

Top Girls' Teams Survive Openers In Waccamaw Conference Tournament

BY DOUG RUTTER

The top three girls' teams won their first-round games Monday night as the Waccamaw 2-A Conference basketball tournament opened at Whiteville and South Brunswick high schools.

South Brunswick and West Brunswick advanced to the semifinals, along with Whiteville. The three teams shared the regular-season conference championship with 12-2 records.

Numbers were drawn from a hat at a coaches' meeting Saturday to determine the top tournament seeds, with Whiteville drawing number one, South number two and West number three.

At Boiling Spring Lakes Monday, West Brunswick jumped out to an early lead then held off Fairmont for a 53-44 victory.

The Lady Trojans, owners of a seven-game winning streak, took an 18-5 lead in the first quarter. West led 29-16 at halftime and held a 39-29 lead going into the

final quarter.

Christy King led the Lady Trojans with 16 points. Tikila Morgan added 11 and Monica King chipped in 10 for West Brunswick.

Erecia Gaddy paced the Golden Tornadoes with 20 points, collecting 12 on three-point shots.

West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council said the Lady Trojans didn't play well Monday night, but managed to hold on for the win.

"I don't think we took them too lightly because I preached that the whole way up there," she said. "We just didn't play well."

Council gave credit to Fairmont for not giving up. "They have improved a lot and they were ready for us."

West Brunswick will play its semifinal game at Boiling Spring Lakes tonight (Thursday) against South Brunswick, which was a 69-40 winner over visiting East Bladen on Monday.

Tasha Sellers scored 19 points and Erika Bryant added 18 to lead the Lady Cougars, who took a 15-5 lead in the first quarter.

South, which snapped a two-game losing streak with the win, led 33-20 at halftime and bumped the advantage to 50-29 after three quarters.

Farrah Johnson scored a game-high 21 points to lead East Bladen, and Shannon Cain added 10 for the Elizabethtown crew.

In other games Monday, Whiteville's Beverly McCray scored 28 points to lead the top-seeded Lady Wolfpack to a 79-21 thrashing of North Brunswick.

Shannon Register added 12 points for Whiteville. Tanya Jones and Dawn Threadgill chipped in 11 points each.

North Brunswick ended its season with an 0-15 mark in the conference and 2-17 record overall.

The fifth-seeded West Columbus Lady Vikings

pulled off the only upset of the opening round, beating fourth-ranked South Robeson.

The Lady Wolfpack and Lady Vikings were to play their semifinal Wednesday night at South Brunswick.

Boys' Bracket

The boys were expected to open their tournament Tuesday night at Fairmont and South Brunswick.

Fairmont's Golden Tornadoes, who won the regular-season championship with a 14-0 record, were to host North Brunswick in the opening round.

Whiteville and West Columbus were also slated to play at Fairmont Tuesday night in a battle of fourth- and fifth-place teams.

South Brunswick, the second seed in the Waccamaw Conference, was to host seventh-place South Robeson.

West Brunswick was to face East Bladen in the other first-round game Tuesday night in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Lady Trojans Nip South For Share Of League Championship

BY DOUG RUTTER

Monica King made two foul shots with six seconds left to lift the West Brunswick girls' basketball team to a thrilling 47-45 win over South Brunswick last Friday at Boiling Spring Lakes.

With the victory, the Lady Trojans earned a share of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference championship. West finished the regular league season at 12-2, tied with South Brunswick and Whiteville for first place.

This is the first time South Brunswick has won a conference title in girls' basketball. West Brunswick won its last conference crown in 1979.

"We played real hard and played good defense," West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council said. "We cut down on our turnovers and hit the boards better than we have in the past."

Besides earning a piece of the conference title pie, West Brunswick also won a share of the county championship. South and West both went 3-1 in the county this year, splitting their two games.

South Brunswick Coach Mike Isenberg said it was a shame one team had to lose the game Friday night, which drew a capacity crowd to the Cougars' gym.

"It was one of the best girls' basketball games I've ever seen," Isenberg said. "They just had more intensity tonight."

Isenberg's Lady Cougars, who were undefeated going into the final week of the regular season, lost to

Whiteville and West Brunswick last week to finish in a tie for the conference crown.

"We've been falling behind early on the last couple of games and haven't been able to come back," he said after Friday night's loss.

South Brunswick fell behind by 10 points in the first quarter against West. The Lady Cougars steadily chipped away at the lead and led for most of the fourth quarter before West came back to win.

Christy King led the Lady Trojans with 16 points and an outstanding defensive game. King converted four steals into easy baskets, including two late in the fourth quarter.

"Christy played a heck of a game," Coach Council said. "She showed that senior leadership. I'm proud of her and she really motivated the other girls."

West Brunswick took control of the game early, jumping out to a 5-0 lead in the first two minutes.

Catherine Bell scored nine first-quarter points for the Lady Trojans, who built a 16-9 lead after one period.

South's Lady Cougars went on a 6-0 run early in the second quarter and cut the West Brunswick lead to 19-17 at the 4:45 mark.

Christy King then scored three baskets for West Brunswick to key an 8-0 run that gave the Lady Trojans a 26-17 lead.

South's Stacie Isenberg hit a jump shot with two seconds remaining to trim the West Brunswick lead to 27-23 at halftime.

The Lady Cougars rallied in the

third quarter, outscoring West Brunswick 11-8 to trail 35-34 going into the fourth quarter.

South Brunswick scored five straight points to open the final period and took a 39-35 lead. The Lady Cougars took a 43-38 lead when Erika Bryant scored with 2:58 to play.

That's when West's Christy King took over. She came up with two steals and scored six straight points to give the Lady Trojans a 44-43 lead with 1:14 to play.

West Brunswick's Stacey Hill made one of two free throws with 35 seconds remaining to make the score 45-43.

With 23 seconds left, Stacie Isenberg made both ends of a one-and-one for South Brunswick to tie the game at 45-45.

With time running out, West Brunswick's Bell passed the ball to Monica King, who was standing alone on the baseline.

King drove to the basket and drew a foul with six seconds remaining. She calmly made both shots to give the Lady Trojans a 47-45 lead.

"My knees were shaking," King said after the game. "I couldn't hardly stand up out there."

South Brunswick had one last chance to win the game, but Latonya Hankins' three-point shot clanged off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

Bryant led the Lady Cougars with 12 points. Jennifer Fullwood added nine and Jodie Brown scored eight.

Score By Quarters
West Brunswick 16 11 8 12—47
South Brunswick 9 14 11 11—45

West Brunswick scoring: C. King, 16; Bell, 12; Morgan, 7; M. King, 6; S. Hill, 6.

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 12; Fullwood, 9; Brown, 8; Isenberg, 6; Cumbee, 4; Hankins, 4; Sellers, 2.

East Bladen

West's Lady Trojans got strong inside play from Tikila Morgan and Nicole Norris and beat East Bladen 58-27 last Tuesday in Shallotte.

Morgan scored 16 points and Norris chipped in 12 to lead West to an easy victory in its final home game of the regular season.

The squad's five seniors—Christy King, Doris Daniels, Stacey Hill, Pam Detrie and Morgan—were recognized before the game and also started for the Lady Trojans.

After a slow start, West Brunswick scored nine points in the last two minutes of the first quarter to take a 15-6 lead.

The Lady Trojans used another 9-0 run late in the second quarter to build their halftime lead to 31-13.

West Brunswick maintained its sizable lead in the third quarter before pulling away in the final period.

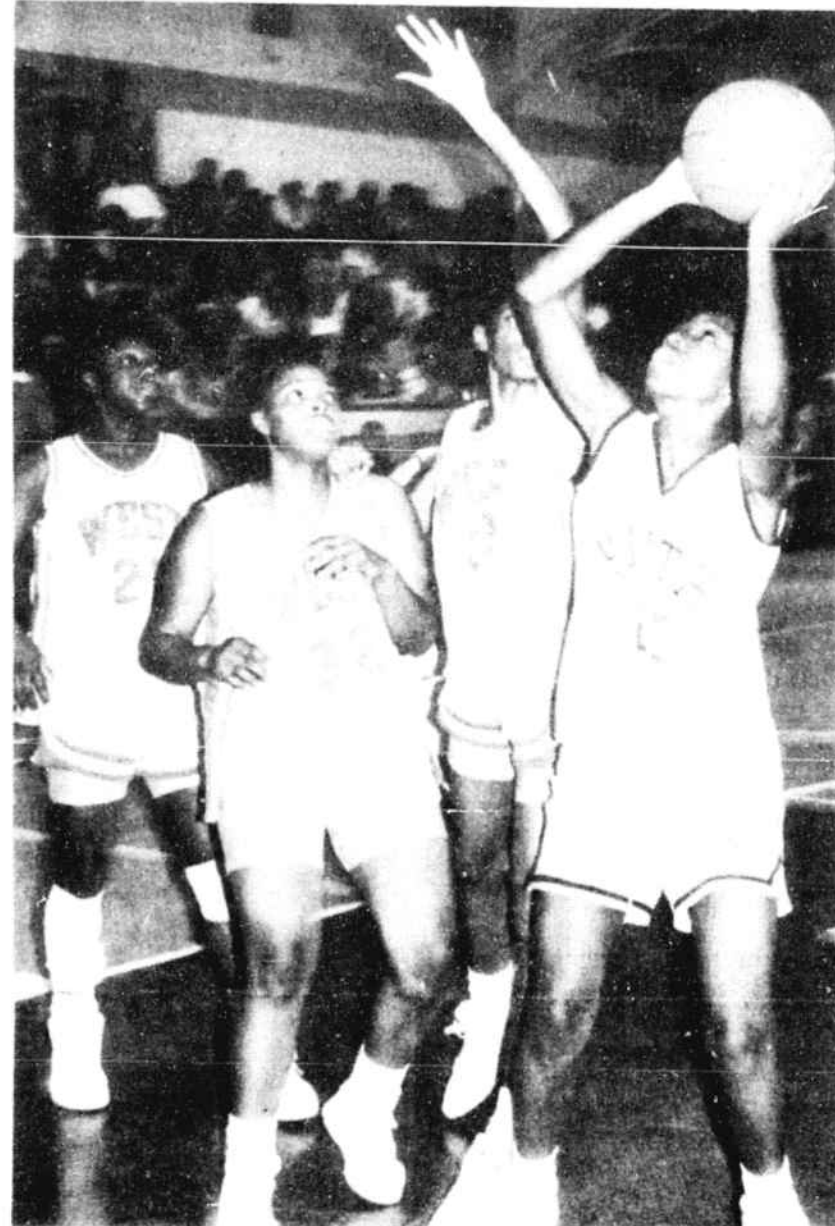
With several reserves on the floor, the Lady Trojans held East Bladen to one basket in the fourth quarter while scoring 14 points.

Monica King played solid defense and scored 11 points for West Brunswick, and Christy King added nine for the Lady Trojans.

Farrah Johnson led East Bladen's Lady Cougars with nine points, and Cindy Montgomery scored six.

Score By Quarters
East Bladen 6 7 12 2—27
West Brunswick 15 16 13 14—58
East Bladen scoring: Johnson, 9; Montgomery, 6; Cain, 4; Frush, 2;

Bond, 2; Burgess, 2; Jessup, 2.
West Brunswick scoring: Morgan, 16; Norris, 12; M. King, 11; C. King, 9; S. Hill, 4; Daniels, 4; P. Hill, 2.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER
LADY TROJAN MONICA KING (13) goes up to block the shot of South Brunswick's Jennifer Fullwood (25) during their game Friday night. Also pictured are West Brunswick's Tikila Morgan (32) and Catherine Bell (21).

Whiteville Tops South Girls

South Brunswick's girls lost their first conference game of the season last Tuesday night in Whiteville 55-50.

Beverly McCray led the Lady Wolfpack with 27 points, as Whiteville snapped South Brunswick's 12-game winning streak and hopes of an undefeated Waccamaw 2-A Conference season.

Whiteville, which lost 48-43 in overtime at South Brunswick on Jan. 28, got sweet revenge last week.

The Lady Wolfpack took an 8-7 first-quarter lead and surged to a 27-16 advantage at halftime.

The Lady Cougars rallied in the second half and trimmed the

Whiteville lead to 40-31 after three quarters.

South Brunswick outscored Whiteville 19-15 in the final period, but it wasn't enough for a win.

Erika Bryant led the Lady Cougars with 16 points. Jennifer Fullwood added 11 points and Alison Cumbee scored 10.

Score By Quarters
South Brunswick 7 9 15 19—50
Whiteville 8 19 13 15—55

South Brunswick scoring: Bryant, 16; Fullwood, 11; Cumbee, 10; Sellers, 4; Brown, 4; Hankins, 2; Davis, 2; Isenberg, 1.

Whiteville scoring: McCray, 27; Threadgill, 13; Garcia, 6; Jones, 5; Register, 4.

North Girls Winless In League

North Brunswick's Lady Scorpion basketball team last week concluded its second straight 0-14 season in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

The North girls, who won two of four non-conference games this sea-

son, finished the league slate last week with losses to Fairmont and South Robeson.

The Lady Scorpions haven't won a conference game since Feb. 13, 1990, when they upset West Brunswick 43-40.

"It's been a long season," said Assistant Coach Carlie Luck. "Hopefully, we'll be able to win some games starting next year."

In its final game of the regular season last Friday, North Brunswick lost to visiting Fairmont 74-32.

Lucy Butler led the Golden Tornadoes with 14 points, and Tiffany Bethea added 12. Latonya Grady led North Brunswick with 10 points.

The Lady Scorpions lost to South Robeson 69-35 last Tuesday night in Rowland.

Chasity Oxendine led four Lady Mustang scorers in double figures with 18 points. Tameka Reaves added 13 and Elena Haskins and Latonya Meekins scored 10 points each.

Sisters Tosha and Ayo Robbins led North Brunswick with 16 and 10 points respectively, said Luck.

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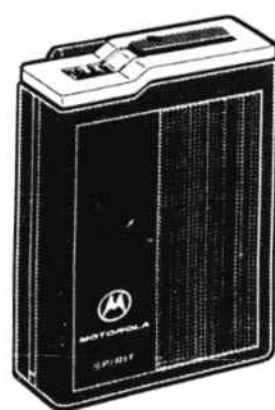
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