



HUNDREDS OF TROJANS FANS made the trip to Chapel Hill to see their hometown heroes play for the state championship.



TROJAN HEAD COACH MARSHALL SEAY, flanked by seniors Aldwin Lance (32) and Daniel Russ (45), accepts the second-place trophy Saturday.

TROJANS FINISH 'GREAT SEASON' 13-2

West Brunswick Loses State Championship To Thomasville

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Thomasville Bulldogs used a big-play offense and bruising defense to beat West Brunswick 21-6 in the N.C. 2-A High School Football Championship Saturday in Chapel Hill.

A 60-yard touchdown pass late in the first half and 44-yard scoring run to start the fourth quarter helped the Bulldogs to their second state title in the last four years.

"I think they're the best football team we've seen this season bar none," West Brunswick Head Coach Marshall Seay said. "Our youngsters played hard, they played well, but not well enough."

The Trojans, making their first appearance in the state championship football game, dominated the first quarter with tough defense, holding Thomasville to only eight yards.

West Brunswick also racked up 66 yards on offense, most of it on the ground, but came up empty on their first three drives.

The Trojan offense moved the ball to the Bulldogs' 30-yard line on its second possession behind the strong running of Aldwin Lance, Aaron Butler and Steve Holmes.

The drive ended, however, when Thomasville defensive back Keith Gaiter intercepted a Brian Alderson pass intended for Jimmy Grissett.

West Brunswick nearly got a big break early in the second quarter. Thomasville's Shane Ross fumbled a punt return, but the ball rolled out of bounds at the Bulldogs' 7-yard line with several Trojans in pursuit.

Thomasville's offense got on track after the mishandled punt. The Bulldogs moved from their own 7 to the West Brunswick 44-yard line in eight plays.

But Bulldog running back Deshun Cockrane fumbled on the next play, and linebacker Daniel Russ recovered for the Trojans.

Thomasville took possession again at their own 40-yard line following a West Brunswick punt.

With 4:37 to play in the half, Thomasville Coach Allen Brown went for the big play on first down and got it.

Quarterback Derick Marion connected with receiver Ron Mock near the sideline for a 60-yard touchdown play.

"I felt like we had a defensive back who acted like he was tired so I thought we'd take a shot at it," Coach Brown said after the game.

Perez Boulware, a linebacker who was named outstanding defensive player of the game, kicked the extra point to give Thomasville a 7-0 lead.

Thomasville's Vance Simon intercepted an Alderson pass on the next



WEST BRUNSWICK PLAYERS think about what might have been in the final minutes of Saturday's state championship game in Chapel Hill.

West Brunswick possession to set up another Bulldog touchdown late in the half.

Cockrane scored with 1:13 remaining on a 10-yard run up the middle to cap the four-play, 34-yard drive.

Boulware's extra point attempt hit an upright, but Thomasville led 13-0 at the half and had momentum on its side.

Coach Seay said the two touchdowns late in the half gave Thomasville the edge. "With four minutes left in the first half it was just bam, bam. If we could have gone in at halftime nothing-nothing we would have had a chance."

Neither team threatened to score in the third quarter, but Thomasville put another touchdown on the board early in the fourth.

Tailback Lamont Pegues, who rushed for 149 yards in the game, broke through the line and rumbled

44 yards for a touchdown with 10 minutes left in the game.

Pegues, who later was named outstanding offensive player and game MVP, ran around the left end for a two-point conversion to give Thomasville a 21-0 lead.

His touchdown run was the longest in state championship history at Kenan Stadium, breaking the old record of 35 yards set by Eric Thomas of Richmond County in 1989.

Pegues later broke the single-game rushing record of 137 yards, which was set last year by another Richmond running back, Walter Ellerbe.

West Brunswick came right back with its only scoring drive of the game. Alderson threw a 15-yard pass to Grissett to culminate the 10-play, 80-yard drive with 7:47 to play.

Alderson, who completed 11 of

26 passes for 107 yards Saturday, actually hit Grissett near the line of scrimmage and let his receiver do the rest.

The senior was first hit around the 5-yard line, but he dragged several Thomasville tacklers to the 2-yard line and stretched for the score.

West Brunswick missed on a two-point conversion, but threatened to score again after Russ recovered another Thomasville fumble near midfield.

Using short passes and a no-huddle offense, the Trojans moved inside the Thomasville 20-yard line but turned the ball over when what appeared to be an incomplete hitch pass was ruled a lateral and fumble.

Grissett, who would have been playing in the Shrine Bowl Saturday if West Brunswick hadn't made it to the championship game, caught eight passes for 72 yards in the game.

Seay said the humidity in Chapel Hill Saturday hurt the Trojans, who use several players both on offense and defense.

Thomasville started 22 players and played about 30 during the game. "Eleven fresh people on offense, 11 fresh people on defense. That's what put pressure on us today," Seay said.

West Brunswick ended its best football season in school history with a loss, but team members said

it didn't take away from their 13-2 record.

"It's been a great season," said Lance, a senior who rushed for nearly 1,600 yards this year. "There's about 30 other teams that wish they were in our spot here today, so I'm proud to be here."

The 1991 Trojans, runners-up in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference and the 2-A champs of eastern North Carolina, set a school record with 13 wins and were the first West Brunswick football team to make it to the state finals.

The previous records for football wins in a season was 10, set in 1975 and 1988. West Brunswick had never advanced past the second round of the playoffs before this year.

"I told my players after the game that I am just really blessed to have had the opportunity to coach them," said Seay.

"They're a great group of guys," he continued. "We lost the state championship game, but we were the last ones standing."

THE YARDSTICK

West Brunswick	Thomasville	
19	First Downs	12
28-126	Rushes-Yards	42-215
107	Passing Yards	89
11-27	Pass(Comp-Att)	4-6
2	Interceptions Thrown	0
6-33	Punts(No-Avg)	5-36
1-1	Fumbles-Lost	3-2
7-75	Penalties-Yards	9-115

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick	0	0	0	6	6
Thomasville	0	13	0	8	21

Scoring Summary

- (T) Mock, 60-yard pass from Marion (Boulware kick)
- (T) Cockrane, 10-yard run (kick failed)
- (T) Pegues, 44-yard run (Pegues run for two points)
- (WB) Grissett, 15-yard pass from Alderson (two-point conversion failed)

Individual Rushing

- West Brunswick: Lance, 17-78; A. Butler, 8-24; Holmes, 3-17; Alderson, 2-1.
- Thomasville: Pegues, 25-149; Cockrane, 10-45; Dow, 5-13; Marion, 2-4.

Individual Passing

- West Brunswick: Alderson, 11-26-107-1; Lance, 0-1-0.
- Thomasville: Marion, 4-6-89-1.

Individual Receiving

- West Brunswick: Grissett, 8-72; C. Butler, 2-22; Bozeman, 1-13.
- Thomasville: Ross, 2-28; Mock, 1-60; Cockrane, 1-1.

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