

# Prep Basketball Rebirth Highlights '90 Sports Year In Brunswick

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The resurgence of basketball on the prep hardwood in Brunswick County highlighted the local soon-to-be-completed sports year.

The rebirth of the cage game at South and West Brunswick is the stuff sports trivia questions are made from.

Earlier this year West Brunswick won a share of its first conference basketball championship in five years and South Brunswick capped its best record in school history. And the West girls' team of 1989-90 also had its best record in possibly a decade.

Basketball continues to be on the upswing in the new season as the year draws to a close. Both West boys' and girls' teams have combined to win 15 of 16 games while the Trojans won the school's 300th cage victory just last week.

The South boys (5-1) appear headed for even bigger things in the 1990-91 season. Led by fifth-year coach Gene Doane, the Cougars gave the veteran mentor his 500th career win in January.

There were other highlights of the sports year—Robert Flythe's state 300-meter hurdle championship in state-record time, another undefeated season for the West Brunswick junior high football team, new coaches and athletic directors among the three county schools and yet more golf courses added to the simply superb and superior links selection that Brunswick has to offer.

Look back at 1990 and relive the top sports stories of the first year of the decade.

## January

The month began with South Brunswick boys' basketball coach Gene Doane winning his 500th career game in the Cougars' 57-34 triumph over North Brunswick.

Doane, who was in his fourth season at South, had coached 26 seasons in the Washington, D.C. metro area prior to coming to Boiling Spring Lakes.

The West Brunswick boys won their first four Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball games before losing to host East Bladen 68-66 late in the month.

The Trojans would avenge the loss in February and take the lead in a hot league race only to finish tied for the WC crown with East Bladen on the final week of the regular season.

The West boys won the first of three meetings with South Brunswick on Jan. 26, 59-54 in overtime in front of the largest Trojan home crowd in perhaps the last half-decade.

## February

During the first week of the month West Brunswick's Ricky Daniels scored 44 points in a win over Fairmont to set a boys' single-game scoring record. Daniels eclipsed the five-year record set by Robert Thompson by seven points.

The West Brunswick boys took over sole possession of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball race the next week with an 81-73 win over East Bladen. The standing-room-only crowd was one of several at the Trojans' gym during the final weeks of the season.

The two teams eventually finished as WC co-champions with identical 12-2 loop records. For the Trojans, it was their first league title since the 1984-85 season when West gained a share of the Three Rivers 3-A Conference championship.

West finished with a 16-9 record after advancing to the second round of the state playoffs.

The South Brunswick boys did even better extending its season to mid-March before falling in the Sectional III finals in Graham. The Cougars finished 20-7, their best record in school history.

Trojan football standout Brian Hill signed a grant-in-aid to play at Wingate College late in the month. Bulldog assistant coach Rodney Borders was on hand for the signing and spoke highly of the 6-foot-2, 220-pound offensive lineman.

## March

Daniels and South Brunswick's Tessa Lee were named county basketball players of the year highlighting the annual All-Brunswick County cage teams.

Daniels, a 6-5 junior guard, finished the season averaging 26 points per game while Lee, a 5-10 junior center, averaged 24.9 points per contest in helping the Lady Cougars to a 6-15 record.

Sea Trail Plantation near Sunset Beach opened a new golf course, clubhouse and conference center the same week. The new Jones course (named after course designer Rees

Jones) joined the original Sea Trail course that opened in 1985.

## April

Three West Brunswick Trojans headlined the All-Waccamaw Conference basketball selections in early April including Daniels, Timmy Farmer and Jeff Bernard. Trojan coach Billy Mims shared WC coach of the year honors with East Bladen's Sam Boger.

West Brunswick's Rebecca Buffkin also received All-WC honors after helping lead the Lady Trojans (11-9) to their best record in a decade under first-year coach Brenda Council.

South Brunswick's Gene Doane was listed among North Carolina's winningest prep boys' basketball coaches with a 34-year career record of 513-141.

The release from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association listed Doane as the sixth-winningest boys' coach in the state.

In mid-April a pair of North Brunswick football standouts—Tige Munn and Anthony Mosley—both signed grid grant-in-aids with Wingate College. The Scorpion pair became the second and third Brunswick County players to ink with the NAIA Division I Bulldogs.

Jill Snyder of Calabash won a gold medal in the U.S. Gymnastic Federation's South Carolina meet at Charleston, S.C., in the 12-and-over age division. The 13-year-old also won four medals in compulsory events enroute to the gold.

## May

The second annual Brunswick County Special Olympics drew a field of 100 local handicapped residents at South Brunswick High School.

Also in early May, former South Brunswick baseball standout Scott Gales was tearing up the diamond at Southeastern Community College.

Gales, a freshman, led Region X of the Independent Junior College Conference in batting with a .390 average through games played of April 15. It marked the third straight week the former Cougar had led the region in hitting. He was also named Region X player of the week on three different occasions.

In June, Gales ended the season leading SCC in hitting (.388), home runs (6) and runs batted in (27).

Joining Gales on the SCC team was former West Brunswick standout Dino Daniels. Daniels was one of the top Ram pitchers while also playing in the outfield.

West Brunswick's Raymond Howard and North Brunswick's Mary-Anna Hale and Jamie Medlin were named scholar athletes of the year at their respective schools' year-end athletic banquets in late May.

The West Brunswick golf team, despite an improved score from that of 1989, finished eighth in the state championship tournament in Chapel Hill. The Trojans actually finished 23 strokes better than the year before when they took fourth place.

South Brunswick's Robert Flythe captured the 1-A—2-A state 300-meter intermediate hurdle championship at N.C. State University just before the end of the school year.

Flythe not only won the event but set a new prep state record with a 38.4 finish. The Cougar senior also finished third in the 110-meter high hurdles.

## June

North Brunswick junior David McDowell was named county baseball player of the year after helping the Scorpions to their best diamond season in five years.

The Scorpions finished 13-9 overall, tied with East Bladen for second place in the Waccamaw Conference and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs.

Second-year Scorp coach Keith Moore was named Brunswick County baseball coach of the year for his efforts in returning success back to the North diamond program.

In news that shocked the entire Waccamaw Conference, Whiteville head football coach and athletic director Bill Hewett resigned to take the same position at South Brunswick.

Hewett replaced six-year veteran Cougar grid coach Glenn Sasser.

North Brunswick softball coach Jim Steed received Waccamaw Conference coach of the year honors after his Lady Scorpion team captured the league championship and finished 15-2 overall.

In early July, Steed followed the lead of Hewett by resigning as head football coach at North to take the same position at nearby Hallsboro.

Scorpion athletic director and football assistant Gary Baldwin was immediately named as Steed's successor by North principal James McAdams.

Brunswick County male and female athlete of the year as well as coach of the year honors were announced in late June.

West Brunswick's Raymond Howard and South Brunswick's Flythe shared the male award while



**TOP COUNTY CAGERS**—South Brunswick's Tessa Lee and West Brunswick's Ricky Daniels were named county basketball players of the year in March following the 1989-90 season. The pair of juniors averaged in double-figure scoring and rebounding. Daniels set a new West Brunswick single-game scoring record with 44 points against Fairmont in February.



**FOOTBALL HONORS**—West Brunswick's co-player of the year Aldwin Lance (left) and South Brunswick's Bill Hewett, coach of the year, congratulate each other following the prep football season in November. Lance, a running back, shared player of the year honors with South Brunswick quarterback Todd Vice.

Kristi Lewis, also of West, claimed the female honor.



**LEWIS HOWARD**  
Doane was named county coach of the year after leading the South Brunswick boys' basketball team to a school-record, 20-9 finish.

## July

In a slow month for sports, West Brunswick basketball standouts Ricky Daniels and Lonnie Mitchell both participated in the prestigious Prep Stars Camp at UNC-Charlotte. The annual summer camp invites only the top high school basketball talent in the southeastern U.S. to participate.

Daniels was listed among the top three players at the camp.

## August

Former South Brunswick multi-sports standout Quentin McCracken began his third year as a football starter at Duke University. McCracken started at the right cornerback position as a freshman while also handling the kickoff return duties.

West Brunswick kicked off the new prep football season with a school-record, fourth consecutive season-opening win. The Trojans topped North Myrtle Beach, S.C., 26-7.

Later in the week the Trojans presented former assistant coach Fred Bradley with the game ball.

Bradley, the former Trojan defensive coordinator, began treatment for cancer earlier in the year and attended a number of West grid games during the season.

## September

West and South Brunswick had almost identical results in the first full month of the prep football season.

The Trojans won their first two then dropped a pair before snapping the losing streak with their first

Waccamaw Conference victory over Fairmont.

The Cougars also opened with two straight wins and then lost two straight. South got its first league win in a 42-0 blanking of North Brunswick.

The 42-0 thrashing the Scorpions received from South was an indication of things to come at North Brunswick.

The Scorp went on to complete a winless 0-10 campaign while scoring only 31 points during the season. North Brunswick suffered six shutouts as its grid losing streak reached 16 games by the end of the season dating back to 1989.

## October

West Brunswick celebrated homecoming in mid-October with an 18-6 football win over West Columbus.

The Oyster Festival Run at Holden Beach hosted The Athletics Congress North Carolina 5-Kilometer state championship for the first time as part of the annual event.

North Brunswick track standout Craig Holden captured the state 5-K title with a 17:38 finish.

The football season began to take a turn for the worse at West Brunswick after the Trojans put together a four-game winning streak near mid-season.

Following their 2-2 start, West defeated Fairmont, South Robeson, West Columbus and North Brunswick, to gain a share of first place in the Waccamaw Conference with East Bladen, Whiteville and South Robeson.

However, the Trojans (6-4) closed the season with consecutive losses to East Bladen and South Brunswick to end hopes of gaining a spot in state playoffs for a school-record third straight year.

## November

South Brunswick, with its 21-14 win over West Brunswick in the team's regular-season finale, advanced to the state football playoffs for only the second time in school history in early November. The Cougars (6-5) were bounced from the opening round by defending 2-A champion Clayton, 20-7.

The West Brunswick junior high grid team completed its second straight undefeated season and capped an unscored-upon year with

a 44-0 blanking of West Columbus. In early December the team (drawing players from both Shallotte Middle and Waccamaw Schools) were honored at a banquet. Timmy Daniels was named the team's most valuable player.

Later in the month, West Brunswick's Aldwin Lance and South Brunswick's Todd Vice were named county players of the year to highlight the annual All-Brunswick County football team. South's Bill Hewett was named coach of the year after leading the Cougars into the state playoffs in his first year on the job.

In addition to the opening of the prep basketball season, West Brunswick fielded a wrestling team for the first time in school history.

Under the direction of new coach Joe Noble, the Trojan grapplers joined both North and South Brunswick as all three county schools now complete in the sport.

## December

As the basketball season began to prepare for a Christmas holiday break, both West and South Brunswick boys' teams along with the West Brunswick girls' squad were off to their best start in many, many years.

The Trojan boys (8-0) ran off eight straight wins while also recording the school's 300th male cage victory in game number 7 against Williams Township last week.

Not since the 1980-81 season when the Trojans roared out to an 11-0 start has West Brunswick been so successful so early on the hardwood.

South Brunswick sports a 5-1 record after opening with four straight wins while the West Brunswick girls (7-1) have lost only once in eight games.

Former South Brunswick football star Nick DiFoggio was honored at the Wingate College gridiron banquet.

DiFoggio, a senior, was named the Bulldog's top defensive back after ended his career as the school's career pass interception leader with 12.

In addition, DiFoggio was one of four Wingate players named as hon-



**Flythe Shares Athlete of Year Honors**—South Brunswick's Robert Flythe, along with West Brunswick's Raymond Howard were co-county male athletes of the year in 1990. Flythe was a standout on the Cougar basketball team while also capturing the 1-A—2-A state 300-meter hurdles championship in state-record time.

orary captain. Earlier this month he received All-South Atlantic Conference, second-team honors.

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