

Trojans Top South Brunswick For Holiday Tourney Title

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The fifth annual Trojan Holiday Invitational Basketball Tournament followed a familiar pattern last week with host West Brunswick easing past South Brunswick, 69-56 to again defend the title they have won each year since the Christmas event's inception. Although the Trojans won their fifth title, it marked the first time in tournament history that two Brunswick County schools have met for the championship.

West and South Brunswick reached the finals with wins over North Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Acme-Delco. West Brunswick routed North Myrtle, 73-57 in the first round play after the Chiefs had been the championship opponent for the Trojans the past three years.

Meanwhile, the Cougars edged Acme-Delco, 74-68 for their first-ever opening-round win. Acme-Delco went on to capture the third place in the consolation over the Chiefs, 81-80.

Tourney Championship

West Brunswick (8-2) shook from an early deficit to win the title over the Cougars behind tourney most valuable player Robert Thompson's 30 points. South Brunswick (7-3) jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead in the game's opening 3:30 before the Trojans began to jell.

By the end of the quarter the Cougars' lead had vanished as a Craig Johnson free throw with three seconds remaining evened the game at 15-13.

The Trojans looked to blow the

game open at the start of the second quarter outscoring South Brunswick, 14-2 in the first two minutes for a 27-15 lead.

South Brunswick regrouped and outscored the Trojans, 17-6 in the remaining minutes of the half to pull within 35-34 at intermission. The Cougars scored 11 unanswered points midway in the spree with West Brunswick coach Ronnie Champion being hit for two technical fouls.

Tony Harrison's jumper to open the second half gave South Brunswick a 36-35 lead—the final advantage the Cougars would have for the night. West Brunswick then scored nine straight points for a 44-36 lead that was never relinquished. By the end of the quarter, the Trojans lead had swelled to nine, 52-43.

Holding a 10-point, 62-52 lead, the Trojans took their biggest lead of the game with a 9-0 spurt off a 69-52 advantage that killed any hopes of a South Brunswick rally.

Behind Thompson's tournament-high 30 points to lead West Brunswick was Brad Thomas with 14 and Mike King with eight.

Joe Clemmons led South Brunswick with 18 points followed by Charles Moore's 13 and David Floyd with 12.

Score By Quarters:
S. Brunswick 13 21 9 15—58
W. Brunswick 13 22 17 17—69

South Brunswick Scoring: Floyd 12, Clemmons 18, Moore 13, Brown 2, Watkins 5, L. Galloway 2, Harrison 6, G. Galloway, Wise, Sligh.

West Brunswick Scoring: Thompson 30, C. Johnson 5, Thomas 14, Street 4, King 8, Gore 4, R. Johnson 4, Hardee, Hill, M. Johnson, Clemmons.

Consolation

Acme-Delco took third place in its first appearance in the tournament with an 81-80 win over North Myrtle Beach. The Acme-Delco Trojans, now 6-5, were lead by Eldridge Keith's 30 points while Ronald Lendon added 16, Odell Brown 12 and Victor Robbins 11.

The Trojans took a narrow 18-17 lead at the end of the first quarter but North Myrtle Beach managed to take a 39-37 halftime edge.

Acme-Delco took the lead for good in the third quarter and held a four-point, 57-53 advantage at the end of the period.

The Chiefs outscored Acme-Delco, 27-24 in the final quarter but it wasn't enough as the Trojans held on for the one-point decision.

James Gore led the Chiefs (3-9) with 25 points followed by Lenny Evans with 22, Carl Simpson 12 and Elbert Chestnut 11.

Score By Quarters:

N.M. Beach 17 22 14 27—80

Acme-Delco 18 19 20 24—81

North Myrtle Beach Scoring: Evans 22, Chestnut 11, Gore 25, Wilson 6, Simpson 12, Collins 4, Johnson, Livingston, West.

Acme-Delco Scoring: Graham 8, Bress 2, Keaton 2, Keith 30, Brown 12, Robbins 11, Lendon 16, Claytor.

Opening Round

North Myrtle Beach—Trojans

West Brunswick opened tournament play with its third win this season over North Myrtle Beach, 73-57. The win came only a week following the Trojans narrow two-point decision over the visiting Chiefs prior to the Christmas holidays.

The Trojans were never able to shake North Myrtle Beach until the final quarter as West Brunswick ran up leads of 16 points on two occasions in the third period only to see the Chiefs climb back within reach.

"We were able to play some kids that hadn't been seeing a lot of playing time in a while," said West Brunswick coach Ronnie Champion. "Our intensity was high and we showed remarkable improvement compared to our last game against them (North Myrtle Beach)."

West Brunswick jumped to a 10-4 lead in the opening minutes and doubled the score, 18-9 by the end of the period.

The Trojans led throughout the entire second quarter and took their biggest lead at the break, 33-21 as Robert Thompson and Rusty Johnson scored the final points of the half.

Thompson's basket with 5:40 left in the third quarter gave the Trojans the first of two 16-point bulges, 39-23. Mike King's layup put West Brunswick up 43-27 with 4:18 left before the Chiefs began to rally.

North Myrtle Beach scored eight unanswered points to pull within 10, 45-35, during a 1:38 stretch and then outscored the Trojans 10-4 in the final 2:06 of the period to trail by four, 49-45.

The Trojans extinguished the North Myrtle Beach rally outscoring the Chiefs, 12-2 in the first three minutes of the final quarter for a 61-47 lead and West Brunswick never looked back.

Thompson led the Trojans with 27 points followed by Brad Thomas, Mike King and Lynwood Walker with eight each.

Elbert Chestnut led the Chiefs with 20 points while James Gore added 17.

Score By Quarters:

N. M. Beach 9 12 24 17—56

W. Brunswick 18 15 16 22—73

North Myrtle Beach Scoring: Simpson 5, E. Chestnut 20, Evans 4, H. Livingston 2, Wilson 4, Gore 17, Collins 2, West 2, D. Livingston, H. Chestnut, Royal.

West Brunswick Scoring: Gause 2, Thomas 8, Thompson 27, Street 2, King 8, Gore 2, Hardee 4, M. Johnson 4, R. Johnson 3, Marlowe 5, Walker 8, Grissett, Hill, Brown.

Acme-Delco—South Brunswick

South Brunswick's fourth-quarter surge was enough to send the Cougars into the tournament finals on Thursday with a 74-68 win over Acme-Delco. The Trojans' one-point, 18-17 lead at the end of the first quarter stood till halftime as Acme-Delco clinged to a 35-34 edge at the break.

South Brunswick managed to take a one-point, 54-53 at the end of the third quarter but outscored the Trojans, 21-16 in the final period to pull away with the win.

Charles Moore led the Cougars with 18 points followed by Darrell Brown with 16, David Floyd 15 and Joe Clemmons 12.

Odell Brown led the Trojans with 16 points with Robert Hines adding 13 and Eldridge Keith 12.

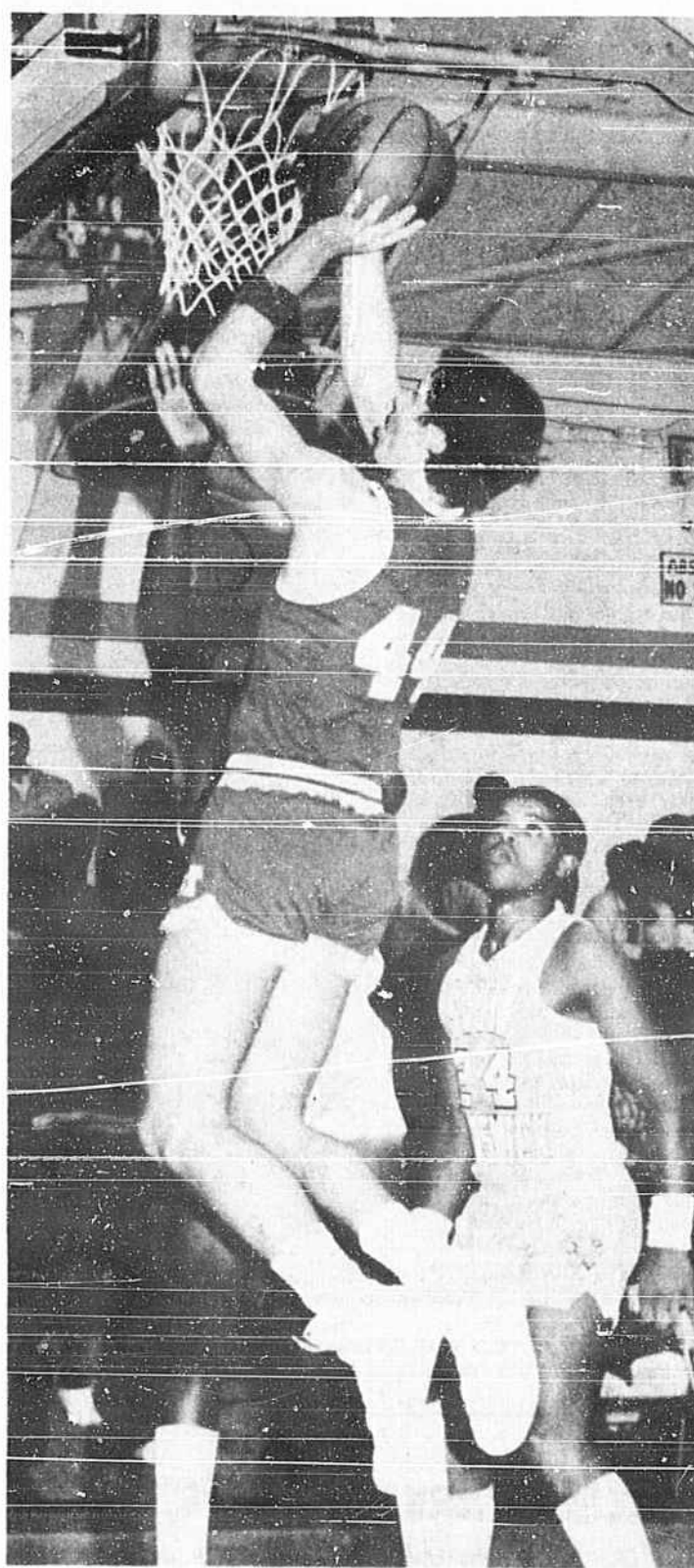
Score By Quarters:

Acme-Delco 18 17 17 16—68

S. Brunswick 17 17 19 21—74


Acme-Delco Scoring: Keaton 6, Keith 12, Edwards 4, O. Brown 16, Lendon 5, Hines 13, Robbins 8, K. Brown 4, Graham.

South Brunswick Scoring: Floyd 15, Clemmons 12, Moore 18, Brown 16, Wise 4, Watkins 6, Harrison 3, G. Galloway, Sligh, L. Galloway.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG

LAYUP—Gary Gore (44) of West Brunswick scored on an early layup in Friday's tournament championship win over South Brunswick. The win raised the Trojans mark to 8-2 while South Brunswick fell to 7-3. The two teams return to action Friday as regular season play begins after the holiday break.

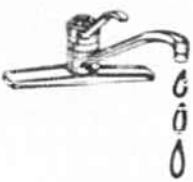


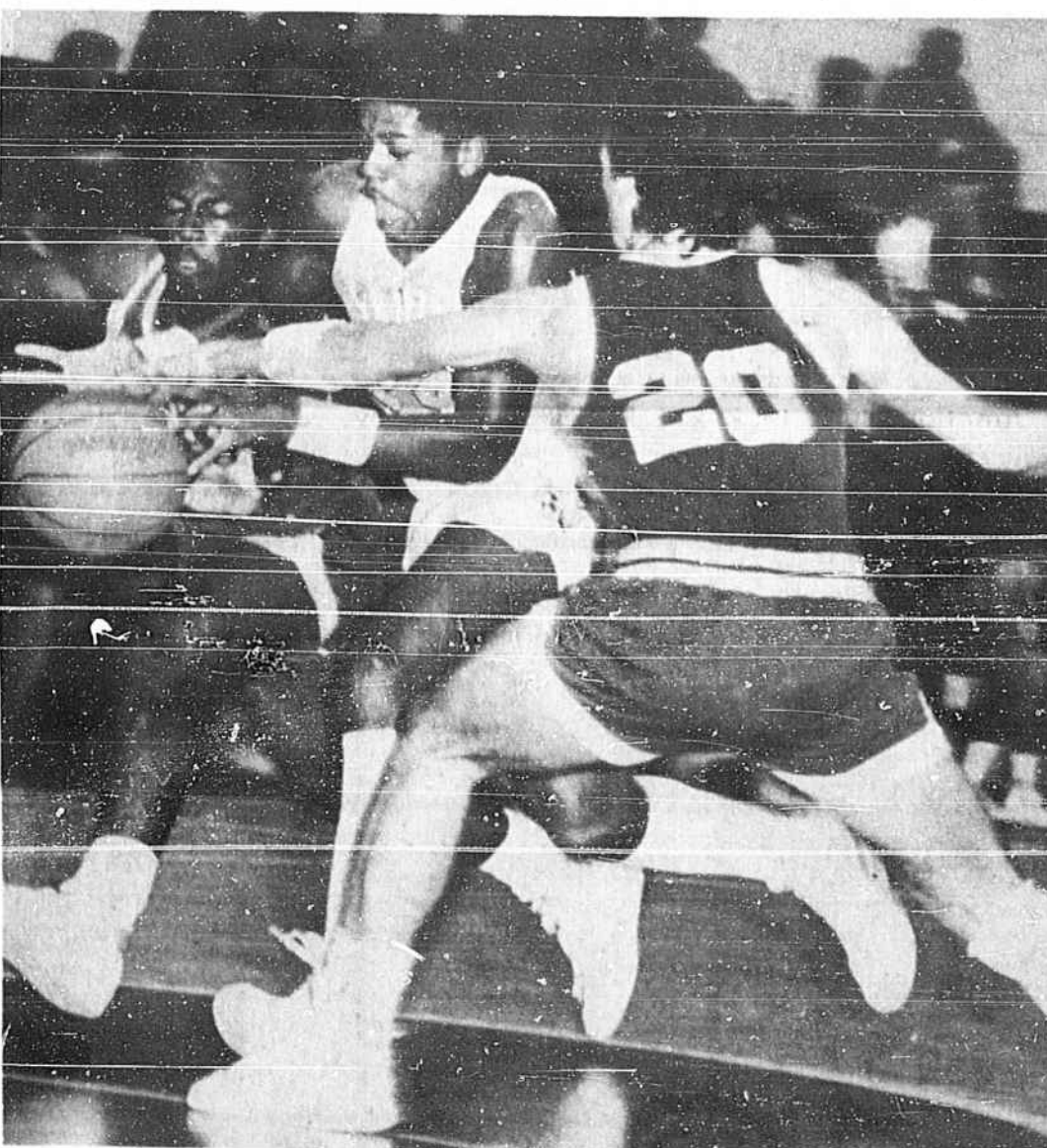
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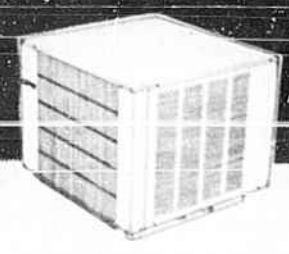
REACHING IN—South Brunswick's Tony Harrison (24) and Rusty Johnson (left) and Brad Thomas (20) all reach for the ball during the championship of the

Trojan Holiday Invitational Basketball Tournament last week. West Brunswick defeated the Cougars, 69-58 to win its fifth consecutive tournament championship.



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