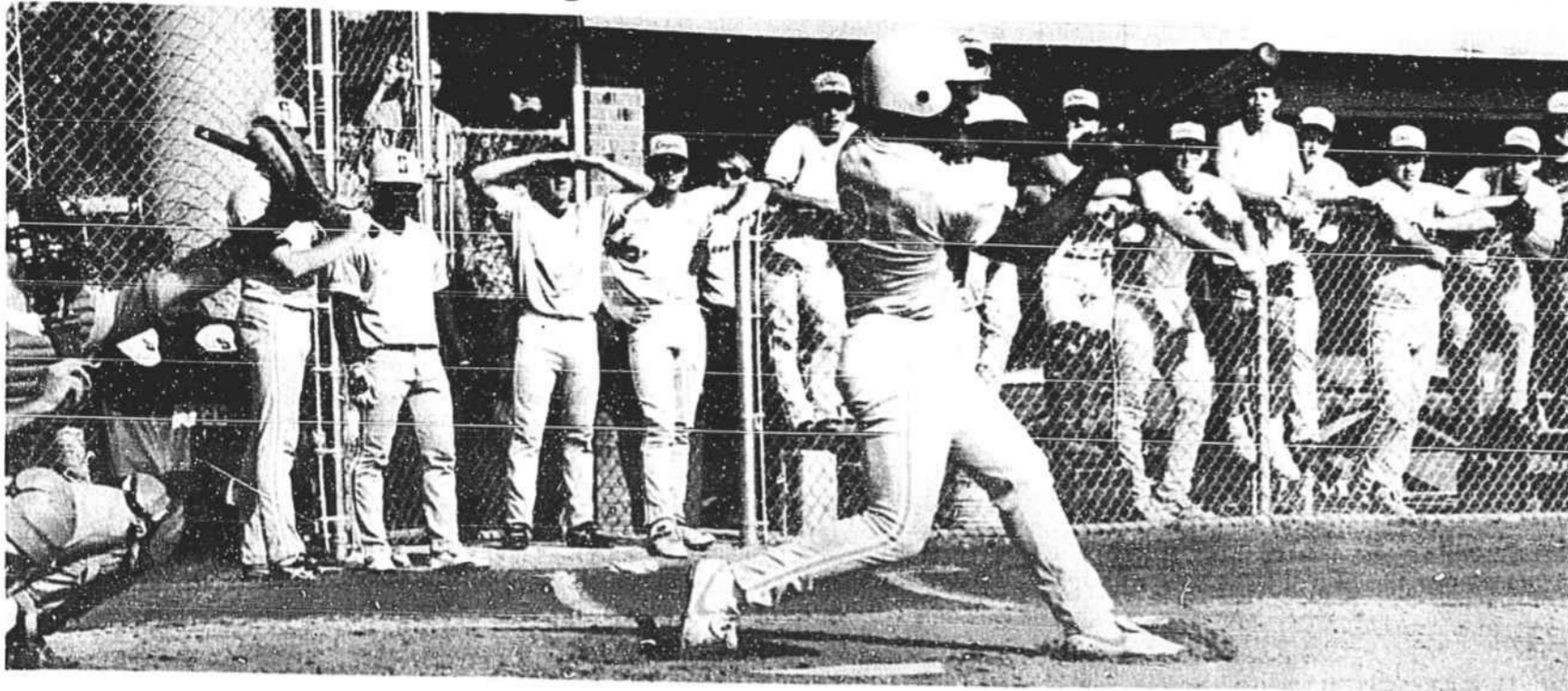


South Sweeps Past Catholic For State Baseball Title



COUGARS WIN STATE TITLE—South Brunswick second baseman Pat Bryant raps out a base hit in the second and deciding game of the state 2-A baseball championship series last Saturday. The host Cougars swept

Charlotte Catholic, 10-4 and 8-6 to win the school's first-ever state title in a team sport.

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The South Brunswick Cougars took the shortest route to the school's first-ever state championship in a team sport last Saturday sweeping Charlotte Catholic in a best-of-three series to capture the N. C. High School Athletic Association 2-A baseball crown.

The host Cougars (29-0), ranked 19th nationally, were sparked to the championship by the series most valuable player Scott Gales who powered a three-run homer in the top of the seventh inning to give the winners an 8-6 comeback victory in the decisive second game Saturday night.

Just hours earlier the Cougars took a 10-4 win in the first game that had been postponed twice since Thursday due to rain.

Gales gained MVP honors with five hits and six RBIs in the two games.

Tim Gescat (11-0) went the distance on the mound for the Cougars in the final game while Brian Semmens (12-0) was the opening-game winner.

Catholic (17-8), runnersup in the Rocky River Conference, appeared on the verge of sending the series to a third game taking a commanding 4-0 lead in the third inning of the second contest.

Jeff Monin connected on a three-run homer in the third inning for the visiting Cougars and Della Mea had a two-run blast in the fifth to put Catholic out front, 6-3.

South third baseman Glynn Beck scored in the sixth on a wild pitch to bring the hosts within 6-4 followed by a wild seventh frame that lifted the Cougars to the state title.

A infield error by Catholic third baseman Chris Kouri enabled Semmens to reach first and Quinten McCracken followed with a stand-up double. After a wild pitch that enabled South to pull within 6-5, Gales completed the big four-run inning with a game-winning home run.

Earlier in the day South took the first game with an even bigger inning scoring nine times in the second with two out.

The opener had been postponed in the bottom of the second with Catholic holding a 2-1 lead.

Play was resumed Saturday afternoon with South at the plate and the bases loaded. The Cougars made the most of a quick start scoring nine runs to power themselves to a 10-4 win.

Attendance at the championship series, held in Brunswick County for the first time ever, was estimated at over 2,000.

Playing for the state-champion Cougars were McCracken (senior shortstop), senior second baseman Pat Bryant, junior outfielder Chris King, freshman catcher Dallas Triggs, Semmens (senior pitcher, first baseman), Gescat (junior pitcher), Gales (senior centerfielder), sophomore leftfielder Brantley Barfield, junior outfielder Rodney Labelle, junior rightfielder Scott Barfield, Glynn Beck (senior third baseman), Wynn Beck (senior catcher), senior first baseman Jamie Brown, senior outfielder Wayne Sanderlin, senior pitcher Mickey Holcomb and junior first baseman Stanley O'Neal.

South was led by head coach Paul Faulk and assistant Dave Lewis.

SPORTING SCENE

South's Wynn Beck Signs With Oakland A's

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Hardly having time to savor South Brunswick's first-ever state baseball championship, the Cougar's senior catcher Wynn Beck wasted little time in signing a professional contract with the Oakland Athletics last Saturday night.

Just two weeks ago Beck became probably Brunswick County's highest selection in the major league amateur baseball draft by being selected in the second round by the A's. Beck was the 31st overall selection in the draft and was scheduled to leave this week for the Arizona State League for drafted high school

players.

Beck batted .505 this season leading the Cougars to a perfect 29-0 and a sweep of Charlotte Catholic in the state 2-A baseball championship series. The left-handed hitting catcher had eight doubles, seven home runs and 48 RBIs.

Just a week ago Beck was named Gatorade-Quaker Oats North Carolina High School Baseball Player of the Year. The award is given annually to the top professional prospect in the state coming out of high school.

While Beck had a tremendous year

at the plate for the Cougars, he was equally effective behind the plate. There he allowed only five stolen bases all season.

Ballard Tops

North Brunswick's girls 100-meter state track champion Tammy Ballard took first place in a Junior Olympic sectional meet in New Bern over the weekend.

Ballard won the 100-meter race in 12.3.

Also finishing near the top from North Brunswick were Bruce Montgomery and Chris Matthews.

Montgomery was third in the 100-meter run (11.6) while Matthews took fourth (11.9).

In the 13-14 age division, Barry Baldwin won the high jump with a leap of 5-6.

Three South Brunswick standouts also fared well in the boys meet.

Hans Bean captured first place in the pole vault with a distance of 11 feet while Gary Smith won the intermediate division of the shot put with a 39-9 toss.

Allen Sanderlin was second in both the 1,500-meter run (4:38) and the 800-meter run (2:08).

West's First Dixie Majors Team Off To A Good Start

West Brunswick's first-ever entry in the local seven-team Dixie Boys Major League baseball loop for ages 15-16 is off to a 2-1 start with play scheduled to continue through June.

Under the direction of West Brunswick baseball coach Ron Simmons, the West team has won over Acme-Delco and North Brunswick while losing to Whiteville in its opening three games.

"The purpose of this league is to give the rising high school freshmen and sophomores playing experience that they have not had around here in past years," said Simmons. "We have 16 players (all returning Trojan junior varsity players) on the team. It is our goal to work on fundamentals, gain game experience and continue to build the baseball program here at West."

The league, organized by the

Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, also includes teams from South Brunswick, Hallsboro and Tabor City. Play will continue through this month with an all-star team selected at the conclusion to represent the league in the state championship tournament at Bessemer City.

Playing for West is Alex King (pitcher, shortstop), Jimmy Johnson (pitcher, third base), Blake Bradley (catcher), Ricky Smith (first base), Pat Long (second base), Charles Moore (left field), Corey Hankins (center field), Eric Hill (center field), Ricky Daniels (pitcher, right field), Timmy Smith (first base), Neil Ward (third base, catcher), Brian King (right field), Jeff Latino (third base, first base) and Eric Hardy (third base, pitcher).

"The team has received great sup-

port from the West Brunswick administration," said Simmons. "Baseball will continue to be big here in the county, especially since South Brunswick won the state 2-A championship."

"We are hoping to fill the void that has been for the ages between Pony League and high school. We've got good players in this area, we just need to get them out and participate," added Simmons.

State Commission Adopts Endangered Species List

The state's first ever endangered species list was adopted last week by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

On the recommendation of the commission's Nongame Advisory Committee, the Indiana Bat, Virginia Big-eared Bat, panther and northern flying squirrel were placed on the endangered list.

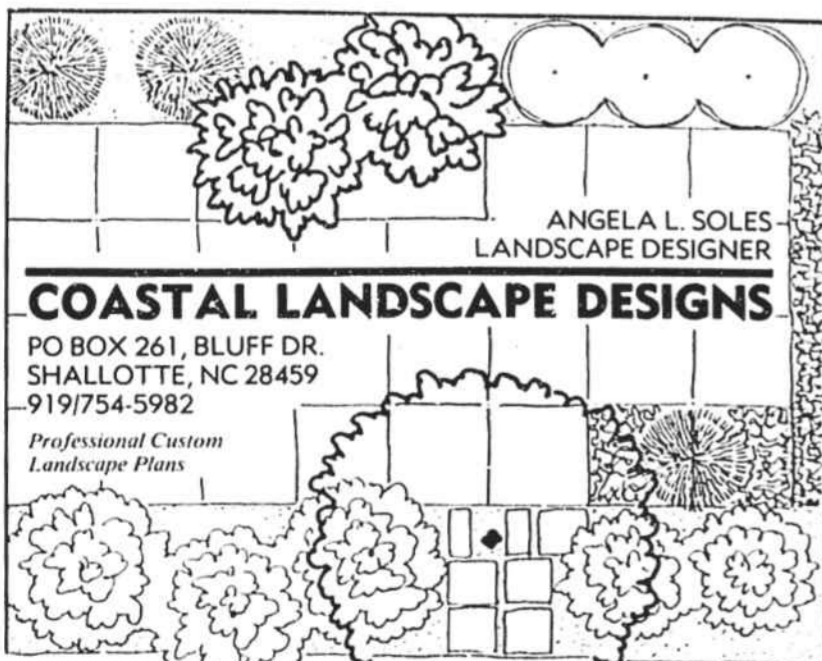
The Dismal Swamp Southeastern Shrew and Eastern wood rat were placed on the state's list of threatened mammals.

According to a Wildlife Resources Commission news release, the state's first such lists are the result of the N.C. Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 1987 which authorized

establishment of a scientific council of mammal experts to determine the status of species which inhabit North Carolina.

Before the new law, federal species lists were the only source of information for persons interested in the welfare of wildlife.

The advisory committee also recommended 13 mammals be given "special concern status" in the state, according to the news release. They are the water shrew, long-tailed shrew, pygmy shrew, star-nosed mole, southeastern bat, Keen's bat, small-footed bat, two races of Rafinesque's bat, Brazilian free-tailed bat, two mountain races of the eastern wood rat and the rock vole.



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BCC Art Students Show At Southport

Paintings created by Brunswick Community College art students will be on display at Southport Public Library through the end of June.

The works, which depict a variety of local subject matter ranging from seascapes to wildlife, are the products of beginner and intermediate students and are available for purchase.

Art teacher June Brown will begin another painting course at the end of this month. Those interested in joining can call the instructor in the mornings at 457-6234 or in the evenings at 457-4506.

Persons interested in other classes offered through the continuing education department this summer can call 754-6900.

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