



**FIRST DAY IN PADS**—West Brunswick football players Ronnie Bradley (42) and Bobby Lovette (52) stretch out in Monday's practice on the Trojan practice fields. It was the first day of preseason drills in full pads for the Trojans who were forced to endure high temperatures and humidity.



**GETTING THE KINKS OUT**—West Brunswick quarterback Brian Alderson (9) helps Trojan lineman Donnie Warren (56) through stretching drills Monday in the first full week of prep football practice. The two seniors are among a host of returning veterans expected to lead the Trojans into contention for the Waccamaw 2-A Conference title this fall.



**RUNNING BACKS PREPARE**—Trojan running back William Stanley (22) takes the handoff from fellow offensive back Shawn Stephenson during preseason practice Monday at West Brunswick. The two are among a host of running backs available this fall to power the Trojan rushing attack.

# Trojans Open Football Drills With Good Numbers, Hot Weather

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

West Brunswick prep football practice began last Thursday with good numbers and lousy weather, according to Trojan head coach Marshall Seay.

Seay was greeted by some 50 varsity hopefuls on opening day last week despite hot and humid weather that was extreme for even typical August conditions.

"We are very pleased with the number of kids we've had out," said Seay during Monday's practice. "We are pleased with who is out and we have basically gotten the personnel we wanted. We still have a few of the younger players who are not out yet but we're working on that."

Early preseason drills have brought out some surprising varsity candidates that have helped replace a few returning starters who won't be in a Trojan uniform this fall.

Sonny Leggett, a senior who missed last season due to shoulder surgery, has returned and looks to be an "awfully good center candidate" according to Seay.

Leggett's return helps to replace the loss of former center Matt Jessen who's family moved earlier this summer.

Bryan Fleming, a starting inside linebacker and punter on last year's 6-4 Trojan team, will also be unavailable due to health reasons.

In addition, the death of George Daniels, who would have been a rising senior and a return starter on the defensive line, has left a big hole to fill for the Trojans.

Daniels was killed in an auto accident last May and was a popular, two-sport star with the Trojans.

"We're starting out with holes to fill that we weren't counting on to fill," explained Seay. "However, things aren't all bad. Take the running back position for instance—we've got more players there than we've ever had. A lot of them are young but they've got a lot of wiggle and are certainly talented."

"We are four-deep at running back not counting the junior varsity players out trying to win a varsity spot. We're also solid at quarterback with the return of senior Brian Alderson and the strong backup support offered by Aldwin Lance."

Alderson quarterbacked the Trojans last year as a junior in his first season at West Brunswick and Lance, who led the team in rushing a year ago, will also be counted on to lead this campaign's ground attack.

Additional quarterback depth is supplied by freshman Timmy Daniels, the offensive leader of last year's undefeated West Brunswick junior high team. Eric Johnson, also a freshman, is another possibility behind center.

The tight end position is also three-deep with none of the receivers smaller than 6-foot-3. Lonnie Mitchell and Daniel Russ return, as does Jerry Reeves.

Adding to an improved front line will also be the re-

turn of Tony Caison (senior, 6-3) who weighed in at 291 pounds last week. Also senior Donnie Warren returns at tackle.

"The strong side of our offensive line is just that—strong," said Seay. "We've still got some work to do on the quick side and are looking for people to step in and help. We may have found our first player to fill the void in Steven Brooks, a 6-3, 250-pound sophomore."

Things are still up in the air for the Trojans defensively.

Russ returns at linebacker and the growth of junior Shawn Stevenson (6-2, 195) will aid the defense. Stevenson has grown three inches and gained 17 pounds from his sophomore season.

Junior Aaron Butler, a two-year starter, has been moved from defensive back to linebacker.

Senior Ronnie Bradley, the junior varsity's most valuable player as a sophomore, will also help shore up the defensive unit.

Other top defensive prospects include Wayne Branch and William Stanley.

Players to watch on the defensive front include tackles Caison and Bobby Lovette (6-0, 250).

Senior Wayne Gore leads a group that includes three sophomores who are coming on strong defensively. Others include Brooks, Phillip Johnson and Kevin Seay, son of Marshall Seay.

The Trojans will also have plenty of depth at defensive end according to Seay.

In addition to the return of Lonnie Mitchell, Warren and Pat Polson at end is the addition of Charlie Peel, a transfer from Concord.

Senior Adam Johnson is another defensive end possibility who reported to practice last week after a several-year absence from the Trojan grid team.

"Our defensive secondary should be solid with plenty of players vying for a position," added Seay. "Receivers such as Jimmy Grissett, Cleon Butler and Shawn Bowen are also in a battle for playing time and are working hard as is Heath Hankins, brother of former Trojan Corey Hankins who is now at Catawba College."

"Matt Bozeman is another of four receivers who are all fleet-footed with good hands and good speed," said Seay. "We are going to work harder this year at getting them the ball. We've worked on pass protection since the first day of practice and have made a stronger commitment to throw the ball."

With the loss of Daniels, who also served as kicker last season, and Fleming as punter, the special teams may take a while to jell.

The Trojans will see their first scrimmage action in several weeks when they travel to meet Loris, S.C. and Tabor City.



**PRACTICE BEGINS**—West Brunswick head football coach Marshall Seay addresses his team prior to Monday morning's practice on the Trojan practice fields. Approximately 50 players have reported to West Brunswick preseason drills which began last Thursday.

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