

SPORTING SCENE

Losing The Game Didn't Spoil Great Grid Season

Two teams as different as night and day played for North Carolina's 2-A High School Football Championship Saturday in Chapel Hill.

It was Thomasville, the football machine from the West, versus West Brunswick, the lion-hearted dreamers from the East.

Thomasville won the game, 21-6, but West stole the show. It was the group of unknowns from tiny Shallotte who left their guts on the Kenan Stadium turf.

The game was business as usual for the Thomasville Bulldogs, making their fourth appearance at the state title game in the last five years.

There was no wild celebration on the field as the final seconds ticked off the clock. The Bulldogs had come to win. Anything less than a state championship would have been a disappointment.

West Brunswick also came to win and played hard enough to win. But their season didn't hinge on the outcome of the state title game. The Trojans were elated just to be there.

Aldwin Lance, the senior tailback who rushed for more than 1,500 yards this season, kept things in perspective.

"There's about 30 other teams that wish they were in our spot to be here today," Lance said, kneeling in the east end zone after the game. "We're proud of what we've done this year."

All West Brunswick did was overcome the deaths of a teammate and former coach, beat South Brunswick twice and knock off conference foes East Bladen and Whiteville on the road in the playoffs.

All the Trojans did was go 13-2 and advance past the second round of the state playoffs for the first time in school history.

There were a lot of factors that might have made the difference in the state championship game Saturday.

It may have been Thomasville's freshness. The Bulldogs started 11 guys on offense and 11 different guys on defense. That's unusual for a 2-A school, where the best athletes usually play both ways.

Maybe it was experience. Thomasville, who also won the state title in 1988, knew going in what it was like to play in the big game.

Most West Brunswick players had never even been to Chapel Hill, let alone dreamed about playing on UNC's historic field.

Whatever factors decided the game, the funny, oblong ball that had bounced in favor of West Brunswick throughout the playoffs wasn't so friendly on Saturday.

Thomasville and West Brunswick both showed what they were made of on the football field Saturday. But I think they revealed more after the game than during the game.

The Bulldogs dished out the high fives, picked up their trophies, packed their briefcases and went home.

Coach Allen Brown and his staff have probably started planning for next season, when another championship will be expected.

West Brunswick's players took their time leaving the field. They embraced each other, took in the scenery and talked about a special season that even a tough loss like this one couldn't spoil.

"I told my players after the game that I have just been really blessed to have had the opportunity to coach them," Coach Marshall Seay revealed. "We lost the state championship game, but we were the last ones standing."

The 1991 Trojans proved that success is a journey, not a destination. They were a smashing success and should hold their heads high.

Mistaken Identity

On a less positive note, I have an apology to make. I apparently goofed last week when I identified the unruly fan at the West Brunswick-Whiteville playoff game as School Superintendent Jerry Paschal.

As it turned out, Dr. Paschal was doing the play-by-play over the public address system, as he always does.

But it was a fan with a bull horn in the stands below the press box who was rooting for the home team and against West Brunswick.

I was misinformed, as were others. I apologized to Dr. Paschal after learning about the error, and he graciously accepted.

Trojans Selling Champ Sweatshirts

West Brunswick High School is taking orders for sweatshirts commemorating the football team's N.C. Eastern 2-A High School Championship, with proceeds to help boost next year's football program.

Sweatshirts in school colors will cost \$17 and hooded sweatshirts will cost \$21, said Athletic Director Jerry Small.

Orders can be placed at the West Brunswick school office, and customers are asked to pay in advance.

Small said the shirts should arrive at school after the Christmas break. Proceeds from the sale will be added to the West Brunswick football budget.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

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ARVELLA MARLOW, surrounded by West Brunswick football players, prepared the pre-game meals for the eastern champs all season.

'Miss Arvella' Cooks Up Big Season

Behind every great high school football team is a hard-working cook who somehow manages to keep up with the king-sized appetites of young athletes.

For West Brunswick, the cook behind the school's first eastern championship team was Arvella Marlow, known to everyone as "Miss Arvella."

Every Friday afternoon during the regular season and state playoffs, Miss Arvella put together a meal of skinless chicken breasts, baked potatoes and bananas for the team.

Oh, there was that one exception. She didn't cook for the team on Nov. 1, when the Trojans lost their only game of the regular season at East Bladen.

Miss Arvella, who has worked in the school cafeteria for 19 years, didn't miss feeding the team again after that game.

In fact, she drove back from Durham the day after Thanksgiving to cook for the Trojans prior to their third-round playoff game at Whiteville.

And last Thursday, as the Trojans prepared to leave for their Saturday afternoon game at Chapel Hill, Miss Arvella made sure they left with full stomachs.

"I've enjoyed it," she said last week. "They're nice children, I just love them. I feel comfortable around all of them."

The players definitely feel comfortable with Miss Arvella's cooking. They polished off 60 pieces of chicken, a case of potatoes, bunches of bananas and four loaves of bread at every meal.

The Trojans gobbled up everything but a few stray bananas last Thursday. "They usually eat them all," Miss Arvella said. "They're so hyper today they can't eat it all."

Jones Team Leads Volleyball League

Richard Jones Construction leads the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Co-ed Volleyball League after four weeks of play with a 4-0 record.

Six teams started competing Nov. 19 at Shallotte Middle School, and will continue league and tournament play through March 17.

In action last week, the Jones team topped Roberto's Pizza 15-8, 7-15 and 15-10. Gene's Body Shop swept Kari's Team 15-7 and 15-11 and Rita's Team beat Brunswick Community College 15-2 and 15-3.

After four weeks, Gene's Body Shop is in second place at 3-1, followed by Rita's Team at 2-1, Roberto's Pizza at 2-2, Kari's Team at 0-3 and Brunswick Community College at 0-4.

Warriors, 'Tables Lead Men's League

The Warriors and Turntables were sitting atop the standings going into the third week of play in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Men's Basketball League.

The Warriors chilled off Igloo Freeze 52-51 last Thursday to improve their record to 2-0. The Turntables, idle last week, also are 2-0.

In last week's other game, the Young Guns shot down the Sonics 76-70 to up their record to 2-1.

Rounding out the standings are the Rockets at 1-0 and the Lakers at 1-1. The Brew Crew, Igloo Freeze and Sonics are each 0-2.

Four Leading Church League After Two Weeks Of Play

Four teams remained unbeaten after two weeks of play in the Brunswick County Church Men's Basketball League.

Camp Methodist and Ocean View Baptist were atop the standings going into this week with 2-0 records. Calvary Baptist and Shallotte First Baptist also were undefeated at 1-0.

In action last Monday, Calvary beat New Britton 75-61, Letties Grove edged Supply 47-37 and Ocean View topped Jennies Branch 52-26.

Camp Methodist routed Soldier Bay 72-23 and Zion Baptist beat Shallotte Presbyterian 47-39 in league action last Friday.

Sporting 1-1 records after two weeks were Letties Grove, New Britton, Shallotte Presbyterian and

Brunswick County Church Men's Basketball League Standings as of Dec. 15

Team	Wins	Losses
Camp Methodist	2	0
Ocean View Bapt.	2	0
Calvary Baptist	1	0
First Baptist	1	0
Letties Grove	1	1
New Britton	1	1
Shallotte Pres.	1	1
Zion Baptist	1	1
Jennies Branch	0	2
Longwood Baptist	0	2
Soldier Bay	0	2
Supply Baptist	0	2

Zion Baptist, Jennies Branch, Longwood Baptist, Soldier Bay and Supply Baptist started the week at 0-2.

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Season's Greetings

For the year past: It was a pleasure and a privilege to serve you, our valued customers and friends. Because of you, it was a year of growth and goodwill.

For the year ahead: Count on our continued efforts on your behalf. You inspire us to try harder.

Thank you for understanding our wish to allow all those who work for us to enjoy this time with family and friends. We will be closed Christmas Day. We will re-open our usual hours Dec. 26.

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