

Scorpions travel to Jones Sr.

North nursing injuries; goes for eighth win

North Brunswick will try to go 4-0 in Coastal Plains 1A Conference action this Friday when the Scorpions travel to Jones Sr.

The Scorpions enter the game off a 41-12 win over Topsail that keeps them in first place in the league. North stands 7-1 overall and 3-0 in the conference with its only loss, a non-conference game, to Tar Heel. Last season, coach Garry Bishop's team went undefeated in conference play at 5-0 and 11-1 overall.

Jones Sr. stands 3-5 overall and 1-2 in league play and lost to Lejeune, 21-12, on Friday. North maintains a lead over Pamlico, who is 2-1 in the conference. But North coach Garry Bishop isn't taking Jones Sr. lightly, especially with some key injuries to his team.

North Brunswick's Pedie Byrd gained 187 yards against Topsail with four touchdowns and now has over 1,400 yards for the second-straight season. He ran for touchdowns on four consecutive carries two weeks ago against Lejeune and is the school's all-time rushing leader.

The Scorpions lead the conference in rushing with 303 yards per game. Byrd is averaging 252 yards per

game himself. North also leads in passing yardage. Harold Andrews is second at 40 yards per game.

North opened the year with hopes of defending its Coastal Plains 1A Conference title and improving on an 11-1 overall record. The Scorpions advanced to the second round of the 1A playoffs last season before losing to South Robeson.

Jones Sr. last year went 4-1 in the conference and 6-5 overall and was picked to finish second in the league this season. North is nursing back to strength with the injuries to starting linemen Stephen Graham, Gary Northam and Will Yates, who has a sprained shoulder.

North has won four in a row since the Tar Heel loss. Other Coastal Plains games this week include Lejeune (5-3, 2-1) at Pamlico (4-4, 2-1) and Dixon (2-5, 1-2) at Topsail (1-8, 0-3).



BISHOP



Southport native Quinton McCracken signs an autograph for South Brunswick baseball coach Daniel Ward.

OUTDOORS

Cape Fear fishing

By Douglas Cutting
Staff Writer

Long live the kings ... and the October spots.

As November approaches, the offshore bite and inshore spot run just won't go away. Flounder turned on last weekend as well, and the local charter captains found both varieties of trout and a few red drum as well.

Word from LuAnn Spradling at Sure Catch Tackle is that flounder are biting. She and Bill Haskins did some flounder fishing of their own last week and had two fish over six pounds, a four-pounder and some two- and three-pounders. LuAnn said some of the fish were caught on the Southport waterfront.

Sure Catch also weighed a 38.05-pound king mackerel for Bill Hayes of Wintersville and an 18.05-pound red snapper for John Doshier of Southport. David Mammy brought in six-pound, three-ounce and five-pound, eight-ounce flounder over the weekend.

From Wildlife Bait and Tackle, the best news Tony Bivalacqua offered was of spots, but he said some of the inshore guides were picking up fish on artificials. Jimmy Price had nine speckled trout in the Bald Head creeks on Thursday, most of them taking Fin-S baits. Bobby Barksdale picked up six trout and two red drum up Dutchman's Creek last week.

Tony said the gray trout had moved to the artificial reefs, so now is a good time to book an inshore guide or take your own boat to the reefs, especially in the case of a light offshore wind that smooths off

the beach water. Flounder will feed on the reefs in the cooler waters as well.

Offshore, the mackerel fishing has been fantastic. Capt. Chris Pardue took a party out on the *Reel M' Ocean* Saturday and boated 13 kings. The same day, "King of the Mackerel" Richard Carpenter of Concord boated a 50.8-pound king

Montgomery wins 'Brawl'

Stewart Montgomery aboard the *En Fuego* won first place in the first annual Fall Brawl Kingfish Clash held out of Sharky's at Ocean Isle Beach over the weekend as 125 boats participated. He landed a 41.2-pound king.

The event was held under perfect weather for fishing as participants raised over \$3,000 to be donated to the "Teaching Youth to Fish Foundation." The event was sponsored by Century Contractors Inc.

Results were as follows: *En Fuego*, Stewart Montgomery, 41.2; *Joystick*, Mark Dickson, 39.35; *Hot Water*, David Rourke, 34.3; *Eagle I*, Derek Edwards, 34.05; *Raw Hide*, Terry Godwin, 33.3; *Ram Rod*, Mike Cain, 33.25; *Recovery*, Chris Blanton, 33.05; *Fish in Musician*, Larry Rogers, 32.15; *Capt'n Hook*, David Hooks, 30.7; *Tailwalker*, Stuart Ballard, 29.75; *Fishin' Physician*, Kendall Suh, 29; *Tide Line*, Dieter Cardwell, 29; *Critter II*, Allan Garret, 28.4; *Strike Eagle*, Berry Bass, 27.35; *Fish Bowl*, Fred Johnson, 26.45.

on Pardue's charter. The *Reel M' Ocean* limited on kings Sunday, a day that was slow for most everyone else.

The *Fugitive* had another banner week as Mervin Darnell and Hardrock Clewis kept the kings and bottom fish fired off every day. The numbers speak for themselves, and ought to convince everyone to go set out a king line -- or hire a good charter boat:

Monday -- 18 kings, Tuesday -- a limit of kings, Saturday -- eight kings and 100 pounds of bottom fish, Sunday -- 100 more pounds of bottom fish and a king.

The piers continue to produce fish in the cooler waters. Tina Fowler reported steady flounder action at Yaupon Pier, including a nine-pound doormat taken Saturday night. She said the trout and spots were biting on and off.

Ocean Crest Pier has seen a number of flounder and spots and the occasional pompano through the week, according to Joyce Pronger.

Patti West said that Long Beach Pier has seen sporadic action from every variety of fish, including speckled trout, flounder, pompano and the ever-present October spots that make every frying pan happy.

Pope

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Gainesville this week. Coach Doane is loaded with more talent than ever, but he knows that getting that talent to jell together as a team may take time and patience in hopes that winning the conference title is a realistic goal come February.

"I'm trying to build a team with 15 players," said Doane. "We've got a diverse group of kids."

It is a diverse group of kids, of talented kids, and I hope to share their stories with you during the upcoming season. Now, get ready for basketball.

NORTH FOOTBALL

October 30 -- at Jones Sr.
November 6 -- Pamlico (Home)

NB JV FOOTBALL

November 5 -- at Pamlico

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Golf report

Brunswick Ladybirds play at Brick Landing

Brunswick Ladybirds competed October 7 at Brick Landing Plantation with 104 golfers participating.

Championship Flight -- Low gross, Dale Calhoun of Brierwood, 80; second, Kay Brannon of Oak Island, 82. Low net, Megan Carmichael of Fox Squirrel, 68; second (tie), Jean Lahey of Brick Landing and Joan Llewellyn of Sea Trail, 69. Low putts (tie), Sherrill Thurston of Old Fort and Marge Roach of Brierwood, 32.

First Flight -- Low gross (tie), Bobbie Davis of Fox Squirrel and Jackie Seidler of Brick Landing, 87; third, Ann Causer of Brierwood, 91. Low net (tie), Florence Greene of Oak Island and Irene Bryant of Brierwood, 75. Low putts, Bonnie Giehl of Brick Landing, 30.

Second Flight -- Low gross, Lois Beato of Brierwood, 90; second (tie), Jean Hasty and Rose Gorney of Brick Landing, 91. Low net, Sherry Pittman of Old Fort, 69; second, Joanna Lang of Brierwood, 70. Low putts, Alice Micali of Brierwood, 30.

Third Flight -- Low gross (tie), Blanche Johnson of Carolina Shores and Vivian Rowe of Brick Landing, 96; third, Ruth Linder of Brierwood, 98. Low net, Nancy Starman of Brierwood, 72; second, Polly Berkheimer of Brick Landing, 74. Low putts, Pat Harding of Sandpiper, 29.

Fourth Flight -- Low gross (tie), Sheila Keenan of St. James and Ester Wenstead of Carolina Shores, 101; third (tie), Jennie Batts of Sandpiper, Ruby Birchard of Fox Squirrel and Rose Leonard of Brunswick Plantation, 104. Low net, Brenda Hughes of Fox Squirrel, 76; second, Pat Baumgartner of Brick Landing, 77. Low putts, Peg Furlong of Brierwood, 31.

Fifth Flight -- Low gross (tie), Ilse Bateman of Carolina Shores and Liz Olson of Brunswick, 98; third, Judy Savers of Fox Squirrel, 104. Low net, Joan Cowie of Brierwood, 75; second (tie), Marge Reeks of Sandpiper and Geri Sovak of Fox Squirrel, 76. Low putts, Valerie Kasprzak of Brunswick, 33.

Sixth Flight -- Low gross, Dot Harris of Fox Squirrel, 102; second, Ann Fraioli of Brunswick, 103. Low net, Rita Cullen of Sandpiper, 70; second (tie), Louise Blizzard and Dot Crean of Brierwood, 74. Low putts (tie), Aimee Sullivan and Camille Cantello of Brunswick, Bobbie Cordisco of Brierwood and Janet Giacosa of St. James, 35.

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CooCoo visits with the Cougars

Continued from page 1C

McCracken. "Baseball is a game of peaks and valleys. When everybody puts on a uniform, you're going to have times when you don't play your best. But I was always taught to keep things in proper perspective. Day-in and day-out, regardless of how I was doing individually, I was giving it my all. I think that's what made others take note. I think my peers and the writers that voted for me recognized the consistency in my play. The numbers sometimes don't give a full indication of how things are going."

Students at South Brunswick know about McCracken and have read of his success. There is an autographed portrait in the administrative office, and he gave principal Sue Sellers an autographed cap and signed baseball to add to the school's trophy case on Monday. Without a doubt, he is the most celebrated athletic figure to ever graduate from the school.

He accepted a four-year scholarship to Duke University, where he played both baseball and football for four seasons. As a senior, he was drafted by the Rockies and played his way up the farm system to the big leagues three seasons ago. But Colorado left McCracken unprotected for the expansion draft and that prompted the Devil Rays to snatch him up as the number-two pick overall.

This season, McCracken set a new record for hits by a Major League expansion team player and tied another record by hitting in 18 consecutive games. He led his team in runs, hits, total bases and doubles. As a third year player, he has three years left of salary arbitration before he can become a free agent, but look for the Devil Rays to considerably beef up his \$250,000 minimum pay.

"To a certain degree, it was a successful year," said McCracken. "I have a foundation to build from. As a team, I think we have a lot of good young players. Our veteran players didn't have the kind of year that management would like them to have. But like myself, I hope the younger players will only improve."

Today, McCracken has a home in Arizona because he prefers the warmer climate during the off season, but he is considering a move to Tampa Bay if the situation works

out with the Devil Rays. This winter, McCracken says he won't attend winter league as he has in the past and will simply work out to prepare for spring training.

"It went fairly smooth," said McCracken of the transition to the Devil Rays. "It was an opportunity that I was looking for. They offered me that opportunity, and I just took advantage of it. In this division, you play very competitive baseball. In Colorado, you have a more established team that was winning more games. That took a toll on me mentally, losing so many games. You add that to the physical aspects of the game -- that takes its toll on the body. But I think we're going to get better."

McCracken pulled out of a slump to finish strong (close to .300 in batting), as did the team, until it ran into the New York Yankees to finish the season. In the Bronx, McCracken said the fans there were wild and crazy and love their Yankees. It was his first trip to Yankee Stadium. The American League East also includes Boston, Baltimore and Toronto, a model division and one of the most competitive in baseball.

"I was surprised," McCracken said, after he watched the Yankees sweep San Diego in four straight to win the World Series last week. "I knew the Yankees have a good team. They have no weaknesses. But you also have to be lucky. They caught some breaks here or there and they took advantage of them."

McCracken and his agent will present Tampa Bay with a figure of what he believes his salary should be for next season, and an arbitrator will review it and issue an opinion before the season. It could result in some negotiations.

"That's the stage in my career right now," said McCracken. "I feel good about my current situation at Tampa Bay. We're in the process of doing just that. I'll know soon if I'll be there in an extended period."

The only time McCracken missed more than a game for rest was for a couple of games late in the season from a minor ankle injury. He

prefers to be in the starting lineup. It bothers him when he is not.

"I welcome that," said McCracken. "I definitely want to be in the lineup. Especially coming from where I wasn't in the lineup everyday. I've been on both ends of the spectrum. But it's good when you know that nine out of ten times you're going to be in the lineup."

He doesn't foresee many changes for next season at Tampa Bay. The East Division is a powerhouse filled with veteran teams, but the Devil Rays became better in the second half of the season.

"We've got to get better," said McCracken. "It's a game, but the bottom line is wins and losses. We've completed this year, but our goal is to build toward a championship."

"I came close to some of the goals that I set for myself this year. There is definitely room for improvement. I am going to continue to do all that I can to achieve all of my goals so I can help my team win. Sometimes, players get caught up in individual numbers. Numbers can be misleading. I don't put too much stock in those numbers. It's whatever I can do to help. That's my approach on things. That approach has never led me astray."



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