

Whiteville Bumps Trojans From Playoffs, 6-4

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

West Brunswick's emotional baseball season came to an end last Tuesday in Whiteville where the Trojans fell to the host Wolfpack 6-4 in the third round of the state 2-A prep playoffs.

The loss was the third this season for West Brunswick, fourth-place finishers in the Waccamaw Conference, against WC champion Whiteville.

The win was the Wolfpack's 23rd straight this season and, following their 1-0 eastern final win over East Carteret on Friday, Whiteville entered this week's state championship series with a perfect 24-0 record.

West Brunswick was guilty of five errors which hurt the combined six-hit pitching of loser Brian Alderson, who started on the mound for the Trojans, and reliever Scott Gore. "The errors hurt tonight," said West Brunswick coach Mike Alderson. "When you play a team like Whiteville you need to play an errorless ballgame."

"This was a good battle between pitchers Brian Alderson and Chris Smith (Whiteville). Smith has good velocity for the high school level. Beau Ramey (Whiteville first baseman) had a super defensive game making three major-league plays at first base," added Alderson.

After two scoreless innings, Whiteville managed single runs in the third and fourth frames to take a 2-0 lead.

Wolfpack second baseman Ed Burleson scored the first run after opening the third inning with a single, advancing to second on Mark Harrington's sacrifice bunt and then coming home on designated hitter Richie Blackwell's sacrifice fly to right field.

Whiteville catcher John Scherbert scored the second run after a leadoff

walk, Trojan third baseman Lee Miller's second error of the game and Carlos Baldwin's RBI-single to right.

Blackwell, better known as the pitching ace on the Whiteville mound staff, blasted a two-run homer over the centerfield fence to highlight the Wolfpack's big four-run fifth inning. Three more Trojan fielding errors also aided the Wolfpack cause as they increased their lead to 6-0.

West Brunswick got within 6-2 with two runs in the sixth. Gore walked and scored on the first of Aldwin Lance's two doubles to left field for the first run. Lance later

scored on Alderson's ground out to third base.

The Trojans continued to rally in the seventh inning when Lee Miller and pitch hitter Adam Johnson walked and then scored on Lance's second double with two outs.

Alderson then grounded out to second and the Wolfpack began to celebrate their third win of the season over the Trojans.

"I told the team following the game that West Brunswick has gained a lot of baseball respect throughout the Waccamaw Conference and southeastern North Carolina with the success we've had this season," said Alderson. "We

were the Cinderella team this year in the playoffs similar to The Citadel in last year's College World Series."

Alderson pitched five innings for the Trojans giving up five hits and six runs (four earned) while walking two and striking out one.

Gore tossed the final inning in relief and gave up one hit and walked one.

Smith, who hurled his second straight four-hitter in the playoffs, went the distance for the Wolfpack while walking four and striking out six. The senior right-hander also improved his mound record to 9-0.

Blackwell, who is also unbeaten on the mound for the Wolfpack this season, has already signed a grant with East Carolina University.

Lance led West Brunswick, who ended the season at 13-10-1, going 2-for-3 with two doubles and three runs batted in.

Designated hitter Alton Johnson and catcher Bryan Fleming also had one hit each for the Trojans.

Burleson, batting eighth in the Wolfpack lineup, went 2-for-3 and scored once while Blackwell, Scherbert, Baldwin and Harrington also had one hit each for Whiteville.

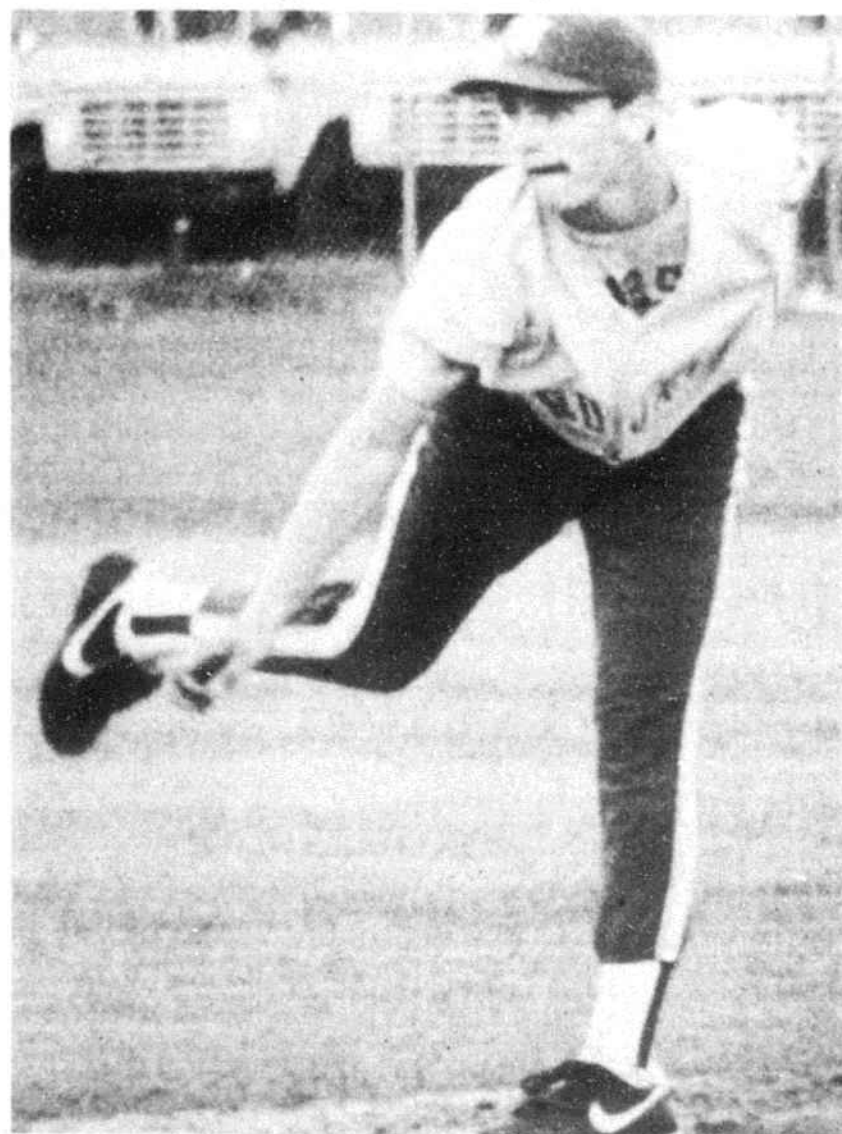
West Brunswick ended the season winning seven of its last 10 games while also having to endure the tragic death of team member George Daniels on May 14 near the end of the regular season.

The Trojans not only gained their first playoff berth in seven years but advanced to the final eight of the state tournament for only the second time in school history.

Whiteville was to have met the western champion (Swannanoa Owen or West Wilkes) in a best-of-three series that began Wednesday for the state 2-A title in Chapel Hill. W. Brunswick 000 002 2-4-4-5 Whiteville 001 140 X-6-6-1



EXPLANATION—West Brunswick's Aldwin Lance (right) looks to Trojan first base coach Doug Keelan for an explanation after a near-pickoff attempt during last Tuesday's 6-4 state playoff loss to Whiteville. Lance went 2-for-3 in the game including two doubles and drove in three of the Trojans' four runs.



FOLLOWS THROUGH—Trojan pitcher Brian Alderson watches the ball all the way to the plate in last week's 6-4 playoff loss to Whiteville. Alderson started for West Brunswick and went five innings while limiting the Wolfpack to just six hits. The junior right-hander won six games on the mound for the Trojans this season.



FOUL TIP—West Brunswick's Lee Miller fouls back a pitch in front of Whiteville catcher John Scherbert. The Trojan third baseman was held hitless after two good batting performances in West Brunswick's earlier playoff games against Clayton and C.B. Aycock.

RECREATION BRIEFS

Turtle Watch Workshop Set At Ocean Isle

Project Turtle Watch, an educational workshop and program on the nesting and hatching of the loggerhead sea turtle on Brunswick County's beaches will meet Thursday, June 6, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ocean Isle Beach Town Hall.

Sponsored by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, the workshop is open to the public. Volunteers are needed to monitor Ocean Isle turtle nests. For more information, call Tina Pritchard at the parks department, 253-4357.

Youths To Paint

Youth beginning painting classes will be offered this summer at the Lockwood Folly Community Building, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Session I, for ages 6-8, will run June 12, 14, 19 and 20. Session II, for ages 9-11, will run July 10, 12, 17 and 19.

Preregistration is required and there is a \$10 per person fee.

Dorothy Suggs will instruct the class. For more information or to register, call Emma McGraw at the parks department, 253-4357, or 1-800-222-4790.

Crafts Offered

Shell craft classes will be offered by the Long Beach Recreation Department starting Thursday, June 6, at 10 a.m. at the recreation center. A fee includes a book written by instructor Dorothy Bass that tells how to turn local sea shells into creative crafts.

For more information, call 278-5518.

Arts Taught

Art classes for children will be taught by the Long Beach Recreation Department starting June 20. Ages 7-9, to meet from 10 a.m. to

11 a.m., will be charged a \$5 fee.

Ages 10-12, to meet from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., will be charged a \$10 fee.

Classes will meet weekly through August, except July 4. To register and for more information, call Joan Wilson, 278-4551.

Plan To Fish

Youths ages 7 through 16 can fish in the Long Beach Recreation De-

partment's and Ocean Crest Pier's youth tournament Saturday, June 8, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the pier.

They should bring their own rods and reels, but bait and prizes will be provided.

Parents must accompany their child. Persons may register at the recreation department or at the event from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

For more information, call 278-5518.


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Answers to your Questions about Glaucoma

Q. What is glaucoma?
A. Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure of your eye rises to a point that the optic nerve is damaged. The pressure that builds up is due to a problem in the flow or drainage of fluid normally produced in your eye. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness in the U.S.

Q. What causes glaucoma?
A. The exact cause of glaucoma is not known. For some reason, the passages that normally allow fluid within your eye to drain out become clogged or blocked. This results in fluid building up within your eye and increasing pressure on the optic nerve. The nerve fibers and blood vessels in the optic nerve can easily be damaged by this pressure. An injury, infection or tumor in or around the eye can also cause pressure to rise.

Q. Who gets glaucoma?
A. Glaucoma most frequently occurs in individuals over the age of 40 and there is a hereditary tendency for the development of the disease in some families. It is estimated that over 2 million Americans have glaucoma and this is expected to rise as more of our population grows older. Primary open-angle glaucoma is more common among blacks than whites, causes damage at an earlier age and leads to blindness at a much greater rate. There is also a greater tendency for glaucoma to develop in individuals who are nearsighted or who have diabetes. Regular optometric examination, including testing for glaucoma, is a particularly important preventive eye care practice for those over age 35.

Q. Why is glaucoma harmful to vision?
A. The optic nerve, at the back of the eye, carries visual information to the brain. As the fibers that make up the optic nerve are damaged, the amount and quality of information sent to the brain decreases and a loss of vision occurs.

Q. Will I go blind from glaucoma?
A. If diagnosed at an early stage, glaucoma can be controlled and little or no further vision loss should occur. If left untreated, side awareness (peripheral vision) and central vision will be destroyed and blindness may occur.

Q. How can I tell if I have glaucoma?
A. The signs or symptoms of glaucoma can vary depending on the type. Primary open-angle glaucoma often develops gradually and painlessly. There are no early warning signs. It can gradually destroy your vision without you knowing it. The first indication may occur after some vision has already been lost. Acute angle-closure glaucoma, which results from a sudden blockage of drainage channels in your eye, causes a rapid build up of pressure accompanied by blurred vision, the appearance of colored rings around lights and pain or redness in the eyes.

Q. How is glaucoma detected?
A. A comprehensive optometric examination will include tests for glaucoma. A simple and painless procedure called tonometry measures the internal pressure of your eye. Your optometrist will also look into your eye to observe the health of the optic nerve and measure your field of vision.

Q. How is glaucoma treated?
A. Glaucoma is usually effectively treated with prescription eye drops and medicines. In some cases, surgery may be required. The goal of the treatment is to prevent loss of vision by lowering the pressure in the eye.

Q. Will my vision be restored after treatment?
A. Unfortunately, any vision loss as a result of glaucoma is usually permanent and cannot be restored. This is why regular preventive eye examinations are so important.

In the interest of better vision from the office of:

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