

West Brunswick Football Players Sign With North Carolina Schools

BY DOUG RUTTER
It's official. Aldwin Lance, Jimmy Grissett and Daniel Russ will head off to college this fall on football scholarships.
The West Brunswick stars signed national letters of intent last week to accept grants to three different North Carolina universities.
Lance waited until national signing day last Wednesday to choose Appalachian State University over Western Carolina University. Both schools had offered him full scholarships.
As announced earlier, Grissett will attend N.C. State University and Russ will go to East Carolina University.
"They meant a great deal to our football team this year," West Brunswick Head Coach Marshall Seay said.
Lance, Grissett and Russ each played offense and defense for the Trojans last year and helped lead the team to its best season in school history.
West Brunswick, which posted a 13-2 record, beat East Bladen for the N.C. Eastern 2-A High School Football Championship before losing to Thomasville in the state finals.
"For the program it is a strong indicator that there's been a whole lot of work going on here, particularly by those three young men," continued Seay.
At 5 feet 10 inches and 180 pounds, Lance rushed for over 1,500 yards from the tailback position and scored 28 touchdowns last season.

As a defensive back, the speedster also intercepted 26 passes during his career at West Brunswick—four short of the state record.
Lance was a three-time, All-Waccamaw Conference selection and named Brunswick County Player of the Year his last two seasons.
For his defensive prowess, he was named to the *Greensboro News & Record* all-state team his senior year.
Grissett caught 34 passes for 745 yards and was West Brunswick's leading receiver last year, scoring eight touchdowns.
"He was a constant threat," Seay said. "He forced defenses to cover the whole field."
The 6-foot-1-inch, 183-pound Grissett returned two kickoffs for touchdowns in the playoffs last year.
Russ, a 6-foot-4-inch 225-pound middle linebacker, averaged 11 tackles a game his senior year. He also played tight end for the Trojans.
"Daniel was the core....," Seay said. "He was an intimidator and he kind of set the tone defensively."
Seay said the three grants are a good indicator of progress in the West Brunswick football program and should help future student-athletes.
"Contrary to popular belief, there's a lot of youngsters out there with the size, speed and ability," he said.
"There's a lot of opportunities out there in football. I think you'll see more of our youngsters take advantage of the opportunities that are out there."



WEST BRUNSWICK SENIORS (seated, from left) Jimmy Grissett, Daniel Russ and Aldwin Lance each signed national letters of intent last week to play college football. Also pictured (standing, from left) are Russ' grandfather, E.V. Gore Jr.; Russ' mother, Connie Russ; West Brunswick Head Coach Marshall Seay; Russ' father, James Russ; and West Brunswick Offensive Coordinator David Arrowood.

SPORTING SCENE

Trojan Trio Is Proof Dreams Can Come True

Three West Brunswick seniors saw their dreams come true last week. Jimmy Grissett, Aldwin Lance and Daniel Russ each signed national letters of intent to attend colleges on football scholarships in the fall.

Grissett's headed to N.C. State, Lance is going to Appalachian State and Russ will attend East Carolina.

The three of them were a big reason for West Brunswick's success on the gridiron last year, when the Trojans came up one game short of a state title.

Now they're moving on to the next level of play. And each one is good enough to have an impact in the college ranks.

The grants are obviously great news for the players and their families. Far too few people ever have the opportunity to attend college, much less on a scholarship.

The news is also good for West Brunswick High and the Shallotte community in general. This Trojan trio should give everyone hope that dreams can still come true.

They're living proof that Shallotte can produce as many winners as any other town or city in the state.

There will never be another Aldwin Lance, Jimmy Grissett or Daniel Russ at West Brunswick.

But there's nothing stopping other young athletes from making the same commitment and sacrifices those three made to become their best.

Kudos

Congratulations to West Brunswick's wrestling team, which won the county championship and finished 10-12 after losing its first eight dual meets.

Coach Joe Noble has put together a good program in only two years, and the Trojans should be even better next season with only two graduating.

North Brunswick also put together another good year under Coach Mike Dumas. The Scorpions, who at one time this season were ranked fourth in the state, came up just a few points short in the county race.

Good luck to all county high school wrestlers who will compete in the regionals this weekend.

A few individual state champions from Brunswick County would be icing on the cake.

Limited Time

Former South Brunswick basketball star Greg Williams has seen limited playing time for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro team so far this season.

Williams, a freshman walk-on at UNCG, had appeared in five of the Spartans' 21 games through the end of January, averaging 1.2 points per game.

His best game to date was a Nov. 30 contest at Vermont, where Williams scored four points and grabbed three rebounds.

Incidentally, UNCG ranks fifth in the nation in three-point shooting in its first year in Division I-A competition.



Doug Rutter
Sports Editor

Middle Schools Open Playoffs

Brunswick County middle schools were expected to start their boys' and girls' basketball playoffs Wednesday night at Waccamaw Elementary School.

The Waccamaw girls were slated to play Leland, followed by the Waccamaw boys against Shallotte.

On Thursday, two games are scheduled at South Brunswick Middle School. The Shallotte girls will face South Brunswick, followed by the South Brunswick boys against

Leland.
The winners of each playoff game will meet for the championships Monday, Feb. 17, at West Brunswick High School, said Waccamaw Coach Terry Chestnut.
The Waccamaw girls won the regular-season title with an 8-1 record. South Brunswick won the boys' title with a mark of 6-3.
All playoff games begin at 5 p.m. Next Monday's championship games are slated to start at 6 p.m.

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