

The State Port Pilot Sports



Kidd's play
South Brunswick's Wes Kidd logs his daily experiences as a member of the 1999 Shrine Bowl football team --- 2C



Terry Pope

In the spirit of giving

There are ways to help others this season -- attend a game

Christmas may mean different things to different people, but it is also a time for giving, for helping others. There is a chance this holiday season to help others just by attending a local high school basketball game.

Next week, the South Brunswick Foundation for Students Inc. will host the *State Port Pilot* Seashell Holiday Classic basketball tournament at South Brunswick High School. It features eight boys teams and eight girls teams competing for titles with proceeds to benefit the foundation.

The foundation isn't just an athletic booster club with funds used to pay for sports. This organization distributes money raised from events, including funds from its Roman Gabriel Celebrity Golf Classic each summer, to the schools in the South Brunswick district to pay for things that teachers and students need but aren't funded by the school board, such as copiers, signs, computers and travel expenses to send students to academic competition.

More on the tournament is found in this edition, with the schedules and tournament brackets located on pages 4C and 5C.

Floyd relief game

The opportunity to give this Christmas and to help others doesn't end there. More is happening on the courts just after the holiday break.

South Brunswick's junior varsity and varsity girls basketball teams have added a Saturday afternoon game to their schedules with all proceeds given directly to help victims recover from Hurricane Floyd. The N. C. High School Athletic Association allows teams to play a Floyd benefit game with all gate receipts donated to the cause. The officials assigned to work the two games have also agreed to donate their fees to the special cause and will give up their Saturday afternoon to help others.

The Lady Cougars will host the doubleheader on January 8, with the JV's starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by the varsity girls game at 7 p.m. The opponent is Mt. Tabor High, the school South athletic director Bob Sapp left last summer to take the job here.

"We'd like for as many people that can attend this special game to help the hurricane victims," said Sapp. "It's one way for our community and our school to do its part to help others. We'll send all of the money collected from this game to the Floyd relief fund."

'So positive'

Starting on page 2C are some stories and photos on South Brunswick's connection this past weekend to the 63rd annual Shrine Bowl football game. South send a coach, player and team manager to the event that helped raise over \$3 million for Shriners' hospitals that care for crippled children and young burn patients.

South Brunswick linebacker Wes Kidd writes how he was touched by his trip to the Shriners' hospital in Greenville just before practice began last week.

"I was more nervous about going to the hospital than I was about playing football," Kidd writes in his daily log found on page 2C. "I had no idea what to expect with the kids. I didn't know how they were going to react to me. I didn't know how I was going to react to them. When I got in there and saw the kids, their reaction to me was just so positive."

At a time when professional athletes are choking their coaches, assaulting game officials, butting heads with opponents and spitting on umpires, it's great to know what still lies in the hearts of student-athletes removed from all of that hype and outside the media spotlight. For team manager D. Force, the visit to the hospital, to spend time with less fortunate children undergoing treatment this holiday season was one that will stay with him for a lifetime.

"The way the kids' faces lit up when we walked into the rooms was amazing," said Force. "It's something that I'll never forget."

That's what the holiday spirit is all about.

Send e-mail to Terry Pope: sports@sppilot.com

Seashell Classic opens Monday

South, North and West Brunswick compete in a field of 16 teams

By Terry Pope
Sports Editor

The format is a bit different for this year's *State Port Pilot* Seashell Holiday Classic basketball tournament which gets underway Monday, December 27, at South Brunswick High School.

Eight boys teams and eight girls teams from across the two Carolinas will compete for the titles, just as last year, but the event will be housed under one roof and spread over four days instead of three days. It's a move tournament director Ed McKinnon believes will make it more enjoyable for fans who want to see all of the games.

Last year, the games were held at two sites -- at both South Brunswick and West Brunswick -- with games played simultaneously. The four-day format eliminates a lot of the confusion and gives each team at least one day of rest from playing.

Varsity boys and girls teams from South Brunswick, North Brunswick and West Brunswick will all compete in the event with hopes of unseating Wren High School (S.C.), which won both the boys and girls titles last year. The local teams start play at the following times and against the following opponents:

■ South Brunswick girls vs. North Myrtle Beach, Monday, at 6 p.m.

■ South Brunswick boys vs. North Myrtle Beach, Monday, at 8 p.m.

■ North Brunswick girls vs. North (S. C.) High, Monday, 2 p.m.

■ North Brunswick boys vs. North (S. C.) High, Monday, at 4 p.m.

■ West Brunswick boys vs. West Florence (S. C.), Tuesday, at 8 p.m.

■ West Brunswick girls vs. West Florence (S. C.), Tuesday, at 6 p.m.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the South Brunswick Foundation for Students Inc., the booster club for the South Brunswick school district. Daily tickets may be purchased at the door.

Monday's action starts at 2 p.m., while an earlier start is scheduled for Tuesday's games, with defending champion Wren taking on Fuquay Varina in the girls match-up at 10 a.m.

The complete brackets for the tournaments can be found on pages 4C and 5C inside. The championship games are scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday for the girls and at 8 p.m. Thursday for the boys. All teams will play three games, with winners advancing and losers competing in the consolation rounds. All-tournament teams are announced and team trophies are awarded after the championship games.

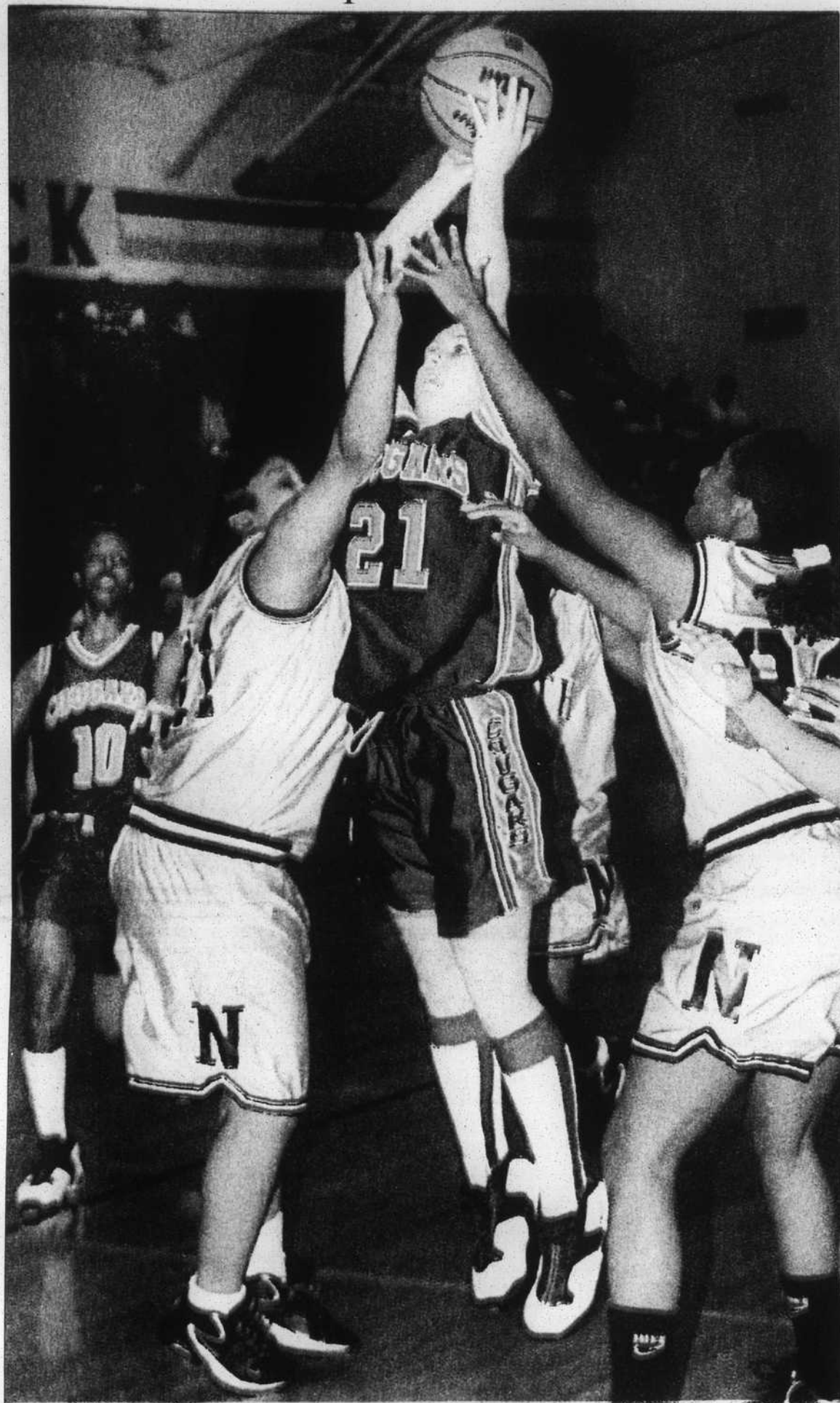
3-0 in county Lady Cougs down North

LELAND -- South Brunswick's Lady Cougars basketball team improved to 3-0 against county rivals with a 36-19 win over North Brunswick last Wednesday.

It was part of three games in three days for coach Mike Isenberg's team, which won two out of three, including a 37-20 victory over West Columbus. In Thursday's finale, East Columbus slipped past the Lady Cougars, 28-26.

In the North Brunswick rivalry, Josey Prince had 11 rebounds and Annie Shaffer four steals and no turnovers at point guard. Kimberly Yates had five assists.

Tammi Batson had six rebounds, four steals and
See South, page 6C



County rivals

South Brunswick's Kimberly Yates (above) goes high above the North Brunswick defense in last week's 36-19 win for her Cougar team. Braeden Baldwin (left) for North drives inside against South's Chris Wilson. North hit eight of 11 three-point shots to help win the game, 61-53.

Photos by Jim Harper

Christmas Clash Trojans finish in third

West Brunswick's wrestling team finished third Saturday behind Wilmington Hoggard and East Gaston at the annual Christmas Clash the Trojans host in Shallotte. The Trojans were 4-2 in the event while Hoggard finished 5-0 and East Gaston 5-1.

South Brunswick ran into tough competition and failed to pick up a win, ending the event at 0-

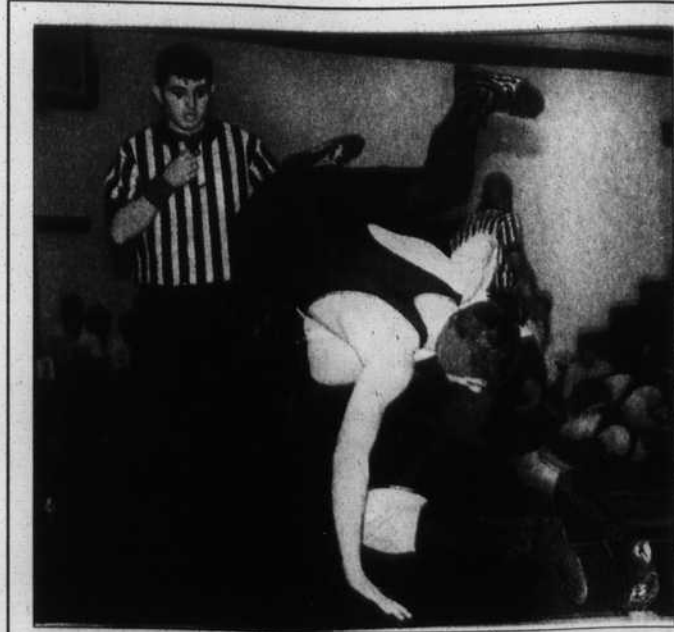
5. Westover finished 3-3, Pamlico 3-3 and Pender 1-5. Hoggard defeated East Gaston, 37-33, in the finals.

West Brunswick sophomore Victor Hewett (16-2) had three pins, two decisions and a win by forfeit in the 125-pound class and earned that weight division's most valuable wrestler award.

South Brunswick's wrestling team will have the holidays off and return to action Saturday, January 8, at conference duals set for North Brunswick. It will be an all-day event. The Cougars then compete in a tri-match at Loris (S. C.) on January 10, at 6:30 p.m., and another tri-match at Myrtle Beach (S. C.) on January 19, at 6 p.m.

South Brunswick's Chuck Gladden battles an opponent from Westover in the Christmas Clash, the annual wrestling tournament at West Brunswick.

Photo by Jim Harper



AT A GLANCE

Batter up

Troy Heustess, head baseball coach at Appalachian State University, will lead a mini-baseball camp for youngsters ages 8-18 at the Shallotte District Park, December 29-30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

Former West Brunswick star Eric Johnson and coaches from Young-Harris College in Georgia will also be on hand to teach fundamental of baseball. This is the first time a camp has been sponsored for county youths by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. on December 29 with a fee of \$10 per player.

Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of hitting and fielding.