signed his program which I had purchased and shook his hand when Patrick suddenly got real shy and turned away. He just couldn't take the pressure and didn't know what to say.

Carrie also got a good case of a sore throat and couldn't say a word, either. Hurley signed her program and we walked away from the table. The deed was finally done.

Jays, Indians post victories

The Bluejays defeated the Indians 3-1 and the Indians scalped the Barons 18-10 in Dixie Youth baseball action last week.

Brad Shrader struck out 13 Indians and gave up but four hits in notching the win. He aided his own cause with two safeties and Chris Wilson added one. For the Indians, Daniel Martin, Braeden Baldwin, Chris Coughlin and Jason Dail had one hit each.

In the Indians' uprising against the Barons Daniel Martin and Eric Ottoway had four hits each, followed by Braeden Baldwin, Chris Coughlin and Kenny Pittman with two each. Justin Brown and Corey Polanski added one hit apiece.

Chris Coughlin pitched three innings and recorded six strikeouts. Braeden Baldwin went two frames and fanned four batters.

For the Barons, Chad Dilahay had three hits and Mike Pollard two.

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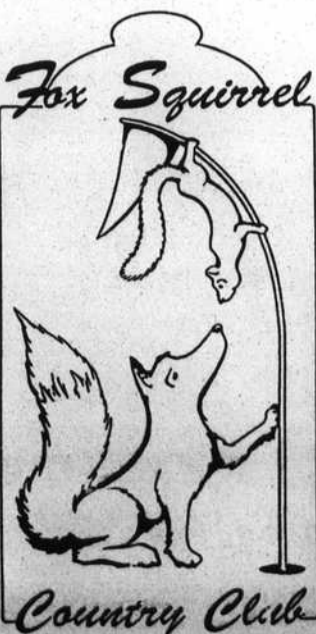
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