



TROJAN QUARTERBACK BRIAN ALDERSON (9) completed four of five passes for 107 yards last Friday against Whiteville—one of his best games of the year. West Brunswick lineman Tony Caison (right) moves in to block Whiteville's Brandon Stevens (70).



WEST BRUNSWICK'S JIMMY GRISSETT (83) recovered this fumble by Whiteville receiver Andre Spicer to set up the Trojans' first touchdown. Also pictured is Aldwin Lance (32).

TROJANS KEEP ON ROLLING

West Brunswick Squeaks By Whiteville In Football Playoffs

BY DOUG RUTTER
West Brunswick converted two turnovers into touchdowns and then relied on its defense to squeak past Whiteville in third-round high school football playoff action last week.

The Trojans wrote yet another chapter in the school history books Friday night in Whiteville, defeating their conference foe 12-6 and advancing to the eastern 2-A finals for the first time ever.

"We've got a great defense," said West Brunswick Coach Marshall Seay. "We've leaned heavily on them all year, and tonight they just had to do it."

The Trojans battle East Bladen, the only team that's beaten them this season, in Elizabethtown Friday night for the right to play for the state 2-A football championship.

West Brunswick's Aldwin Lance, the team's leading rusher, scored both Trojan touchdowns last week, despite being held to 34 yards on the ground.

Whiteville outgained the Trojans on offense, but fumbled twice and threw two interceptions. West turned two of the Wolfpack miscues into touchdowns and didn't have any turnovers on offense.

Seay said Whiteville won the battle on the line of scrimmage, even though they lost the game. "We couldn't crack that shell," he said. "They stuffed us tonight."

Leading the West Brunswick attack were quarterback Brian Alderson, who completed four of five passes, and Jimmy Grissett, who caught two passes for 73 yards and recovered a fumble.

West Brunswick, which was held to 188 total yards, threatened to score on its first possession of the game.

Grissett, chosen last month to play in the Shrine Bowl with the state's other top high school football prospects, returned the opening kickoff 47 yards to the Whiteville 36-yard line.

But the Trojans only moved the ball nine yards on four straight running plays, and the Wolfpack took over at its own 27-yard line.

Whiteville opened up impressively on offense, moving the ball to the West Brunswick 21-yard line behind the strong running of Dennis Smith.

The drive ended when West Brunswick sophomore William Stanley recovered a fumbled pitch in the Wolfpack backfield.

The Trojans moved the ball from their own 28 to the Whiteville 21-yard line on their next possession,



WEST BRUNSWICK RECEIVER Matt Boseman (85) caught this third-quarter pass over Wolfpack defender Anthony Southern to help set up the winning touchdown. Boseman also intercepted a Whiteville pass late in the fourth quarter.

but turned it back over when a fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

Alderson completed two of three passes during the drive, including a 24-yarder to Grissett, who made an acrobatic catch over a Whiteville defender on the final play of the first quarter.

Whiteville moved the ball to midfield on its next possession but fumbled again following a short pass completion.

Grissett recovered for the Trojans, and then combined with Alderson two plays later for the biggest gain of the night.

Alderson dropped back to pass, shook off two Whiteville defenders and threw deep to Grissett across the middle. The play covered 49 yards

and gave West Brunswick a first down at the Wolfpack 6-yard line.

Lance plowed in on the next play to give the Trojans a 6-0 lead with 5:44 left in the half. Alderson's extra point attempt failed.

"Brian's a pitcher in baseball," Seay said. "He knows what tight situations are. He knows what a 3-2 count is. He's a competitor."

West Brunswick's defense set up the Trojans' second score early in the third quarter when senior linebacker Daniel Russ intercepted a pass from Whiteville running back Anthony Southern near midfield.

The Wolfpack gave West Brunswick a critical first down when they jumped offenses on fourth-and-two at the 40-yard line.

Alderson passed 21 yards to wide receiver Matt Boseman on the next play, setting up another first down at the Whiteville 14-yard line.

Lance carried the ball to the 3-yard line, and then dove in on the next play to increase the Trojan lead to 12-0 with 7:40 left in the third quarter. A two-point conversion attempt failed.

Whiteville started its next drive at its own 43-yard line following a short West Brunswick kickoff.

The Wolfpack drove 57 yards in 8 plays for its only score of the game. Quarterback John Phillips threw 6 yards to Southern for the touch-

down. Whiteville went for two points after the score, but Phillips' pass fell incomplete, and the Wolfpack trailed 12-6 with 3:55 left in the third quarter.

The Wolfpack drove to the West Brunswick 14-yard line mid-way through the fourth quarter, but the Trojan defense stiffened.

Grissett helped break up a third-down pass, and linebacker Adam Johnson hit Phillips as he attempted a fourth-down pass.

Whiteville's offense got one last chance with 2:07 left in the game, but Boseman intercepted a Phillips

pass to preserve the win. Last Friday's game marked the first time a West Brunswick football team had ever played in the third round of the state playoffs.

The Trojans, who finished second to East Bladen in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference, have won a school-record 12 football games this year. The previous best was 10 wins in both 1975 and 1988.

"It was a hard game to get up for because you're almost satisfied, and that's something we just had to work real hard on all week," Seay said of the Whiteville game.

West Brunswick beat the Wolfpack 19-7 in the regular season, but Seay said Whiteville had improved a lot since the Sept. 27 game.

Last week also marked the first time the Waccamaw Conference rivals had met twice in the same year and first time they had met in the playoffs.

Seay said West Brunswick is probably the only team that has ever beaten Whiteville twice in the same year on their field.

THE YARDSTICK

West Brunswick	Whiteville
7	14
30-81	39-134
107	69
4-6	8-19
0	2
3-34	2-20
0-0	2-2
5-35	3-15

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick	0	6	6	0	12
Whiteville	0	0	6	0	6

Scoring Summary

(WB) Lance, 6-yard run (kick failed)

(WB) Lance, 3-yard run (2-point conversion failed)

(W) Southern, 6-yard pass from Phillips (2-point conversion failed)

Individual Rushing

West Brunswick: Butler, 10-46; Lance, 18-34; Grissett, 1-3; Holmes, 1-minus 2.

Whiteville: Smith, 17-65; Gillespie, 11-50; Southern, 9-21; Phillips, 2-minus 2.

Individual Passing

West Brunswick: Alderson, 4-5-107; Lance, 0-1-0.

Whiteville: Phillips, 8-18-69-1; Southern, 0-1-0.

Individual Receiving

West Brunswick: Grissett, 2-73; Boseman, 1-21; Johnson, 1-13.

Whiteville: Southern, 4-49; Spicer, 3-17; Bostic, 1-3.

Johnson, Alderson, Bradley Are Trojan Players Of Week

Adam Johnson, Brian Alderson and Ronnie Bradley were named West Brunswick football players of the week for their performance in the Trojans' third-round playoff win over Whiteville last Friday.

Johnson, a 5-foot-11-inch, 220-pound senior, was chosen defensive player of the week after playing his first game at linebacker for the Trojans.

Head Coach Marshall Seay said Johnson moved from defensive tackle to linebacker to fill in for Shawn Stevenson.

Johnson practiced only three days at linebacker. "He played like he's played there all year," Seay said.

Alderson, the Trojans' senior quarterback, was named top offensive player after completing four of five passes for 107 yards against the Wolfpack.

Seay said Alderson demonstrated great leadership in the game, even when the offense as a whole struggled.

"It was a big ball game and a big crowd," Seay said. "He kept the offense together and did it when we had to."

Bradley, a 5-foot-9-inch, 150-pound senior, was chosen special teams player of the week. He plays on the kickoff and kickoff return teams and is the center on the punt team.

Seay said Bradley was called on to make several

long snaps deep in West Brunswick territory late in the game and came through for the Trojans.

James Kenan

Players of the week in the second-round playoff game against James Kenan Nov. 22 were Aaron Butler, Aldwin Lance and Jimmy Grissett.

Butler, the top defensive player, recovered two fumbles in the game, and returned one 65 yards for a touchdown late in the first half.

"He just anchored the defense and played exceptionally well all night long," Seay said.

Offensive honors went to Lance, the Trojans' leading rusher, who ran for 139 yards and scored two touchdowns against the James Kenan Tigers.

In West Brunswick's final drive, Lance carried 8 times for 50 yards and scored on a 3-yard run.

"Most people would fall into the end zone after a drive like that," Seay said. "Aldwin went in standing up. He's got a lot of pride."

Grissett, who returned a kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown after James Kenan took a 7-0 lead, was named special teams player of the week.

Seay said Grissett had good kick returns throughout the game, and did an outstanding job protecting the punter when West Brunswick punted.



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