

**'SHOWDOWN IN E-TOWN'**

# West Brunswick, East Bladen Meet Friday For WC Title

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

All eyes will be on Elizabethtown this Friday when West Brunswick meets host East Bladen in a game that will likely decide the Waccamaw 2-A Conference football championship.

The two teams, both undefeated in league play, have been on a collision course since the early weeks of the conference season.

Soon after West Brunswick defeated Whiteville on Sept. 27 in the opening week of league play, talk among local prep circles was of a Trojan vs. Cougars matchup in early November that could determine the conference title.

Friday's contest will be the first of two straight battles for East Bladen which closes out its regular season next week hosting Whiteville.

While West Brunswick, 5-0 in league play, enters the contest as the only unbeaten WC team overall (8-0), East Bladen (5-0, 7-1) has only one blemish to its credit, a 21-13 loss to defending state 2-A champion Clinton on Sept. 20.

Since the loss to the Darkhorses, East Bladen has rolled up five straight wins against South Brunswick (17-0), West Columbus (26-6), North Brunswick (56-0), Fairmont (35-6) and South Robeson (43-12). "They're excited," said West

Brunswick head coach Marshall Seay. "Our defense will face its stiffest test of the year as East Bladen has running backs that are every bit as talented as Whiteville, only they will be an average of 15 pounds heavier."

"East Bladen has big, quality running backs and a host of them. They are two deep at every backfield position out of the wishbone offense. Their quarterback is very consistent."

East Bladen doesn't pass much but Seay is concerned with Cougar's throwing accuracy.

"When they throw, they often use only one receiver while having as many as nine players back to provide coverage for the quarterback," added Seay.

Such possibilities will provide the Trojan secondary with plenty of challenges to stay alert—coming up to the line to support the run defense while at the same time watching out for the pass.

"East Bladen has done a good job at keeping opponents out of the end zone. After being shut out last year (13-0 loss to East Bladen), we are taking a different approach this time around. We are not as one-dimensional as we were a year ago. We have a lot of balance which will also have a lot of players contributing."

"The key will be how well our offensive line plays," said Seay. Our skill people can get the job done but it's what's up front that counts. The pressure is on them and that's where it ought to be."

Making up for Pat Polson, the former starting offensive guard who was lost for the season due to a shoulder injury last week, will be the addition of Lonnie Mitchell (6-foot-5, 210, jr.) to quick guard while moving Tony Caison (6-3, 291, sr.) to strong tackle.

"Our kids are going to have to play four full quarters. I expect a hard-hitting and physical game similar to last year. It will be a great game for the fans. We will need their support in big numbers," added Seay.

West Brunswick will have more than conference championship hopes as a motivating factor when the Trojans meet the Cougars for the 18th time in the series.

The Trojans will also be out to snap a five-game losing streak against the Cougars.

West Brunswick last defeated the Cougars in 1985, 18-0. Since that time, East Bladen has dominated the rivalry including a 27-26 edging of the Trojans in West Brunswick's 1988 conference championship season.

In that 1988 game, the host Trojans blew a 20-0 halftime lead as East Bladen rallied to take the win in the opening week of league play.

For West Brunswick head coach Marshall Seay, a win over the Cougars would be his first in his sixth year at the Trojan helm.

East Bladen blanked West Brunswick last year, 13-0 and also shut out the Trojans in 1987, 38-0.

Other Cougar wins over the Trojans during Seay's tenure include a 27-15 triumph in 1989 and a 27-19 victory in 1986.

East Bladen leads the 18-game series, 12-6.

Oddly enough, all six Trojan wins have come consecutively. West Brunswick won a pair of games in 1975-76, 12-7 and 22-19 respectively.

The Trojans didn't defeat the Cougars again until 1980-81 with a pair of 27-21 (overtime) and 10-6 decisions.

West Brunswick's last win over East Bladen (1985) was preceded by a 24-17 victory in 1984.

The Trojans enter Friday's game playing perhaps their most consistent football of the season.

The West Brunswick defense is yielding an average of 4.1 points per contest and is ranked the best in the state. The Trojan stop unit

recorded its fourth shutout in eight games in last week's 53-0 blanking of North Brunswick.

Meanwhile, the Trojan offense has scored an average of 48 points in the last three games.

The romp over the Scorpions featured a balanced offensive attack with quarterback Brian Alderson throwing for two touchdowns while tailback Aldwin Lance ran for 105 yards and two more scores.

In a 49-13 win over West Columbus two weeks ago, the Trojan rushing attack featured two runners with 100-plus games. Lance ran for 119 yards on 22 carries while fullback Aaron Butler ran for 105 yards on just seven carries.

Lance, who has run for over 100 yards in three straight games, began his string with a 106-yard effort in a 42-6 Trojan romp over South Robeson three weeks ago.

Likely offensive starters for the Trojans include quarterback Brian Alderson, tailback Aldwin Lance, fullback Aaron Butler, center Kevin Seay, guards Geoff Byrd and Lonnie Mitchell, tackles Tony Caison and Steve Brooks, tight end Daniel Russ, flanker Jim Grissett and split end Matt Bozeman.

Probable defensive starters include linemen Wayne Branch, Caison, Bobby Lovette and Mitchell.

Other defensive starters will be

linebackers Russ, Shawn Stevenson and Butler along with secondary members Grissett, Reeves and Lance.

In other Waccamaw Conference games Friday, South Brunswick hosts Whiteville in a game that will likely decide the league's third and final state playoff berth. Other contests include North Brunswick entertaining South Robeson and Fairmont visiting West Columbus. All games begin at 7:30 p.m.

**Waccamaw 2-A Conference FOOTBALL STANDINGS as of Thursday, Oct. 31**

Team	Conf.	Overall	PP	PY
West Brunswick	5-0	8-0	280	53
East Bladen	5-0	7-1	286	52
Whiteville	4-1	6-2	245	61
South Brunswick	4-1	5-3	155	111
West Columbus	1-4	2-6	138	199
South Robeson	1-4	1-7	57	225
North Brunswick	0-5	1-7	46	321
Fairmont	0-5	0-8	82	238

**Friday's Games**

- West Brunswick at East Bladen
- South Robeson at North Brunswick
- Whiteville at South Brunswick
- Fairmont at West Columbus

**Last Week's Results**

- W. Brunswick, 53 N. Brunswick 0
- South Brunswick 41, Fairmont 14
- Whiteville 47, West Columbus 12
- East Bladen 43, South Robeson 12

## This Week In Brunswick Sports

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31**

- ☐ 1-A—2-A Eastern Regional Girls' Tennis Tournament, semifinals and finals at UNC-Wilmington
- ☐ East Bladen at West Brunswick, JV football, 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

- ☐ West Brunswick at East Bladen, varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- ☐ Whiteville at South Brunswick, varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Robeson at North Brunswick, varsity football, 7:30 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.

**SPORTING SCENE**

## 'Crunch Time' For Trojan And Cougar Gridders

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

It's crunch time for both West and South Brunswick football teams Friday as the pair face their most crucial contests of the season. So important are Friday's games that neither are talking or trading barbs in preparation of their traditional season-ending battle scheduled for next week to decide the county championship and local bragging rights.

Although there are two regular season games remaining, Friday's West Brunswick vs. East Bladen matchup will likely decide the Waccamaw Conference championship and the league's top state playoff spot.

At Boiling Spring Lakes, South Brunswick will host Whiteville in a game that will also likely determine the league's third and final playoff berth.

Both the Cougars and Wolfpack have gained momentum of late as each team enters the contest with a four-game winning streak.

Another win streak will be broken at Elizabethtown where the Trojans, unbeaten in eight games, and the Cougars, having won their last five games, do battle.

One thing for certain, the state playoff picture in the WC will come into focus in the next two weeks.

West Brunswick and East Bladen are the only teams which have a shot at the league's top spot outright. However, depending upon the outcome of the final two games, as many as three teams—West Brunswick, East Bladen and Whiteville—could all finished tied for first place.

An East Bladen win over West Brunswick this week coupled with a Whiteville win over the same Cougars the following week and a Trojan win against South Brunswick, would leave the trio with one conference loss each.

Since West Brunswick, East Bladen and Whiteville split in head-to-head competition during the regular season, a coin flip would be required to determine the playoff order.

Friday's West Brunswick-East Bladen matchup will also feature two of the top-ranked prep teams in the state.

Prior to their 53-0 win over North Brunswick last week, the Trojans were ranked third in Arnold Solomon's N.C. Prep Football Poll located in Kannapolis. East Bladen was ranked 11th in the same poll.

Thomasville was ranked first among 2-A teams followed by number 2 Forest Hills.

West Brunswick was ranked fourth defensively in all four classifications, behind 1-A Southwest Onslow, Thomasville and 4-A Asheville.

The Trojans were also ranked 22nd in points scored in all four classifications while East Bladen was listed at the number 13 spot.

Solomon's ratings are certainly the most scientifically-produced high school football ratings found in North Carolina. By devising power ratings for each prep team in the state, Solomon correctly predicted 87 percent of all high school grid games last week.

### Good News For Wolfpack Fans

There's good news for all of Brunswick County's N.C. State Wolfpack basketball fans. Beginning with the Wolfpack's opening game on Nov. 22, WCCA-FM (106.3) in Shallotte, in conjunction with the Capital Sports Network, will be broadcasting all N.C. State basketball games this season.

In addition to the Wolfpack's games, all Atlantic Coast Conference tournament games will also be carried by the local station.

### Thanks To Festival By Sea Run Volunteers

The field in last Saturday's N.C. Festival By The Sea road races topped the 100 mark for the second straight year and a host of local volunteers are to be thanked for helping make the run so successful.

Some 103 runners participated in the 10K, 5K and 1-mile races from as far away as Colorado, Florida, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Many thanks to the following who volunteered their time to help make the run another big success—Bonnie Cox, Kerry Craig, South Brunswick track coach Tim Fitzgerald, Gus Ulrich, John Craig, Sr.; Lee Michaels and Kathi Gossett of WCCA Radio, George Strickland, Sherry Coleman, Don Pollard, George Bradshaw, Gay Atkins, Ricky Montgomery and Bob Rodhe of Tri-Beach Fire Department and Jerry Wilson of the Holden Beach Police Department.



### Dancers To Perform

The North/South All Star Football Game Dancers will perform Friday, Nov. 8, at M.H. Rourk Stadium in Shallotte when the West Brunswick Trojans host the South Brunswick Cougars in football. Among the dancers are West Brunswick students (from left) Katie Harris, Shawn Hardee, Erin Redwine and Nancy Smith. The dancers placed first in the world's largest dance competition, "Showstoppers," and recently performed on national television.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

EMILY GORE serves during West Brunswick's playoff match last Thursday against Louisburg.

## Spikers Fall In Playoffs

West Brunswick was eliminated from the state 2-A volleyball playoffs last week, losing to a strong Louisburg team.

Louisburg beat the Lady Trojans 15-1, 15-12 and 15-8 last Thursday to advance to the third round of the state playoffs.

West Brunswick had defeated Franklinton in the opening round of the playoffs last Tuesday by a score of 15-4, 15-3 and 15-8.

West finished the season with a 19-2 record and a share of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference championship with Whiteville.

Coach Brenda Council said she was pleased with the team's perfor-

mance this year, especially since there were only two seniors on the squad.

"I'm very pleased with it," she said. "I just hate that we met up with Louisburg in the second round."

Louisburg was runner-up in the state 2-A playoffs last year and had won the state championship each of the two previous years.

Coach Council said she is excited about next season, when 10 players from this year's team will return.

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THURSDAYS  
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WEDNESDAYS  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:15 AM - Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM - Church School for all ages, nursery through adult  
10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist  
Morning Prayer on 5th Sundays  
Coffee and fellowship following both services.  
Casual attire. Nursery available.  
**WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
7PM - Holy Eucharist and healing