

**SPORTING SCENE**

**USFL Comes To Queen City**

BY JOHNNY CRAIG  
If you're one of the millions of football fans in the state who have always wanted the professional game to come to the Tarheel state then you have finally got your chance. With the United States Football League season just around the corner, two exhibition games will be played in Charlotte's Memorial Stadium next month.

The first of two games will feature New Jersey vs. Memphis on February 2 while the second contest will have Baltimore meeting Tampa Bay on February 16. Both games kick off at 1 p.m. and tickets are still available. To reserve tickets (\$8, \$10, \$12 and \$14) simply call 704/332-4606.

Attendance at these preseason games will play an important roll in whether or not the Queen City will be able to land a USFL franchise. Charlotte businessman George Shinn, who is director of the Rutledge Education System, has been attempting to garner support for a pro-football team and has former NFL and N.C. State quarterback and Wilmington native Roman Gabriel to help with promotions.

Gabriel was in the county in December as guest speaker at the South Brunswick football banquet and talked optimistically about Charlotte's chances of a pro team. If the exhibition games go as planned and the Queen City gets a USFL franchise look for Gabriel to be a likely

candidate for head coaching duties. Gabriel has spent the last few seasons as assistant coach with the Arizona Wranglers USFL team under head coach George Allen.

Regardless of the outcome, Shinn has certainly got the right personnel to promote the venture in Gabriel. Gabriel is an aggressive, "go-getter" type who will, no doubt, make the Charlotte team successful provided a franchise is awarded.

**Conference Begins**

All three Brunswick County teams begin conference basketball action this week in both 2-A East Waccamaw and 3-A Three Rivers leagues. The first meeting involved North and South Brunswick going head-to-head earlier this week in an EWC matchup while a pair of defending champions, West Brunswick and East Bladen, will meet Friday.

West Brunswick is the defending Three Rivers champions while East Bladen (conference runners-up last season) is the defending state 3-A champion.

In other action Friday, South Brunswick hosts Hallsboro in another EWC battle.

League play continues Tuesday with West Brunswick traveling to West Columbus, North Brunswick visiting Hallsboro and South Brunswick hosting defending EWC champion Whiteville.



**COUGARS TOP EAST BLADEN**—Charles Moore (54) of South Brunswick passes off behind the back of East Bladen's Kevin Long (35). Moore led the Cougars with 20 points as South Brunswick defeated East Bladen, 75-66.

**South Brunswick Stuns East Bladen**

BY JOHNNY CRAIG  
South Brunswick won its ninth basketball game of the season Friday with a surprising 75-66 upset of defending state 3-A champions East Bladen. The Cougars, who trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half, used a tremendous second-half charge to overtake East Bladen with the inside play of Charles Moore, David Floyd and Joe Clemmons.

The game was tied nine times in the second half before the host Cougars broke a 60-60 deadlock with 4:25 left in the game with 11 unanswered points for a 71-60 lead.

"Our defense was the biggest difference," said South Brunswick coach John Galloway. "I am still not totally satisfied with our offense but I am overall pleased with our effort tonight."

"Our front line, as was shown tonight, is the backbone of the team. They (front line play) showed a lot of game experience but we still have some problems with our guard play," continued Galloway.

South Brunswick led through most of the first quarter taking an 11-4 lead on Moore's basket with 4:05 to play. However East Bladen made a 7-0 charge in the final 1:02 of the period to take a 19-18 lead at the end of the quarter.

East Bladen combined the late 7-0 spurt of the opening quarter with an 8-0 surge at the beginning of the second period to take its biggest lead of the game, 29-18 with 4:43 left in the half.

The host Cougars managed to close to within six, 33-27 at the half with seven straight points from Floyd and Moore.

South Brunswick retook the lead at the 3:07 point of the third quarter on Clemmons' layup for a narrow 41-39 advantage and held on for a 46-45 spread at the end of the period.

East Bladen took its final lead, 54-50, with 6:05 to play on Leon Cromartie's inside jumper before the Cougars began to rally.

"We really need to find some rebounders," said East Bladen coach Sam Boger. "They just killed us on the boards. This is our shortest team in many years and it hurts."

"The upcoming Three Rivers Conference race looks to be the most wide-open battle it has ever been. I would say Pender and West Brunswick have the inside position with West Columbus and Clinton both vastly improved. We will be in there somewhere but it will be a struggle," Boger continued.

Moore led South Brunswick (9-4) with 20 points followed by Floyd with 19 and Clemmons 18. Darius Brown was the only other Cougar in double figures with 12.

Mike Lesane led East Bladen (6-5) with 20 points while Cromartie added 13 and Billy Carter 10.

South Brunswick hosts Hallsboro in next action while East Bladen hosts West Brunswick.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**

|                 |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| East Bladen     | 19 | 14 | 12 | 21 | 66 |
| South Brunswick | 18 | 9  | 19 | 29 | 75 |

East Bladen Scoring: Lesane 20, Hall 5, Carter 10, Cromartie 13, Smith 6, McKoy 2, Newkirk 4, Rhoda 6, Hammon, Long.

South Brunswick Scoring: Floyd 19, Clemmons 18, Moore 20, Brown 12, Wise 5, Watkins 1, Harrison, L.Galloway.

**Farrar Resigns Scorpion Football Post**

BY JOHNNY CRAIG  
After six seasons on the sidelines, North Brunswick football coach Tom Farrar is calling it quits after several months of toiling over the future of the Scorpion football program.

"I just looked at how we have done in the last few years and what the upcoming seasons appear to hold and decided it just wasn't for me. Our football team has done very good against teams outside the conference but like Forest Hills (state 2-A champions) coach Algie Faircloth said, a coach is paid to win his team's conference."

"The football program has come a long way but I just can't put a finger on our conference shortcomings. I had a good relationship with the kids and administration so there wasn't any pressure from that area," continued Farrar.

Farrar guided North Brunswick to a 4-6 record this past season and led the Scorpions to their first-ever county championship two years ago during a 4-5-1 campaign.

Farrar will retain his present teaching duties along with being coach of the boys and girls track teams.

"I am keeping the option of getting back into coaching open at the present time. I am not really looking for anything but I will probably miss coaching when September rolls around. Me and my family really enjoy the coastal area and would not want to pick up and move away."

"I will like coaching and working with kids. The overall football future here in Brunswick County will certainly take a step forward in the next



**COACH TOM FARRAR**

few years with the installation of a junior high program that will begin soon."

The search for a successor has already begun with an undisclosed number of possible candidates seeking the position.

**Safe Boating Class Slated In Southport By Flotilla**

A course in boating skills and seamanship will be offered in Southport by Southport Flotilla 10-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Brunswick Technical College.

Registration for the eight-week safe boating class will be held Monday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hood Building, 127 E. Moore Street, in Southport.

Experienced instructors will use the auxiliary's textbook and related instructional materials. Subjects to be covered include boating language, navigation rules, legal requirements, use of charts and piloting, marine engines, aids to navigation and more.

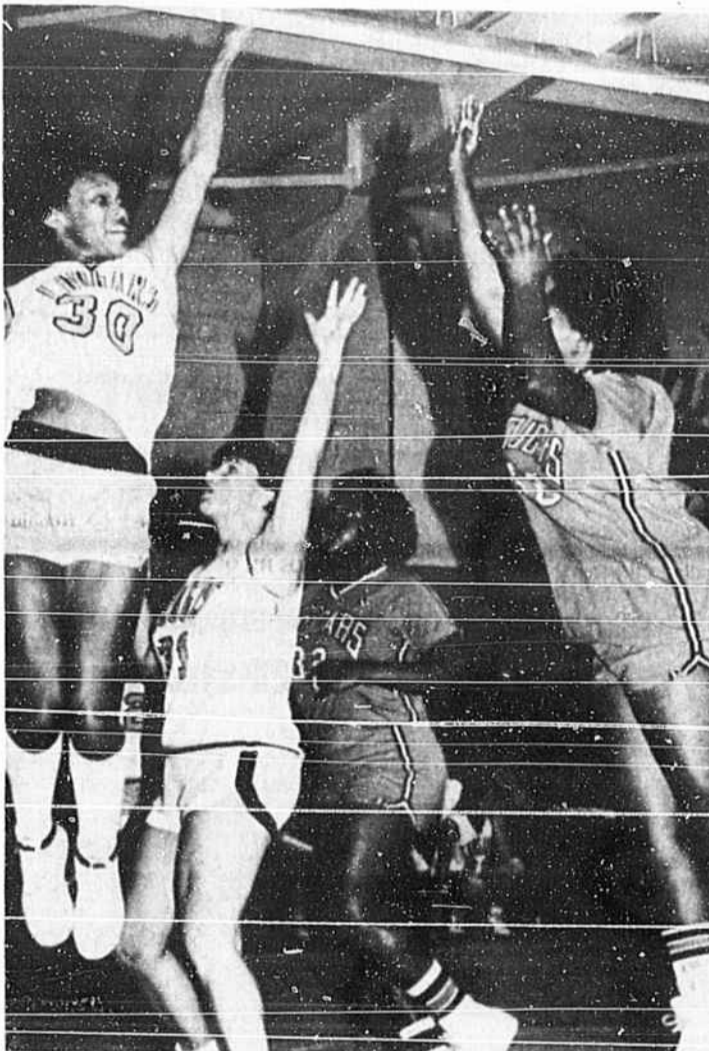
The class also offers a forum for in-depth questions and answers, indicated spokesman Paul F. Schmitz.

Lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encouraged.

A nominal fee is charged for text and materials, with no charge for the course itself.

Upon successful completion of the course, registrants receive a certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

More information is available from Jim Flowers, of Bolling Spring Lakes, 845-2809, or Elmer Iberg of Southport, 457-5729.



**SHOT STOPPER**—South Brunswick's Carolyn Dawson (30) leaps to block the shot of Brenda Melvin (50) of East Bladen. Closing in for a possible rebound are Melissa Ballentine (31) of the Lady Cougars and Melissa Leach (32) of East Bladen. East Bladen won the game handily, 66-31.

**East Bladen Topples Lady Cougs**

East Bladen took an easy 66-31 non-conference basketball decision from host South Brunswick Friday in the two teams' final tuneup before opening conference play this week.

Ann Hancock led three Lady Cougars in double figures with 20 while Shawna Leake added 11 and Michelle McKoy 10.

South Brunswick held a brief 9-8 lead at the end of the first quarter before East Bladen went on a 27-9 rampage in the second period for a 35-17 halftime lead.

The visiting Lady Cougars continued to dominate the third quarter,

22-9 for a 57-24 lead and outscored South Brunswick 9-7 in the fourth period for the final margin.

Renee Harrison led South Brunswick with 14 points.

**SCORE BY QUARTERS:**  
East Bladen 8 27 22 9—66  
South Brunswick 9 9 6 7—31

East Bladen Scoring: Leake 11, Smith 6, McKoy 10, Hancock 20, Maxwell 9, Johnson 2, Leach 4, Collins 2, Shaw 2, Melvin.

South Brunswick Scoring: Smith 2, Harrison 14, McCoy 5, Dawson 4, Jones 6, Becraft, Carper, Vittoe, Cobble, Ballentine.

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