

OUTDOORS

Cape Fear fishing

By Douglas Cutting
Staff Writer

Whether you like 'em broiled, baked, or fried golden brown, spots are still the stars of local fishing news. Boats lined the mouth of the Coast Guard channel in the west curve of the river, and anglers lined the piers armed with bloodworms and October smiles, as the fall fishing rolls on.

Flounder, speckled trout, and gray trout occupied other inshore fishermen last week. Luann Spradling reported five-pound, 13-ounce flounder from the Sure Catch Tackle scales. Nelson Cobble told us that the spots were on fire in the river last week, as the bloodworms left the store in droves.

Jimmy Price hosted the first annual Wildlife Bait and Tackle Speckled Trout tournament last weekend, and it ran smoothly according to Tony Bivalacqua. Jerry Helms, local trout specialist, took first place with a 2.8-pound fish. Bobby Barksdale finished second.

Offshore, the grouper are picking up, and keeping charter boats



happy. The Salty Dog had an excellent week, putting one customer-- Robert Williams--on a 20-pound, four-ounce red grouper.

The Fugitive kept the beeliners busy, with loads of the tasty bottom fish on each charter, and numerous scamps, blacks and red grouper added to the bag.

Perhaps the best fishing news comes from the piers, as the ocean has cooled a bit and the spots and flounder continue their fall run. Tina Fowler at Yaupon Pier sent word of some nice flounder being caught through the week on mullet minnows. The pier weighed a five-pounder and a 4.8-pound flatfish. The spots, whiting, and pompano, and gray trout kept other Yaupon anglers busy.

Kona Auman at Ocean Crest Pier said the spots were consistent, and that one angler had landed two enormous skates off the pier Sunday night.

Patti West had a variety of fish to report from Long Beach Pier. Although none of them were citations, she saw blues, spots, trout, whiting, and a few flounder throughout the week.

Best bet this week?--Go to the reefs for gray trout, flounder, and heavy puppy drum. Hit the grass islands on any river or creek flat for trout and redfish, and pile the spots in the cooler two at a time with bloodworm bottom rigs.

OUTDOOR SPORTS

Senior fishing trip Oct. 26

Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department and the Brunswick County Department of Aging will sponsor a senior fishing trip, Monday, October 26.

The boat will leave from Capt. Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach aboard the Mega Flite at 7 a.m. and return around 4 p.m.

Capt. Mike and his crew will provide everything a fisherman needs to catch the big one. Seniors will need to bring a small cooler with lunch and drinks.

Preregistration is required. Contact Tracy Young, 1-800-222-4790, or Becky Rogers, 253-2174 for fees and more information on the trip.

Trip to races November 1

A race trip to the AC Delco 400 in Rockingham Sunday, November 1, is planned by the Southport Parks and Recreation Department.

There are 20 tickets available for the race at the North Carolina Motor Speedway in Rockingham.

Cost is \$72 per person and includes the bus ride and ticket. For more information, call Joe Medlin, 457-7945, or 457-7923.



Photo by Terry Pope

Brunswick Community College scrimmaged against Hargraves Military Academy last week and opens its season at the Tip-Off Classic in Gainesville, FL, November 1-2.

Dolphins get tested

Scrimmage helps BCC team prepare for season

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Coach Gene Doane put his Brunswick Community College basketball team through a tough test last week by hosting Hargraves Military Academy from Virginia for the Dolphins' first scrimmage of the season at North Brunswick High School.

"We won't play anybody that's as good as they are all season," said Doane, whose team will play a Region X junior college schedule this season. The year starts November 1-2 at the Tip-Off Classic at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, FL. Hargraves is the safe-keeping school for future college players, including 6'8" David West of Garner, who is reportedly being recruited by Carolina. He led his team past BCC in two 20-minute halves last Wednesday, but BCC also stole a 27-26 victory in a third and final session for the night.

"I thought early on they were too much for us because they are well ahead of us," said coach Doane. "We looked like we didn't know what we were doing early on. I felt that as the scrimmage went on, we started doing better and better."

Doane has assembled an entirely new team from last season through heavy recruiting across the state. The team is led by 6'5" Jeffery Gibson of Burlington Cummings who guided his team to a 23-1 record. Gibson averaged 17 points per game, shot 54.5 percent from the field and an astounding 51 percent from behind the three-point line.

His shot was evident last week as he connected on some soft jumpers from behind the three-point line. Inside, Tory Hedgepath of

Plymouth High is being counted on to help inside but must work on his shooting, said Doane.

"We've got a lot of things that we still have to improve on, like blocking out and taking care of the basketball," said Doane. "I am trying to build a team with 15 players so I played all 15 tonight. I thought we should have played a little better, but as the game went on we got better as a team."

Hargraves' roster includes two guards who may also be headed to the Atlantic Coast Conference. Doane hopes playing against tough competition in preseason scrimmages will prepare his team for the Region X schedule. BCC's conference opponents include Lenoir Community College, Brevard College, Spartanburg Methodist and Louisburg College. The Region X Tournament is March 4-6 in Kinston, and the Dolphins plan to challenge for that title.

"I feel that before it's over," said Doane, "this team will be the best team we've had at the college."

BCC has played two seasons and last year switched from a community college to a junior college schedule. Most of the opponents the Dolphins had managed to book were junior college teams. But none are expected to be as fundamentally developed as Hargraves.

"This helped us," said Doane. "There's no question about it. They helped us by playing the press. When we finally -- in the second 20 minutes -- started to understand what to do against the press we started beating the press."

"I feel that before it's over, this team will be the best team we've had at the college."

Gene Doane
BCC basketball coach



Photos by Jim Harper

Jeff Jones (above) and Daniel Martin (right) were two key players for coach Gary Downing's South Brunswick soccer team this season.



Jones, Martin guide Cougars

Pair plays important role on South soccer team

By Douglas Cutting
Staff Writer

Jeff Jones and Daniel Martin have taken South Brunswick soccer to a new level. They both have soccer in their blood, and it's been there for a long time.

Jones was born and raised in New York, and Martin was born in Anaheim CA. While Jeff brought thirteen years of northern soccer exposure to South Brunswick when he arrived in August, 1995, Daniel started his soccer career in Southport. Both have seen changes in Brunswick county soccer in the last few years.

"Soccer has been getting better around here for a long time," said Martin. "We (South Brunswick) used to be pretty bad, but we've improved every year for the last five."

Why the local upswing in soccer? "The youth programs have helped a lot," said Jones. "I referee for the younger kids, and there are just more and more kids out here playing every time."

In addition to a bright future of

South Brunswick soccer, both Jones and Martin are looking at their own soccer horizons. Jeff plans to walk-on at the college he finally chooses.

Daniel has looked at Campbell University and UNC Wilmington and would love to arrive as a scholarship athlete. Jones dreams of playing for Cornell or Duke.

Pushed primarily by a desire to play something fast and active, both Jones and Martin chose soccer before they were five.

"I tried T-ball but it was kind of boring, so I started playing soccer," Jones laughed.

Both of the midfielders say that although their positions -- center and wing midfield -- require defense, and constant retreat to cover the back half of the field, they look more to putting the ball in the back of the net.

"I like assists more really, I like making passes to Jeff and Nic (Lesh)," said Martin.

Jeff and Daniel both admire European soccer, and both have had some quick exposure to foreign football. Daniel's family is originally from France, and Jeff was fortu-

nate enough to travel throughout England, Italy, France, Switzerland, and Belgium two summers ago. Seeing the kids playing pick-up soccer was inspiring for Jones, and Martin was thrilled about France's World Cup victory this year.

In the meantime, Jeff works out and plays year-round with the 81 Wilmington Fury. Daniel keeps his foot on the ball locally, playing on the weekends at Smithville Park, and dedicating his time to soccer.

Judging by their success this season and moves with a soccer ball, these guys have given plenty of their lives to this growing sport, and their practice has undoubtedly paid off.

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