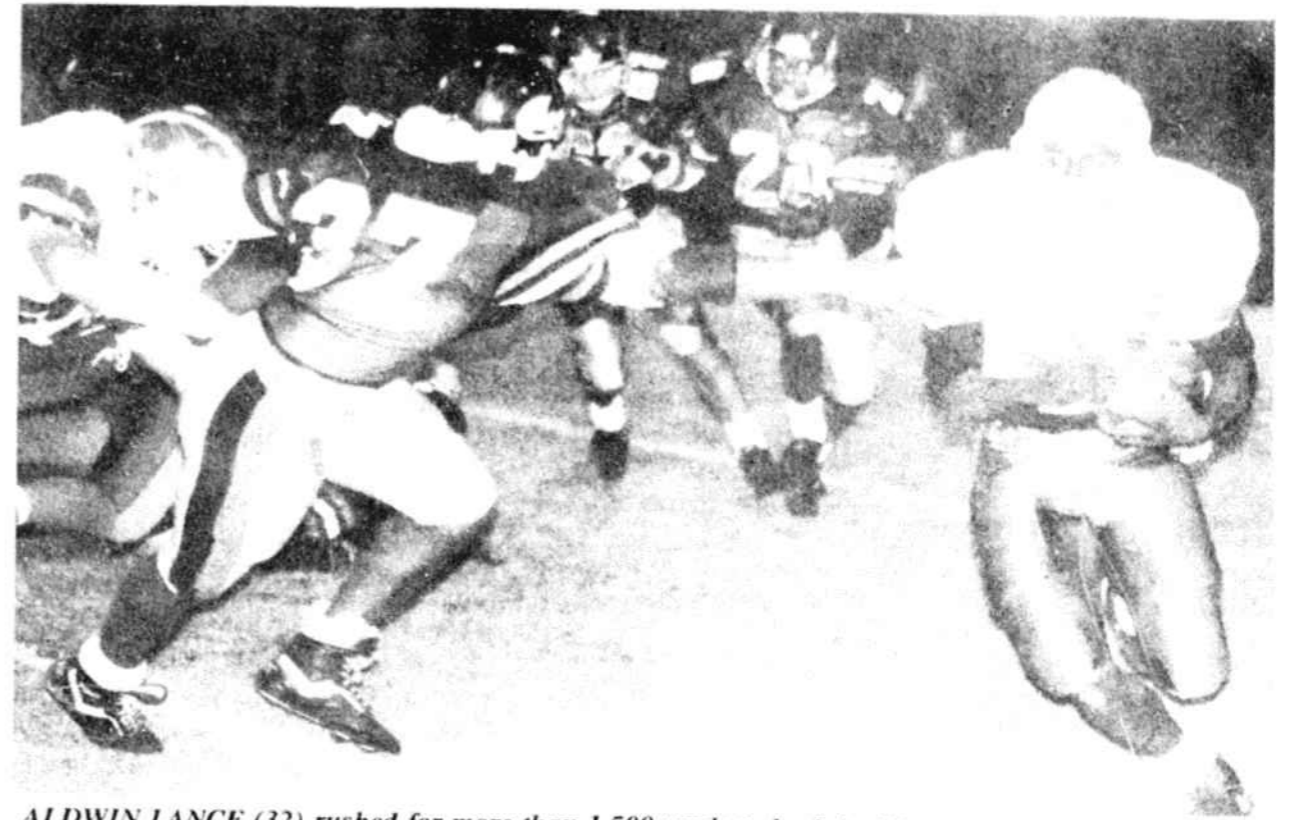


THE NORTH BRUNSWICK TRIO of (from left) Chris McBride, Chris Walker and David McDowell led the Scorpions to a second straight county baseball title and into the state playoffs.



ALDWIN LANCE (32) rushed for more than 1,500 yards to lead the West Brunswick Trojans to the N.C. Eastern 2-A High School Football Championship.

A LOOK BACK AT 1991

# Trojan Grid Season Highlights Bittersweet Year In Sports

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick's championship season on the football field highlighted what can only be considered a bittersweet year in Brunswick County sports.

The deaths of West Brunswick student-athlete George Daniels and former assistant football coach Fred Bradley rocked the school's first N.C. Eastern 2-A High School Championship team.

But their untimely deaths were also what inspired the Trojans to their eastern title on the gridiron and their 13-2 record, which was the best in school history.

Daniels, a hulking young man who played baseball and football at West Brunswick, was killed in an automobile accident on his way to school May 14.

West Brunswick's football team dedicated its season to Daniels, who was known to his friends as "Big G." He would have been a senior this year.

As a further tribute, the school retired Daniels' baseball and football jerseys, making him the first Trojan athlete to have dual numbers retired.

Bradley, who had taught at the high school and served several years as the football team's defensive coordinator, died Nov. 8 following a long battle with cancer.

The Trojans lost the state championship game to Thomasville Dec. 14 in Chapel Hill, but the 21-6 defeat didn't spoil an otherwise remarkable season.

West Brunswick, which opened football camp in the dog days of August, sported a perfect 8-0 record through the first two months of play.

The Trojans began their season on the right foot, with senior tailback Aldwin Lance scoring a school-record five touchdowns in a 38-0 season-opening win over North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

West Brunswick ended the month of October with a 53-0 drubbing of North Brunswick and tied with East Bladen atop the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

The Trojans dropped their only game of the season Nov. 1 at East Bladen. But West Brunswick rebounded from the 16-7 loss and beat South Brunswick in the season finale to win the county championship and ensure a playoff berth.

West Brunswick definitely took the long road through the state playoffs. After hosting Farmville Central in the first round, the Trojans won at James Kenan, Whiteville and East Bladen to advance to the state finals.

## Fall Sports

West Brunswick's football squad wasn't the school's only fall sports team that tasted success in 1991.

Coach Brenda Council led the Lady Trojan volleyball team to 19-2 season and a share of the Waccamaw Conference crown with Whiteville. Louisburg defeated West in the second round of the state volleyball playoffs.

The West Brunswick girls' tennis team also had a big year, finishing second to undefeated Whiteville in the conference and closing out the year with an 8-2 record.

Junior Kristy Poulos, the team's top player, advanced to the N.C. 1A/2A Girls' Tennis Tournament after reaching the semifinals on the regional level.

Elsewhere in the county, the South Brunswick Cougars became the county's first soccer champions by posting a 4-3-1 record.

In the final game of the inaugural season, South and West Brunswick battled to a 1-1 tie in double overtime. North Brunswick finished second in the county race with a 4-4 record, and the Trojans finished third at 3-4-1.

South Brunswick's football team, which lost the county championship to West, finished fourth in the conference and barely missed a playoff berth despite starting the season at 1-3.

Coach Bill Hewett's Cougars bounced back with four consecutive wins in October before losing its last final two games against Whiteville and West Brunswick.

North Brunswick's Scorpions had a tough year on the gridiron, finishing 1-9 and last in the conference after blanking Topsail 26-0 in the season-opener.

## Spring Sports

Winning seasons on the baseball diamond for all three county high schools were the bright spots in a busy spring sports season.

West Brunswick, making its first appearance in the state playoffs in seven years, advanced to the final eight for only the second time in school history before losing to eventual state champ Whiteville.

North Brunswick won its second straight county baseball championship and reached the playoffs, but lost in the opening round. South Brunswick put together a 12-9 season but didn't make the playoffs.

North's David McDowell and Scorpion Coach Keith Moore were named Brunswick County baseball player and coach of the year.

The All-Waccamaw Conference baseball team included seven players from Brunswick County.

Named were Chris McBride, Chris Walker and McDowell from North, Shawn Swain and Scott Phillips from South and Brian Alderson and Aldwin Lance from West.

Brunswick County also sent two of its high school softball teams to the state playoffs.



ALLISON CUMBEE led the South Brunswick girls to their best basketball season ever with a 17-11 record. Cumbee, who averaged 9.5 points a game for the Lady Cougars, was named to the all-conference and all-county teams.

North Brunswick's Lady Scorpions beat Pamlico before losing to conference champ West Columbus in the second round. South Brunswick's girls lost in the opening round to Louisburg.

Eight Brunswick County girls were named to the all-conference softball team, including Jenny Judah and Tonia Long of West Brunswick.

Selected from North were Dawn Sholar, Angie Goddard and Tony Edge, while Jennifer Busfield, Stacie Isenberg and Tasha Sellers represented South.

In track and field, the North Brunswick boys and South Brunswick girls won the county championships in May.

Eight athletes from South and four from North advanced to the N.C. 1A/2A Track and Field Championships, where the Scorpion boys placed 12th.

Two local track stars also were named "most valuable performers" at the Waccamaw 2-A Conference Track and Field Championships in Whiteville.

South Brunswick's Carrie Fletcher led the Lady Cougars to a third-place finish overall, winning the high jump, 100-meter high hurdles and 300-meter intermediate hurdles.

Jimmy Flamer of North Brunswick won the high jump, 100-meter and 200-meter runs in leading the Scorpions to a third-place finish.

West Brunswick's golf team qualified for the N.C. State Championship for the third straight year in 1991, after breaking a nine-year-old team record on April 11.

Scott Quaintance shot 73 at Land 'O Lakes Golf Course near Whiteville to lead the Trojan golfers to a 299 team score, the lowest in school history. The old record of 312 was set at Land 'O Lakes in 1982.

Brunswick Shores Legion Post 445 opened its first season in the Area II Eastern Division in June, pulling the top players from West and South Brunswick high schools.

In July, Billy Joe Noble of Shallotte won a wrestling championship in the 92-pound division for ages 11 and 12 at the N.C. State Games.

## Winter Sports

South and West both made impressive showings on the basketball hardwood during the winter season, while North Brunswick led the way in wrestling.

The South Brunswick boys had their best season in basketball, going 14-0 in the Waccamaw Conference, winning the conference tournament and finishing the year at 25-4.

The Cougars defeated Graham 67-66 in overtime to win the N.C. Eastern 2-A Sectional Finals before being eliminated from the state playoffs.

South Brunswick's girls' team also had their best year on the hardwood, finishing the year at 17-11.

Two-time Brunswick County Player of the Year Ricky Daniels led West Brunswick to its best season in 13 years, averaging nearly 29 points and 12 rebounds a game.

The Trojans finished the year at 21-6, losing to Jordan-Matthews in the sectional semifinals of the state playoffs.

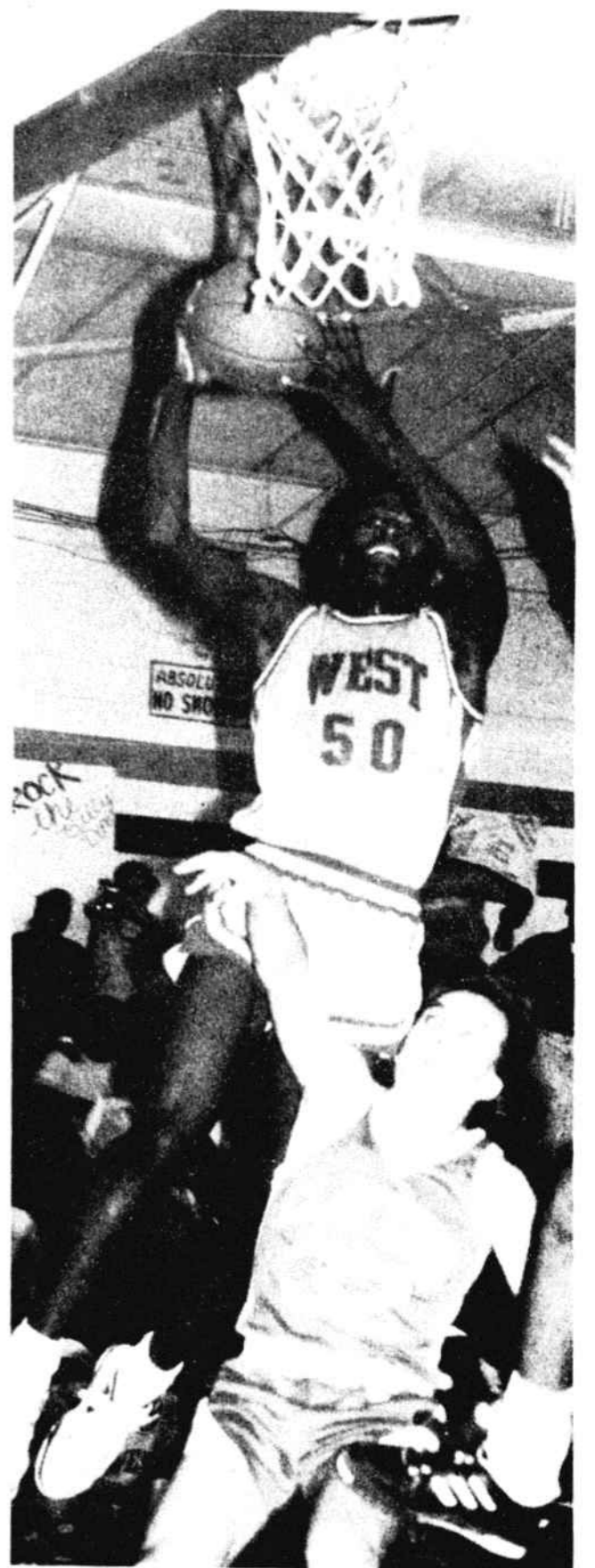
Daniels, named basketball player of the month in February by the N.C. High School Athletic Association, later signed a grant with Anderson (S.C.) Junior College.

West Brunswick's girls' basketball team also advanced to the sectional semifinals before losing to Southwest Randolph and ending the year at 17-8.

Becky Buffkin, who scored 16 points a game for the Lady Trojans, was named county player of the year.

North Brunswick struggled on the hardwood but had a fine season on the mat, winning the first county wrestling championship and advancing to the State 1A/2A Tournament.

Scorpion Roddie Jones and Coach Mike Dumas were named county wrestler and coach of the year after the



RICKY DANIELS (50) averaged nearly 29 points a game for the West Brunswick basketball team, leading the Trojans to their best season in 13 years.

team finished the year at 12-13-1. Jones, chosen most outstanding wrestler at the Onslow County Invitational Tournament, compiled a 23-3 individual record in the 103-pound weight class and became the first county wrestler to advance to the state 2-A finals.

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\* Happy \*  
 \* Holidays \*  
 Wishing you and yours all the joys the world has to offer for the coming year. Many thanks for making 1991 a successful year. Have a safe and happy New Year.