

West Trojans Swept By Tornadoes, Mustangs

BY DOUG RUTTER
The long season continued last week for West Brunswick's boys' basketball team as the Trojans lost to conference foes South Robeson and Fairmont.

South Robeson's Mustangs beat the Trojans 65-52 Friday night in Rowland. West Brunswick lost to visiting Fairmont 105-54 last Tuesday.

"The thing that's been killing us all year is our inability to shoot the ball," West Brunswick Coach Billy Mims said Monday.

With the losses, the Trojans fell to 2-8 in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference and 3-15 overall.

West Brunswick was to host West Columbus Tuesday night and play at North Brunswick on Friday.

SOUTH ROBESON

Tracy Jacobs scored 15 points to lead South Robeson to its 65-52 win over visiting West Brunswick Friday night.

The Mustangs took a 16-10 lead in the first quarter and were leading 30-20 at halftime.

South Robeson continued to increase its lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Trojans by five points to lead 48-33 going into the final period.

Jimmy Grissett led West Brunswick with 13 points. Shaun Bowers and Lonnie Mitchell scored 12 points each for the Trojans.

"I played a lot of young kids," Mims said. "We're just going to play some young kids and get ready for next year."

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 10 10 13 19—52
South Robeson 16 14 18 17—65
West Brunswick scoring: Grissett, 13; Mitchell, 12; Bowers, 12; Holmes, 5; Marlowe, 4; Moody, 4; C. Reeves, 2.

South Robeson scoring: Jacobs, 15; Nealy, 11; Locklear, 11; Rately, 10; Hart, 9; Alford, 4; Graham, 4; Ramson, 1.

FAIRMONT

West Brunswick suffered its worst loss of the season last Tuesday night at the hands of the unbeaten Fairmont Golden Tornadoes.

Four Fairmont players scored double figures as the conference leaders left Shallotte with a 105-54 win.

Terrence Watson made four three-pointers and led the relentless Fairmont attack with 24 points.

Demorris Winningham and Robert McKinnis each scored 21 for the Golden Tornadoes, and Johnathan Grissett added 10.

Mitchell and Shawn Stevenson led West Brunswick with 13 points apiece.

Fairmont, ranked second in the state 2-A class, started scoring early and didn't let up the whole game.

Many of their baskets came on the fast break as their guards and forwards beat West Brunswick up and down the floor.

The Golden Tornadoes led 11-2 halfway through the first quarter and

26-13 after one period.

Fairmont used a 10-0 run in the second quarter to build a 51-27 advantage at halftime.

The Golden Tornadoes put together a 9-0 run late in the third quarter to extend the lead to 73-37 going into the final period.

Fairmont also had a 12-0 run in the fourth quarter. Eleven players scored for the Tornadoes, who improved to 9-0 in the conference and 16-0 overall.

Score By Quarters

Fairmont 26 25 22 32—105
West Brunswick 13 14 10 17—54

Fairmont scoring: Watson, 24; Winningham, 21; McKinnis, 21; Grissett, 10; Floyd, 7; Taylor, 5; Townshend, 4; McNair, 4; Hunt, 4; Addison, 3; Stephens, 2.

West Brunswick scoring: Stevenson, 13; Mitchell, 13; Grissett, 7; Bowers, 6; Holmes, 5; Marlowe, 4; Gause, 2; Daniels, 2; C. Reeves, 2.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER
TERRENCE WATSON (12) of Fairmont is defended by West Brunswick's Timmy Daniels during last Tuesday's game in Shallotte. Watson scored 24 points to lead the Golden Tornadoes to a 105-54 win.

Pro Wrestler Rhodes Hopes To Avoid Dog Bowl

BY DOUG RUTTER

George Drake, or Rikki Rhodes as he's known in the ring, has never tasted dog food, but he doesn't imagine it's very appetizing.

The pro wrestler will be doing whatever it takes to avoid a potential date with a dog bowl when he squares off next week against "Nightmare."

The loser of their "Dog Food Match," appropriately enough, will have to eat dog food in the ring. Not just any dry dog food, mind you.

"They usually use Alpo or something along those lines," Rhodes said. "It's not the dry stuff. I'll definitely be doing all I can to make sure I'm not the one eating when the match ends."

Rhodes, a hulking Texan who moved to the Holden Beach area about four years ago, will be one of the feature attractions at next Friday night's North Atlantic Wrestling Federation event in Shallotte.

His battle with Nightmare will be a grudge match of sorts. In a previous meeting, the Nightmare delivered a blow that left Rhodes with 15 stitches in his head.

"I hope the Nightmare likes the taste of dog food," a revenge-minded Rhodes said in a recent interview.

In his 2 1/2 years as a professional wrestler, Rhodes has been associated with several federations and traveled throughout the Southeast.

The two-time former heavyweight champion usually wrestles four to five nights a week. He goes by Rikki Rhodes in the ring instead of using his real name, George Drake.

"The money's there, but it's hard work," he said. "The fans are really what makes it worthwhile. It's an indescribable feeling when everybody in the building is cheering for you."



"I hope the Nightmare likes the taste of dog food."
—Rikki Rhodes
Local pro wrestler

Rhodes said professional wrestlers are paid based in part on their experience and drawing power, or their ability to attract fans to an event.

Wrestlers who can fill stadium seats like Hulk Hogan can earn millions in their sport. Relative newcomers to the trade like Rhodes can make a living, but the lifestyle is tough.

"It's taxing on the body," he said. "It's kind of a toss up between the wrestling and the traveling. I've wrestled with a separated shoulder before and driven eight hours between cities."

Injuries are part of the sport, and Rhodes had had his share. He hasn't broken any bones yet, but has dislocated both his shoulder and hip and been stitched up more times than he cares to remember.

Rhodes plans to start negotiating with some of the larger wrestling federations in the near future.

His eventual goal is to wrestle in the World Championship Wrestling (WCW) or World Wrestling Federation (WWF), the two largest pro wrestling federations. They offer the most money and television exposure.

Rhodes said he tries to project himself as a

positive, wholesome role model for youngsters who see pro athletes as their heroes.

As a youngster, he acquired a background in football, baseball and weight lifting. When a knee injury destroyed any hopes of a pro baseball career, he was directed toward wrestling.

Like other athletes starting out in wrestling, Rhodes attended a training school for about five months where he worked on conditioning, strength and wrestling maneuvers.

He studied under Ken Spence, who once wrestled as "the Executioner," and has adopted a similar, rough-and-tumble style.

"I'm not a high-flyer," said Rhodes, who stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 302 pounds. "I'm more ground oriented."

To the casual observer, wrestling looks like a purely physical activity. But Rhodes says it's also a thinking man's sport.

"It's a game of mental chess," he said. "You're trying to outwit the other person. You try to make the move they're not expecting."

With the average pro wrestling career lasting about 10 years, Rhodes knows the physical nature of the sport will eventually catch up with him and force him to retire.

He's taking business administration classes at Brunswick Community College to prepare for his years after wrestling.

The North Atlantic Wrestling Federation match will be Friday, Feb. 28, at the National Guard Armory in Shallotte starting at 7:30 p.m.

Other matches include Iron Mike Majors versus Lightning Les Parker and a bunkhouse battle royal with \$10,000 going to the winner.

In the main event, Mighty Atar will defend his championship against Vladimir Koloff.

County Wrestlers Advance To State Tourney

BY DOUG RUTTER

Twelve Brunswick County high schools wrestlers advanced to this weekend's state individual tournament in Greensboro after strong showings last week at the regional event.

County champion West Brunswick will send five wrestlers to the state 1-A/2-A tournament, while North Brunswick qualified four and South Brunswick, three.

Local wrestlers advanced by finishing in the top four places in their respective weight classes at the East Regional Tournament Friday and Saturday at Williamston.

"I think it's real good news for county wrestling," West Brunswick Coach Joe Noble said. "Now all we have to do is start packing the gyms."

Trojan wrestlers advancing to the state tournament include freshman Drew Johnson, who placed fourth in the 103-pound class; senior Gary Jones, who finished third at 130 pounds; and sophomore Eric And-

reis, who placed fourth at 145 pounds.

West Brunswick also will send two regional runners-up to the state championships on Friday and Saturday, Noble said.

Senior Eibert Johnson finished second at 152 pounds, and junior Trey Hickman placed second at 189 pounds.

"I told my boys last year if they would stick with me and work we would take five or six this year," Noble said. "I'm very pleased with the progress and the way they've come along."

North Brunswick qualifiers include Roddie Jones, who finished second in the region in the 112-pound weight class.

Other Scorpians who advanced were Brian Cook, who placed third at 119 pounds; Keith Bullock, who finished third at 125 pounds; and freshman Casey McBride, who placed fourth among the 135-pounders.

"He was our big surprise," North

Brunswick Coach Mike Dumas said of McBride. "He just became an animal in the consolation round."

Jones, 1991 Brunswick County wrestler of the year, will be making his second trip to the state tournament. He finished second last year.

South Brunswick wrestlers who qualified for the state championship include Ty Haughn, who finished second in the 130-pound weight class at the East Regional.

Other qualifiers from the Cougar

wrestling squad were Phillip Craven, who placed fourth at the 160 pounds, and Craig Frazier, who finished fourth among the 171-pounders.

Besides having five wrestlers qualify for the state tournament, West Brunswick finished fourth in team standings at the 18-team regional event.

"That's a big, big jump from last year," said Noble.

The Trojans finished near the bottom of the pack last year.

IN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Jones Team Loses First Game

Rita's Team handed Richard Jones Construction its first loss of the season last week in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Co-ed Volleyball League.

Rita's, the fourth-place team in the volleyball league, topped the previously unbeaten Jones squad 15-13, 15-13, last Tuesday night at Shallotte Middle School.

In other action last week, Roberto's Pizza came from behind to beat Kari's Team 7-15, 15-10, 15-6.

Gene's Body Shop kept its hold on second place with a 15-1, 15-2, rout of Brunswick Community College.

Co-ed Volleyball League Standings As Of Feb. 16

| TEAM | WINS | LOSSES |
|----------------------|------|--------|
| Richard Jones Const. | 9 | 1 |
| Gene's Body Shop | 7 | 3 |
| Roberto's Pizza | 6 | 4 |
| Rita's Team | 5 | 4 |
| Kari's Team | 2 | 7 |
| Brun. Comm. College | 0 | 10 |

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