

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

North Brunswick at West Brunswick, JV baseball, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

West Brunswick at North Brunswick, baseball, 7 p.m.
North Brunswick at West Brunswick, softball, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Hallsboro at West Brunswick, baseball, 7 p.m.
West Brunswick at South Brunswick, boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
North Brunswick, Fairmont and South Robeson at Whiteville, boys' and girls' track, 3:30 p.m.
West Brunswick at East Bladen, JV baseball, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

East Bladen at West Brunswick, baseball, 7 p.m.
North Brunswick at South Robeson, baseball, 7 p.m.
South Robeson at North Brunswick, softball, 4 p.m.
West Brunswick at East Bladen, softball 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

West Brunswick at Whiteville, boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
South Robeson, Fairmont and West Columbus at North Brunswick, boys' and girls' track, 3:30 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list your sporting contest call or write the *Beacon* with schedules and details.

Buffkin, Bland Named Top Weekly Spring Athletes

West Brunswick softball standout Becky Buffkin and golfer Chris Bland are recipients of the Trojan/Burger King Spring Athlete of the Week award after leading their respective teams to early-season success.

Bland was named Trojan athlete of the week for the period ending April 1 while Buffkin was selected for the same honor for the week ending March 25.

Bland shot a 72-hole, team-leading 313 in last week's 10-team Hoggard Invitational Gold Tournament in Wilmington.

Earlier in the week Bland carded rounds of 73 and 78 for medalist honors while leading West Brunswick to a first-place finish in a Waccamaw 2-A Conference match in Elizabethtown.

The Trojans finished the league match with a team-total 338 followed by South Brunswick (341), East Bladen (346), Whiteville (349) and Fairmont (415).

"Chris is exceptionally devoted to golf," said West Brunswick athletic director Marshall Seay of the award. "He has been devoted to the game ever since I've known him. The success he is having now is directly related to his hard work and the quality instruction he receives from coach Will Cockrell."

Buffkin, a senior third baseman, went an amazing 9-for-10 at the plate during the week prior to the Easter holidays as the Lady Trojans won two of three games during the



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHNNY CRAIG
SPRING ATHLETES OF THE WEEK are Chris Bland (left) for the period ending April 1 and Becky Buffkin for the week ending March 25.

period. Included in her 10 plate appearances were seven runs batted in as West Brunswick (6-3 overall) defeated both Waccamaw Conference foes South Robeson and Fairmont while losing to non-league opponent Pender.

"Becky is off to a great offensive start this season," said West Brunswick softball coach Tracy James. "She provides excellent senior leadership."

Buffkin collected a triple, double and single in the win over Fairmont and last week, went 2-for-3 with a solo home run and a double in a win over New Hanover.

"Becky is my kind of athlete," said Seay. "As a football coach, I appreciate consistency, reliability and extreme dedication from a player. Becky has been all of these things to our girls' athletic program."

"She is now finishing up her senior year at West Brunswick and I predict she will be just as competitive in the game of life."

The multi-sports standout is also a three-time All-Brunswick County and All-Waccamaw Conference basketball performer and was named county player of the year as a senior. She was also voted team most valuable player as a sophomore and junior and is a four-year letterman in both sports.

Buffkin has narrowed her college choices to Pfeiffer or the College of Charleston. She plans to continue playing both basketball and softball while majoring in sports medicine.

SPORTING SCENE

Tourney Play Abounds On Prep Diamonds During Easter Break

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

All Brunswick County prep baseball teams, along with nearly every member of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference, saw plenty of action during the recent week-long Easter break.

West Brunswick staged its first holiday diamond tournament in several years and finished last in a four-team field comprised of Spartanburg, S.C. area squads.

South Brunswick won two of three games to take third in the annual Sea Shell Invitational Tournament in Wilmington. It was the Cougars' best finish after participating in each of the four Sea Shell events.

North Brunswick lost three straight in the Sea Shell tourney but don't count the Scorpions out of the Waccamaw Conference race.

The Scorpions (6-5) ended up near the bottom of last year's tournament but rebounded to finish strong in the league season and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs for the first time in over five years.

The Sea Shell tournament boasted a strong field including 4-A teams Hoggard, New Hanover and Laney, along with eastern 2-A power East Carteret.

Whiteville won its own Easter tournament last Friday with a 9-1 romp over Wallace-Rose Hill. The Wolfpack, currently 7-0 overall, ripped Pender 14-2 in the first round to advance to the championship game.

Richie Blackwell, the winning pitcher in the Wolfpack's decision over West Brunswick two weeks ago, fired a no-hitter for five innings to highlight Whiteville's victory over Wallace-Rose Hill.

Both West Columbus and East Bladen participated in local baseball tournaments over the week-long break.

West Columbus, the defending champion of Jiggs Powers Easter Invitational, was one of eight teams competing in the sixth annual event held at Williams Township. Others participating along with the Vikings and host Aggies were Nakina, Hallsboro, Tabor City, Waccamaw Academy, Bladenboro and West Stanley.

West Stanley, the only non-Columbus County entry in the tournament, was the eventual winner defeating Waccamaw Academy 6-4 in the championship contest. The winners downed Tabor City in the opening round and West Columbus in second-round play.

East Bladen defeated Acme-Delco 7-3 to win its own holiday tournament last week. Also participating in the Cougars' tourney were Clinton and Harrells Christian Academy.

Fairmont was a first-round winner in the St. Pauls Diamond Classic. The Golden Tornadoes, despite a rebuilding year, blanked 1-A Littlefield 10-0 in the opener before dropping a 13-0 decision to the host Bulldogs in the championship game.

Tar Heel Seniors Coming To Shallotte

University of North Carolina Tar Heel seniors Pete Chilcutt, King Rice and Rick Fox will be among the members of an all-star basketball team scheduled to play at the West Brunswick gym on Saturday, Apr. 27 at 2 p.m.

The Tar Heel team will also include former University of North Carolina players as well.

More information will be available next week according to game coordinator Billy Mims, West Brunswick boys basketball coach

IN SOFTBALL

West Girls Edge South Robeson 7-3

Perry Culpepper belted a grand-slam home run in the fourth inning and winning pitcher Jenny Judah went the distance as West Brunswick defeated visiting South Robeson 7-3 last Thursday in Waccamaw 2-A Conference softball play.

Culpepper's blast highlighted a four-run fourth for the Lady Trojans who also scored a single run in the

first inning and two more in the fifth.

Lena Janeda went a perfect 2-for-2 at the plate for West Brunswick while Meg Small and Becky Buffkin both collected two hits in three trips.

Chastity Oxendine was the losing pitcher.

South Robeson 000 030 0—3- 7-0
W. Brunswick 104 020 X—7-12-2

Lady Cougars Rip West Columbus

South Brunswick exploded early with a 10-run first inning and then cruised to an 18-6 romp over visiting West Columbus in Waccamaw 2-A Conference softball action last Thursday.

Tracy Frank was the winning pitcher while Melissa Hardin was charged with the loss.

Stacy Isenberg and Tasha Sellers both went 3-for-5 at the plate to

lead the Lady Cougars' 16-hit attack. Included in Sellers' three hits was a two-run homer.

Sheila Hemmingway went 2-for-3 to lead West Columbus while Kim Edge blasted a two-run homer and Clementine Martin, a solo home run. Pat Hasty also had two hits for the Lady Vikings, now 4-2 overall.

W. Columbus 0 32 000 1—6- 8-6
S. Brunswick (10) 22 004 X—18-16-1

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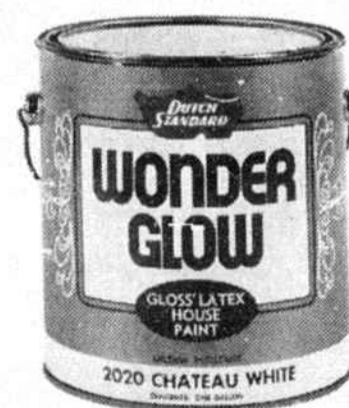
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