

## Former Scorpion Mintz Shows Impressive Numbers For Dodgers

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

Former North Brunswick prep baseball standout Stephen Mintz is off to a good start at Bakersfield, California, this season as a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers Class A minor league team.

Mintz, a former county baseball player of the year, has a 3-3 pitching record and three saves in 16 games. The second-year professional also sports a 2.86 earned run average.

In addition to pitching, Mintz is also a part-time catcher for Bakersfield.

Another former county prep great Wynn Beck (South Brunswick) was released recently by the Oakland Athletics after recurring back injuries. Beck, a catcher, plans to rehabilitate and return to baseball at a later date. Rumor has it that the Milwaukee Brewers are interested in the former Cougar.

### Brunswick Post 58 Enters Playoffs

For the first time since the early 1980s, Brunswick County Post 68 finds itself in the Area II Eastern Division playoffs that begin Thursday at two different sites.

Post 68 lost a seven-game series to Whiteville for the 1982 Eastern Division title in its last playoff appearance.

The year before (1981), Brunswick County won its only legion championship capturing the Eastern Division pennant.

The good news this time around is that Post 68 entered its final regular-season game Monday with a 12-5 record, good enough for a third-place finish.

The bad news is that Brunswick County will face league-runnerup Whiteville Post 137 (15-2) in a best-of-five series in the opening round.

Whiteville has captured the last six straight Eastern Division tournament championships and eight of the last nine.

In the other best-of-five series, regular-season champion Wilmington Post 10 will face either Winter Park or Beaufort Post 99. The two later teams were tied for fourth place with identical 11-5 records entering Monday's regular-season finale.

Brunswick County actually finished in a three-way tie for third place last year with Jacksonville Post 265 and Burgaw Post 165 but lost in a draw for the final two playoff spots.

### Region Teams Wins One In State Games

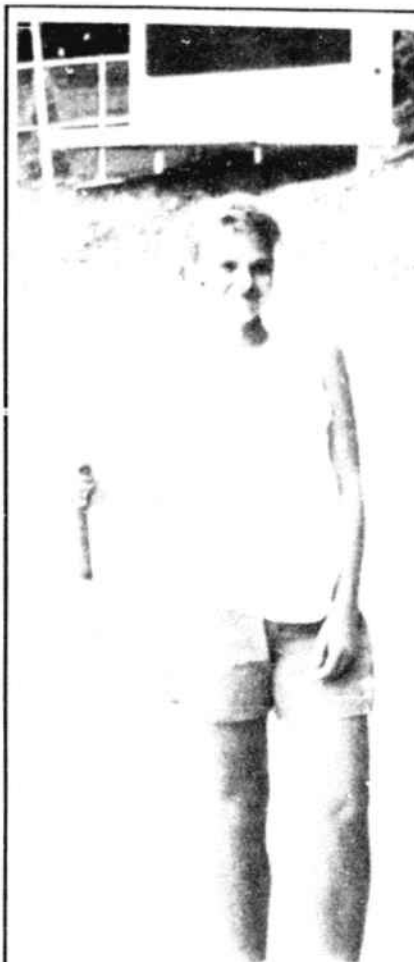
The Region II baseball team won one of three games last week in the annual North Carolina State Games held in Chapel Hill.

The Region II team that included Brian Alderson and assistant coach Mike Alderson of West Brunswick and Chris McBride of North Brunswick lost its first two games by identical 4-2 scores but rallied to win the third, 13-12.

"We just missed the bronze medal game despite losing our first two teams," said coach Alderson. "Brian saw action in the third game playing second base."

Trot Nixon, a New Hanover and Wilmington Post 10 player and member of the Region II team, received good reviews during a professional baseball tryout camp held prior to the games by a number of major league scouts.

"Trot was judged as the best professional prospect at the tryout camp," added Alderson.



JESSI WINFREE

## Winfree Advances To National Jr. Olympic Meet

Jessi Winfree qualified for the National Junior Olympics track and field meet last Saturday with a third-place finish in the girls javelin during the North Carolina J.O. championships at Chapel Hill.

Winfree, a rising eighth grader at Shallotte Middle School, captured third place with a throw of 17.30 meters (58 feet).

Eight girls from across North Carolina competed in the event with a throw of 21.04 meters taking first place and an 18.06 toss capturing second.

"Jessi really learned a lot by competing in such a big event," said coach Jay Houston. "This was her first real competition in this type arena. She has been very coachable and very competitive."

Winfree's best throw came on her third attempt when she moved up from fifth place.

The national Junior Olympic meet will also be held in Chapel Hill on during July 23-28.

The javelin competition will take place July 26 at 7:15 a.m. with all entrants receiving three preliminary throws.

The top eight from the preliminary round will then advance to the championship round.

Winfree, a member of the Cape Fear Flyers Track Club in Wilmington, was one of only three area athletes to qualify for the national meet.

Bill Musselwhite, track club president, Bill Caison, head track coach at UNC-Wilmington and assistant Kevin McCarthy, have worked with local athletes while competing in the junior olympic program.

"Jessi has worked very hard and has come so far so quick," added Houston. "Her big performance is still out there somewhere and it's just a matter of getting more consistent. The javelin is a technical event and you have to put everything together to be competitive."

Winfree qualified for the state meet after winning a Junior Olympic qualifying event held at UNC-Wilmington in early June.

## Eight County Girls Named To All-Conference Softball Team

Eight Brunswick County girls have received All-Waccamaw 2-A Conference softball honors from the spring season, it was announced last week by league president Colon Lane of Fairmont.

Included among the honorees were Jenny Judah (sophomore pitcher) and Tonia Long (senior centerfielder) of West Brunswick.

Also receiving the nod were Dawn Sholar (junior shortfielder), Angie Goddard (junior centerfielder) and Tony Edge (sophomore second baseman) of North Brunswick along with Jennifer Busfield (senior third baseman), Stacie Isenberg (sophomore shortstop) and Tasha Sellers (sophomore left fielder) of South Brunswick.

Seven county players received honorable mention including Meg Small (senior first baseman) and Perry Culpepper (senior shortstop) of West Brunswick, Tabby King (senior shortstop) and Rhonda King (senior pitcher) of North Brunswick and Shamika Williams (freshman catcher), Dusty Holland (freshman pitcher) and Jodie Brown (sophomore first baseman) of South Brunswick.

Conference champion West Columbus led in the balloting with four players named—Kimberly Edge, Clementine Martin, Melissa

Hardin and Patricia Hasty.

Second-place Whiteville had three selections including Andrea Sibbett, Tammy Hinson and Tami-icka Lewis.

Rounding out the all-star team were Joyce Leach and Denise Brewington of South Robeson, Kim Lewis of East Bladen and Sheila Page of Fairmont.

Other players receiving honorable mention were Jana Bowen and Nicole Cooper of Whiteville, Chastity Oxendine of South Robeson and Tracie Hester of East

Bladen.

West Columbus' Scott Streiffert was named league coach of the year.

North and South Brunswick finished the regular season with a share of second place along with Whiteville. North received the league's number two state playoff berth in a draw followed by South Brunswick (number three) and Whiteville (four).

West Brunswick ended its season in a tie for fifth place with South Robeson.

## Freedom 5-K Run Set Thursday

The 13th annual Freedom 5-kilometer and one-mile runs will open a host of activities in Southport Thursday as the N.C. Fourth of July Festival celebration continues.

The one-mile run begins at 8 a.m. followed by the 5-K event at 8:30 a.m.

Race-day registration is \$9 per person and includes a t-shirt.

The races begin at the old Southport gym at the corner of Atlantic Ave. and East West Street. The TAC-certified course will wind through the Southport historic district and along the Cape Fear River.

Trophies will be awarded to the top male and female finishers in both races.

For more information contact Mary Tomlinson at 457-9162.



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## This Week In Brunswick Sports

### THURSDAY, JULY 4

- Freedom 5-K and 1-Mile Runs at Southport, 8 a.m.
- Fourth of July Amateur Boxing Classic at Southport, 1 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 5

- Calabash Elks Club 6th annual George Leverence Golf Tournament at The Pearl Golf Links at Calabash, 9 a.m.

### MONDAY, JULY 8

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Park
- Shallotte First Baptist vs. Supply/Mount Olive, 7 p.m.
- Letties Grove Pentecostal vs. Zion Baptist, 8 p.m.
- Calvary Baptist vs. Ocean View Baptist, 9 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.



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