

'Pack-Slaying West Brunswick Entertains Up-And-Coming Fairmont

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Fresh off an 8-7 win over the fourth-ranked and defending state 2-A champion Whiteville Wolfpack, the West Brunswick Trojans face yet another tough test Friday enroute to a possible Waccamaw Conference championship against the Fairmont Golden Tornadoes.

While the Trojans were a surprise winner over Whiteville, Fairmont proved the spoiler just as well last week when the Golden Tornadoes upset East Bladen 20-14.

The results left both teams in a big six-way tie for second place in the Waccamaw Conference with identical 1-1 marks along with South Brunswick and South Robeson.

But just as last week's upset of the Wolfpack was important in putting the Trojans back in the WC title hunt, Friday's contest against Fairmont will be equally important in keeping West in that championship picture.

West Brunswick head coach Marshall Seay was impressed by the Trojans overall play against Whiteville. And the Trojans truly played their best game of the season with no turnovers and only 10 yards in penalties. The Trojan defense forced three Whiteville turnovers via pass interceptions (two) and one fumble.

Last Friday's 8-7 win not only held Whiteville to its lowest point production of the season but it also stood as the Wolfpack's first regular season home loss since 1984.

While the Trojan offense is averaging 21.8 points per

contest, the defense is limiting West opponents to just 11 points a game.

Not only do the Trojans have a favorable point spread, the defense has been playing in dominating fashion with North Myrtle Beach and East Bladen, the only opponents to rush for over 100 yards.

Between those two games the Trojans have held Littlefield to 29 yards rushing (31 yards total offense), Topsail to 53 yards on the ground and Whiteville to only 84 yards (135 yards total offense).

"We substitute very little on defense thereby getting our best 11 athletes on the field," said Seay. "Offensively we insert more freely different players into the game. This takes away slightly from our offense but it all works out in the end."

Leading the way for Golden Tornado second-year head coach Steve Hagen is perhaps the biggest offensive and defensive line in the Waccamaw Conference.

Among Hagen's biggest are 23-pound linebacker Todd Pittman, defensive end Mike Taylor (6-4, 253) and tackle Ricky McLean (6-6, 325).

Despite such size, Fairmont managed only 73 yards in a 17-0 loss to Whiteville two weeks ago while Wolfpack running back Virgil Cokely ran for 104 of his team's 186 yards.

Fairmont opened the 1988 campaign with impressive wins over Orrum (29-6) and Tabor City (21-6). After the

quick 2-0 start, the Golden Tornadoes scored only two points in their next two games against Saint Pauls and Whiteville.

Saint Pauls dropped the Tornadoes 22-2 in their final non-conference contest and Whiteville took a 17-0 shutout decision the following week.

Fairmont then rebounded from its scoring doldrums in last week's 20-14 win over East Bladen.

To combat Fairmont's size advantage, West Brunswick will again need another flawless game from its offense.

Senior tailback Greg McNeil ran for 72 yards and the Trojans' only touchdown in the win over Whiteville. McNeil ran his season totals to 380 yards in five games.

While senior Chris Morgan and junior Jeff Bernard have combined for 437 yards thus far, the pair were held to only five yards against the Wolfpack.

Quarterback Raymond Howard was held to 34 yards passing by the Whiteville defense but did complete two of 10 passes at key moments in the game.

Howard has thrown for 404 yards for the season and completed 17 of 47 passes with only three interceptions.

Howard's favorite targets, Gary Gore (6-3, 205, sr.) and Tony Graham (6-1, 160, sr.), continue to provide big offensive sparks and have been equally important at their defensive positions as well.

Senior linebacker/offensive lineman Kerry Cumbee (5-11, 235) was a big factor in the Whiteville win recording 12 tackles while providing the lead block in Howard's key two-point conversion run.

There is a full slate of Waccamaw Conference games on tap for Friday. North Brunswick visits league-leader West Columbus, South Brunswick hosts South Robeson, and East Bladen entertains Whiteville. All games begin at 8 p.m.

Whiteville Netters Blank Lady Trojans

Whiteville remained unbeaten in Waccamaw 2-A Conference girls tennis play last week with a 9-0 shutout of West Brunswick last Tuesday.

The Lady Wolfpack improved to 7-0 in the conference and 9-0 overall.

Singles: Howard (W) def. Ward (WB), 8-2; Crutchfield (W) def. Lominak (WB), 8-1; Ray (W) def. Cavado (WB), 8-5; Prince (W) def. Bolick (WB), 8-4; Thompson (W) def. Ceagle (WB), 8-0; Stephens (W) def.

Farr (WB), 8-0. Doubles: Howard-Crutchfield (W) def. Ward-Lominak (WB), 8-4; Ray-Prince (W) def. Cavado-Bolick (WB), 8-2; Thompson-Stephens (W) def. Ceagle-Farr (WB), 8-1.

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"OFFENSIVE BACKS"
Running the Trojan offense are from left, front, Randy Daniels, Dameon Player, Steve Cumbie, Jeff Bernard and Andre Gore. Back, Greg McNeil, Bossy Clemmons, head coach Marshall Seay, Dino Daniels, Corey Hankins and Chris Morgan.

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