



NORTH BRUNSWICK DEFENDERS Ronnie Ballard (left) and Marion Cobb sandwich East Bladen guard Gary Rhoda as he drives to the hoop.

North Girls Lose Pair In Conference Action

North Brunswick's Lady Scorpions lost a pair of Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball games last week to East Bladen and South Brunswick.

The North girls fell to East Bladen 58-52 Friday night in Leland after losing 71-34 last Tuesday at South Brunswick. (See related story this issue.)

In the East Bladen game, the Lady Scorpions used a 7-0 run late in the first quarter to take a 12-6 lead.

East Bladen rallied in the second quarter behind the play of Farrah Johnson, who scored 14 of her game-high 27 points in the quarter.

East Bladen's Lady Cougars emerged with a 29-24 lead at half-time following an 8-0 run halfway through the second period.

The team maintained that five-point lead going into the fourth quarter, and scored the first seven points of the final period to take a 51-39 lead.

The Lady Scorpions then scored seven straight points in 32 seconds to cut the East Bladen lead to 51-46 with five minutes to play.

North Brunswick pulled to within 56-52 with 25 seconds to play before

East Bladen scored the final basket. In addition to Johnson's 27 points, Shannon Cain scored 12 and Michelle Robinson added nine for East Bladen.

Center LaTanya Grady led North Brunswick with 16 points. Ayo Robbins and Michelle Bennett added 10 points each.

For the Lady Scorpions, the East Bladen game was the closest they had come to victory since their last win Dec. 17 at Topsail.

Since then, North Brunswick has lost 10 straight games. The Lady Scorpions entered this week with an 0-10 conference mark and overall record of 2-12.

North Brunswick was to play at Whiteville Tuesday night before returning home Friday to host West Brunswick.

Score By Quarters

East Bladen 6 23 15 14—58
North Brunswick 12 12 15 13—52

East Bladen scoring: Johnson, 27; Shannon Cain, 12; Robinson, 9; Godfrey, 4; Bond, 4; Burgess, 2.

North Brunswick scoring: Grady, 16; A. Robbins, 10; Bennett, 10; T. Robbins, 5; Walker, 4; Dowe, 4; K. Balla, d, 3.

North Scorpions Give Top Conference Squads A Score

North Brunswick did everything but win a pair of games last week against two of the top teams in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

The Scorpions, who upset Whiteville earlier this season, came close to doing the same thing last week against both East Bladen and South Brunswick.

The Scorpions grabbed an early lead and rallied in the fourth quarter before falling to East Bladen 61-53 last Friday night in Leland.

North Brunswick also jumped out to an early lead at South Brunswick last Tuesday before losing to the Cougars 72-62. (See related story.)

Against East Bladen, North Brunswick trailed 8-2 early before going on a 10-3 run and taking a 14-15 lead after one quarter.

The Scorpions stayed close in the second quarter, despite only scoring five points, and trailed 24-19 at half-time.

East Bladen led by as many as 12 points in the third quarter and took a 47-37 lead going into the final period.

East Bladen's Jonathan Melvin slam dunked off an offensive rebound to give the Elizabethtown crew a 53-39 lead with 4:30 to play.

North Brunswick then scored 12 straight points to cut the Cougar lead to 53-51 with 1:20 remaining.

Following two East Bladen free throws, North's Dwain Waddell hit a pair of foul shots to make the score 55-53 with 46 seconds to play.

East Bladen's Ty Powell converted a three-point play with 35 seconds remaining to give the Cougars a 58-53 lead.

Powell also made three of four free throws in the last 30 seconds to secure the win for East Bladen.

Anthony Meares led the East Bladen Cougars with 23 points; Gary Rhoda added 13 for the winners.

Maduka Ballard led the North Brunswick attack with 22 points and Waddell added 18 for the Scorpions.

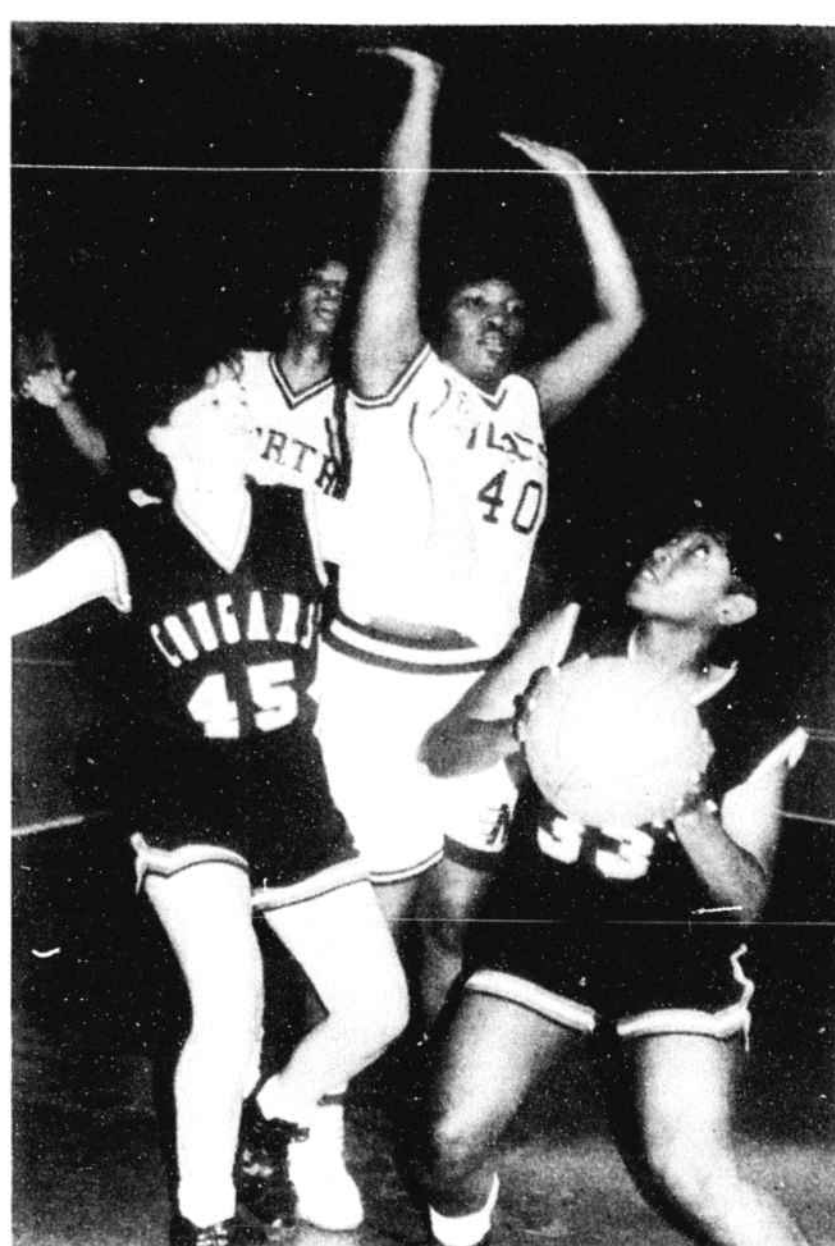
North Brunswick (1-9, 5-11) was to play at Whiteville Tuesday night and host West Brunswick on Friday.

Score By Quarters

East Bladen 13 11 23 14—61
North Brunswick 14 5 18 16—53

East Bladen scoring: Meares, 23; Rhoda, 13; Gray, 8; Melvin, 7; Powell, 6; Rhodes, 4.

North Brunswick scoring: M. Ballard, 22; Waddell, 18; Cobb, 5; Black, 4; Bell, 2; R. Ballard, 2.



NORTH BRUNSWICK'S TOSHA ROBBINS (40) goes for a block against East Bladen's Cindy Montgomery (33) during Friday night's game in Leland. Also pictured are East Bladen's Julie Strickland (45) and North's LaTanya Grady.

South Lady Cougars Keep Perfect WC Mark Intact

South Brunswick's girls' basketball team kept its unbeaten record in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference intact last week, cruising to easy wins over West Columbus and North Brunswick.

The Lady Cougars routed West Columbus 57-29 Friday night in Cerro Gordo after thumping North Brunswick 71-34 last Tuesday at Boiling Spring Lakes.

Against West Columbus, Erika Bryant scored 21 points and Jodie Brown added 16 to lead South Brunswick to its 10th straight win in conference play.

South dominated from the beginning, taking a 22-10 lead in the first quarter and building the advantage to 37-15 at half-time.

"I think the first half was probably our best half of the year," Coach Mike Isenberg said. "We ran our offense real well."

The Lady Cougars "coasted" in the second half, Isenberg said, out-

scoring West Columbus 20-14 to secure the road victory.

Last Tuesday, Bryant scored 21 points and grabbed 18 rebounds to lead South Brunswick to a 71-34 victory over North Brunswick.

Latonya Hankins and Stacy Isenberg added 12 points each for the Lady Cougars, while Brown scored eight.

South Brunswick stretched a 15-5 first quarter lead to 38-14 at half-time. The Lady Cougars led 57-23 after three quarters.

The South Brunswick girls were to host South Robeson Tuesday night before traveling to Fairmont on Friday.

The Lady Cougars (10-0, 14-3) wrap up the regular season next week with a road game at Whiteville and home match against West Brunswick.

Isenberg said he hopes the Lady Cougars peak at the right time. "The last four games we have will be tough ones," he said.

South Boys Rebound With Pair Of Conference Wins

South Brunswick won a pair of Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball games last week to stay tied for second place in the league going into the final two weeks of the regular season.

The Cougars rebounded from a Feb. 7 loss to East Bladen to beat West Columbus 75-66 Friday night at Cerro Gordo. South also held off the North Brunswick Scorpions 72-62 last Tuesday at Boiling Spring Lakes.

"Our execution is the best it's been in a month," South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane said Monday. "I hope we're coming together at the right time."

At West Columbus, South Brunswick junior point guard Josh White led the attack with 21 points.

Kevin Smith added 19, and Preston McGriff scored 15 for the Cougars, who had a 12- to 20-point for most of the game.

McGriff scored 20 points to lead the Cougars to a 72-62 win over visiting North Brunswick last Tuesday.

Smith scored 15. White added 14 and Butch Fullwood had 13 for South Brunswick, which beat the Scorpions by 34 earlier this season in Leland.

Dwain Waddell led the Scorpions with 20 points. Maduka Ballard added 16 and Barry Baldwin scored 10.

North Brunswick led 18-15 after the first quarter, but the Cougars came back to take a 31-30 lead at intermission.

South Brunswick pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring the visiting Scorpions 22-8 to take a 53-38 lead.

The Scorpions made another charge in the final period, outscoring South 24-19, but came up short in their upset bid.

South Brunswick (8-2, 16-3) was to host South Robeson Tuesday night before traveling to Fairmont Friday for a key conference game against the unbeaten Golden Tornadoes.

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