

# Trojans Advance To 'Sweet 16;' Rip White Oak 39-7

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The West Brunswick Trojans advanced to the final 16 of the state 2-A high school football playoffs last Friday in convincing form with a 39-7 romp of visiting White Oak in a first-round matchup.

With the win the Trojans (10-1) earned the right to host a second round contest Friday against Jordan-Matthews of Siler City. Kickoff is set for 8 p.m.

The Trojans completely dominated White Oak, third-place finishers in

the East Central Conference, with an overpowering defense and their best passing effort of the season.

The West "fire ant" defensive unit limited the Vikings to just 113 yards rushing for the game including 14 yards in the first half. The Vikings (6-5) managed 49 passing yards for 162 yards in total offense.

In addition, the Trojans stopped White Oak on downs three times during the contest and forced two Viking turnovers (fumble and pass interception).

While the Trojan defense swarmed around the Vikings, West quarterback Raymond Howard threw for his best game of the year completing six of 11 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns. Howard threw a pair of second-quarter touchdown strikes of 30 and 50 yards to tight end Gary Gore which helped the Trojans to a commanding 26-0 halftime lead.

Joining Howard was junior tailback Jeff Bernard who ran for 141 yards on 11 carries. Included in the yardage was a 64-yard touchdown run in the opening quarter giving the Trojans their first points of the game.

Following Bernard's score, the Trojans unleashed a 19-point second quarter and the game was quickly over before the half.

"This was really surprising," said West Brunswick head coach Marshall Seay of the game's outcome. "Our coaching staff looked at miles and miles of film in preparation and felt White Oak would really be a test."

"They really played defensively to stop the run in the first half which helped open our passing attack. We believed all along we could pass against them but our running backs proved we could move the ball on the ground just as well."

"Raymond (Howard) was red hot tonight and had his best chance to throw this season. He showed he can really lace the ball when given the chance," added Seay.

The Trojans appeared ready to open the game up in the first quarter after Bernard's score and a White Oak series that saw the Vikings pushed back from their own 22-yard line to the 14.

Following a short 27-yard punt, West took control at the Viking 31 but Howard's fumble three plays later ended the Trojan threat.

West went in front 13-0 early in the second quarter on a 76-yard drive that took just three plays to complete. Howard threw for 74 of the yards including a 44-yard completion to Scottie Babson to the Viking 30.

The Trojans scored on the next play when Howard found Gore open over the middle for a 30-yard touchdown toss with 9:32 left in the half.

Following another deficit Viking possession that saw White Oak drive for minus-10 yards, West took control at its own 44.

After a six-yard pickup by running back Greg McNeil, Howard again found Gore open down the middle with this scoring pass good for 50 yards. The two-point conversion failed but West had built a 19-0 lead with 6:14 left.

The scoring wasn't over as the Trojans soon regained possession and mounted their longest drive of the first half. West used all but the last 11 seconds of the first half to go 81 yards in 10 plays for the score. Corey Hankins scored the first of a season-high two touchdowns on a 10-yard carry and Howard added his second extra point to give the Trojans their 26-0 halftime spread.

"It is hard to keep second-half concentration with a 26-0 halftime lead," said Seay. "We played hard all night but the offense was not as big-play oriented in the second half. We just chose to play the percentages and eat up the clock. This was a lesson learned from the East Bladen game (the Trojans only loss, 27-26 in the fourth week of the season)."

The White Oak defense turned in the only Vikings points of the game midway in the third quarter taking advantage of two Trojan fumbles.

Following their opening second-half possession, White Oak was again



**TROJANS ROMP**—West Brunswick tailback Greg McNeil (46) runs behind the blocking of fullback Alex King (22) during last week's 39-7 rout of White Oak in the opening round of the state 2-A football playoffs. McNeil ran for 33 yards in the contest while King carried for 58 yards and a touchdown.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG

**SCORING GREETING**—West Brunswick tight end Gary Gore (82) gets a "high five" from teammate Kyle Jones (56) following a second-quarter touchdown. Gore caught two scoring passes of 30 and 50 yards from quarterback Raymond Howard to blow the game open in the second period for a 39-7 state playoff win over White Oak. The Trojans host Jordan-Matthews at 8 p.m. Friday in a second-round contest.

## SPORTING SCENE

### East Bladen To Host WC Cage Tourney

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

With all the Brunswick County sports attention presently focused on the high school football playoffs, it's hard to realize prep basketball season is just around the corner.

Most Waccamaw 2-A Conference teams will begin play by the end of November with perhaps the exception of West Brunswick and Whiteville who are still in post-season football action.

East Bladen will be the host site of the WC boys and girls basketball tournament scheduled after the close of the regular season.

The announcement came at the WC fall meeting in Whiteville last week with West Brunswick principal and league president Dr. David Corley presiding.

The same tourney format will be used as last year with all first round games being played at the site of the higher seeded team. The semifinal and final rounds will then be played at East Bladen.

In other league news, deadline for football and girls tennis coaches to submit their all-conference teams was earlier this week (Monday). The football all-star teams will not be released until both West Brunswick and Whiteville have completed the state playoffs.

Also, the conference heard from Fairmont volleyball coach Beverly Marks who expressed her dissatisfaction with the selection of the league's two state playoff berths.

Fairmont, East Bladen and West Columbus all finished in a three-way tie for the conference volleyball championship last month but because the league has only two state playoff entries, one of the conference title-holders had to sit out.

A coin flip was conducted with East Bladen and West Columbus being awarded the two playoff spots.

Marks certainly has a legitimate gripe about using the coin flip system to decide anything in high school athletics.

Flipping coins has about as much to do with prep athletics as the importance of local tide tables in Oklahoma.

The WC should devise some type of tie-breaking system to be used under such rare occasions when head-to-head competition does not determine a winner—even if it means having to schedule an extra game or match to determine playoff participants.

### Trojans, Wolfpack Still Alive In Playoffs

With the 32-team field of the state 2-A playoffs cut in half last Friday to 16, two of three Waccamaw Conference entries still remain.

Both West Brunswick and Whiteville won in convincing fashion while the league's third-place finisher—Fairmont—was ousted by Wallace-Rose Hill 26-0.

Wins by Whiteville (9-2) and Wallace-Rose Hill (10-1) will bring the two together in perhaps the best playoff matchup of the week in the 2-A ranks. The two schools feature the best football tradition in the east and Friday's meeting will certainly be a showcase of top-flight programs.

Whiteville has defeated Wallace-Rose Hill three times in postseason play since 1984 with all three Wolfpack wins coming at home.

The Bulldogs might have the advantage this time around since the two meet on Wallace-Rose Hill turf. Regardless of the outcome, the matchup is sure to be a playoff classic.

West Brunswick (10-1) should be able to top Jordan-Matthews (7-4) provided the Trojans perform on a similar level of last week's 39-7 romp over White Oak.

A win over the Jets on Friday would give the Trojans the homefield advantage against the Whiteville-Wallace-Rose Hill winner.

Jordan-Matthews likes to run and the Trojans like to defend against ground-oriented teams. Look for the West "fire ant" defense to have another banner performance and the Trojans to advance to the eastern semifinals.

Waccamaw 2-A Conference Standings end of regular season		
Team	Conf	O'all
West Brunswick	6-1	10-1
Whiteville	6-1	9-2
Fairmont	5-2	7-4
East Bladen	5-2	7-3
West Columbus	3-4	4-6
South Brunswick	2-5	2-8
South Robeson	1-6	1-9
North Brunswick	0-7	1-9

Friday's Games		
Jordan-Matthews at West Brunswick	39	White Oak 7
Whiteville	34	East Duplin 22
Wallace-Rose Hill	26	Fairmont 0

forced to punt from the Trojan 40 yard-line. Troy Helton's kick rolled to the West three yard-line giving the Trojans their worst field position of the game.

McNeil fumbled on the first play as the ball popped straight up in the arms of Viking linebacker Eric Oglesby who waltzed into the end zone.

LaCarlos Adams kicked the extra point to bring White Oak within 26-7 with 6:49 to play in the quarter.

At the conclusion of White Oak's next possession, the Vikings elected to fake a fourth-down punt at their own 28 yard-line. The Trojan defense was ready and stopped Helton two yards short of a first down after a short five-yard pickup.

The Trojans used the excellent field position to score its first points of the second half with an eight-play drive capped by Hankins' three-yard touchdown run. West stayed on the ground for the entire possession with the exception of a 15-yard pass completion from Howard to Tony Graham on third down to keep the drive alive.

Howard added his third extra point to give West a 33-7 advantage with 8:59 to play in the game.

Graham helped spark the Trojans to their final touchdown on the next play with his second pass interception in as many games near midfield.

Four plays later and following a 19-yard pass to Graham from Howard, Alex King scored on a 12-yard run up the middle with 8:15 left for the final scoring margin.

Trojan linebacker Bossy Clemmons stopped a near Viking score minutes later when White Oak drove to the West one yard-line. However, tailback Tracy Boone fumbled on first down and Clemmons recovered to end the drive and the final White Oak scoring threat.

"We were pleased to have the fans support behind us tonight," added Seay. "It is really great to have them behind us. The players truly respond to such support."

King joined Bernard as top rushers for the Trojans picking up 58 yards and a touchdown on nine carries. McNeil also ran for 33 yards on five carries while Chris Morgan carried five times for 30 yards.

Gore caught three passes for 94 yards and two touchdowns while Graham made two receptions for 34 yards.

Boone led White Oak with 76 yards on 13 carries while Mike Whitney ran for 26 yards on eight carries.

Viking quarterback James Howard was limited to five-for-10 passing for 49 yards and one interception.

Reggie Slade caught two passes for

23 yards while Glasgow also made two receptions for 22 yards.

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The 32-point Trojan win was the second-largest winning margin in the opening round of the state 2-A playoffs. Only Smokey Mountain's 41-0 romp over East Surry was by a wider margin.

#### THE YARDSTICK

White Oak	West Brunswick
10	16
36-113	39-278
49	172
10-5	11-6
1	0
5-28	3-24
2-1	2-2
2-6	8-65

Score By Quarters	
White Oak	0 0 7 0-7
West Brunswick	7 19 0 13-39

#### Scoring Summary

- (WB) Bernard, 64-yard run (Howard kick);
- (WB) Gore, 30-yard pass from Howard (kick failed);
- (WB) Gore, 50-yard pass from Howard (pass failed);
- (WB) Hankins, 10-yard run (Howard kick);
- (WO) Oglesby, 3-yard fumble recovery (Adams kick);
- (WB) Hankins, 3-yard run (Howard kick);
- (WB) King, 12-yard run (run failed).

#### Individual Statistics

- Rushing—White Oak: Whitney 8-26, Slade 5-9, Boone 13-76, Howard 7-2, Glasgow 2-minus 5, Helton 1-5.
- West Brunswick: Bernard 11-141, Morgan 5-30, Hankins 3-11, King 9-58, Howard 3-minus 6, McNeil 5-33, B.Clemmons 2-9.
- Passing—White Oak: 5-10-149.
- West Brunswick: Howard 6-11-0-172.
- Receiving—White Oak: Slade 2-23, Glasgow 2-22, Rosendary 1-4.
- West Brunswick: Babson 1-44, Gore 3-94, Graham 2-34.

### Brown Places In Bowling Tourney

Marie Brown of Calabash took second place in the women's division of the recent 55 And Over Senior Tournament held at Little River Lanes in Little River, S.C. The second-place finish in the Nov. 3 bowling event followed a qualifying round in which she finished fourth. The next senior tournament has been planned for Feb. 3, 1989.



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