

SOUTH TOPS WEST, 74-63

Daniels Breaks Trojan Scoring Record With 48 Points Against East Bladen

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

West Brunswick split a pair of Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball games with rivals South Brunswick and East Bladen during a record-setting week of prep action.

Ricky Daniels broke his own West Brunswick single-game scoring record with 48 points in last Tuesday's 84-83 overtime win over visiting East Bladen.

Daniels' performance broke the previous record of 44 points he scored in an 89-81 win over Whiteville last February.

Daniels also scored 29 points Friday against South Brunswick but it wasn't enough as the host Cougars took a 74-63 win for their third straight triumph over the Trojans dating back to last season. The loss was also the first in league play for West Brunswick while South Brunswick took over sole possession of the WC lead with a perfect 6-0 loop mark.

West Brunswick, now 6-1 in the WC and 14-2 overall, continues conference action on the road Friday traveling to Fairmont while visiting South Robeson next Tuesday.

South Brunswick

Prep basketball fans packed the South Brunswick gym and the cafeteria lobby where a closed-circuit television broadcast the contest for the long-awaited intercounty showdown between the top two cage teams in the conference.

In the end, it was the balanced scoring attack of the Cougars led by Preston McGriff's 27 points and a tight South Brunswick defense that made the difference.

"We played pretty good man-to-man defense tonight," said South Brunswick coach Gene Doane. "We got in their face right from the start and kept them (West Brunswick) from getting the free shot."

"Kevin Smith (freshman) did a heck of a job and scored eight points. Preston McGriff also played very well, especially considering he got into foul trouble in the second half."

"Josh White (scored seven of his nine points in the first quarter) also played well defensively and did a good job on Daniels. It was also his job to beat their press, recognize the defense we were going against and get the ball to the right people. He had so much on his mind that it may have hurt his shooting somewhat."

South Brunswick led the entire game jumping out to first-quarter leads of 9-3 and 15-7 behind the play of McGriff. The 6-foot-10 junior center scored eight of South's first 12 points and paved the way for a 19-12 Cougar lead at the end of the period.

Daniels' jumper with 7:21 to play in the half got the Trojans within 19-15 of South Brunswick but West could get no closer until late in the third quarter.

South scored six unanswered points on a Carl Parker jumper and four free throws by Kevin Smith to take its biggest lead of the half, 37-24 with 1:33 left.

Daniels scored the final four

points of the half to get the Trojans within 37-28 at the break.

West Brunswick went on a 6-0 tear of its own to cut the Cougar lead to 45-44 with 2:34 to play in the third quarter. However, South Brunswick outscored the Trojans 6-2 in the final 1:35 of the period on the scoring of McGriff to gain a 55-48 advantage.

The Trojans managed to get within five points of South Brunswick once in the final quarter, 64-59 with 3:16 to play on a pair of quick baskets by LaPerry Hill.

The Cougars converted on eight of 11 free throws in the time remaining to starve off a late Trojan rally.

"I have to give South Brunswick all the credit," said West Brunswick coach Billy Mims. "We kept climbing back and South Brunswick would always come up with some clutch baskets."

"Lonnie Mitchell and Jerry Reeves (combined for four points) got in early foul trouble and were never able to contribute to our scoring like they usually do. They are both an important part of what we do."

"We played hard and I can't wait for South Brunswick to come to

Shallotte on February 22. It's going to be another tight game similar to tonight."

Hill finished with 24 points for West Brunswick. Parker scored 12 points for the Cougars, now 12-3 overall, while White added nine along with Greg Williams and Kevin Smith with eight each.

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 12 16 20 15—63
South Brunswick 19 18 18 19—74

West Brunswick scoring: Bowen 2, Johnson 4, Hill 24, Mitchell 3, Reeves 1, Daniels 29.

South Brunswick scoring: White 9, Williams 8, K. Smith 8, Fullwood 4, Parker 12, McGriff 27, Stringfield 4, M. Smith 2.

East Bladen

Daniels' record-setting performance helped spark West Brunswick's most spectacular comeback in recent years as the Trojans escaped with an 84-83 win over East Bladen last Tuesday.

Daniels sank two free throws with one second remaining in overtime to give the Trojans the win after sending the game into the extra period with two more from the charity stripe with four seconds left in regulation.

West Brunswick trailed by 10

points with 45 seconds left in the game and rallied to knot the score at 77-77 at the end of regulation time.

LaPerry Hill scored on two straight three-point goals and Daniels added yet another to get the Trojans within 76-75.

East Bladen's Ty Powell hit the first of two free throws with eight seconds left to give the Cougars a 77-75 lead before Daniels converted his two free throws to send the game into overtime.

The Trojans outscored East Bladen 8-7 in the extra period.

The Cougars led 19-17 in the first quarter and widened the gap at half-time to 41-35.

West Brunswick limited East Bladen to 11 third-quarter points as the Trojans grabbed control 55-52 at the end of the period.

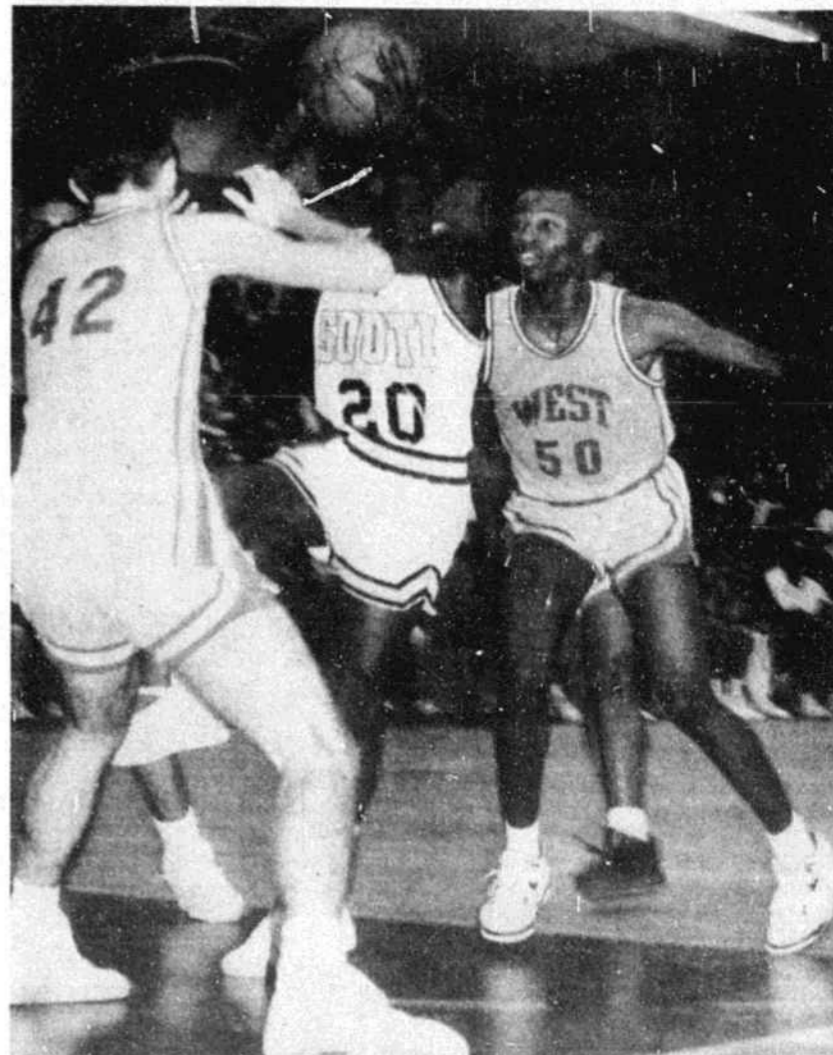
Hill finished with 18 points for West Brunswick while Gary Rhoda led East Bladen (3-4, 6-6) with 31.

Score By Quarters

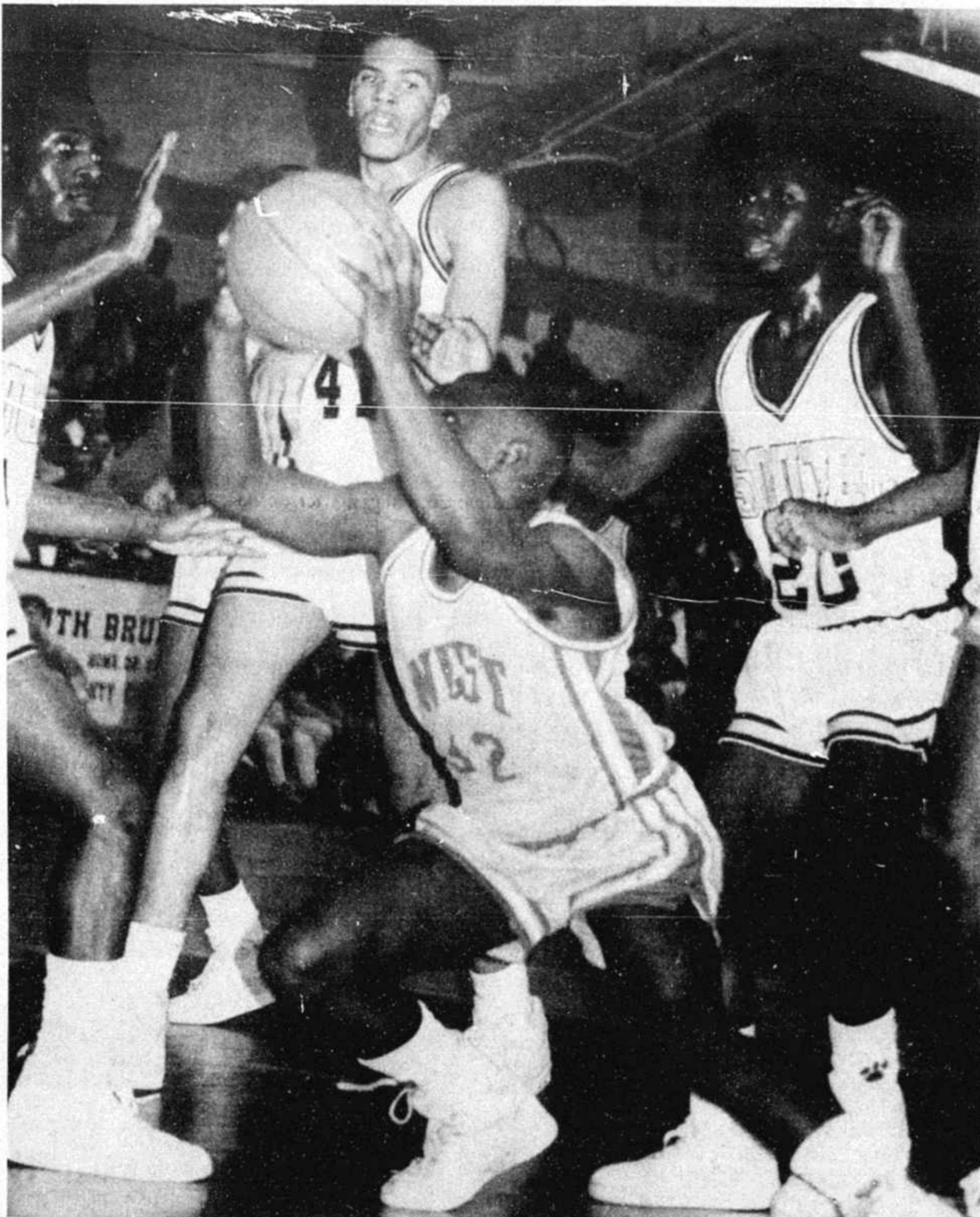
East Bladen 19 22 11 25—75
W Brunswick 17 18 20 21—84

East Bladen scoring: Rhoda 31, Powell 12, Davis 15, Johnson 11, McCoy 5, Gary 6, M. Johnson 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Hill 18, Daniels 48, Bowen 2, Johnson 7, Mitchell 3, Hughes 2, Reeves 4.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHNNY CRAIG
WHITE TO THE BASKET—South Brunswick's Josh White (20) drives past Ricky Daniels (50) of West Brunswick for a layup in the Cougars' 74-63 Waccamaw 2-A Conference win over the Trojans last Friday. Patrick Hughes (42) also defends for West Brunswick. White scored nine points for the Cougars.



SURROUNDED—West Brunswick's Aldwin Lance (with ball) finds himself surrounded by South Brunswick defenders, from left, Mike Stringfield, Preston McGriff and Josh White. South Brunswick won the intercounty battle over the visiting Trojans, 74-63 last Friday before an overflow crowd.

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