

IN WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FINAL

Fairmont Whips South For Boys' Title

BY DOUG RUTTER

Jonathan Grissett and Demorris Winningham scored 18 points each to lead Fairmont to a 70-50 win over South Brunswick in the Waccamaw Conference boys' basketball tournament final last Friday.

The Golden Tornadoes used their stiff defense and fast-break offense to dominate the Cougars and wrapped up the regular season with a 17-0 record against conference teams and 24-0 overall.

Fairmont also earned a first-round bye in the state playoffs. South Brunswick was to play South Granville Tuesday night at Fuquay Varina in the opening round.

Despite playing on the Cougars' home floor, it didn't take long for the state's top-ranked 2-A team to take control Friday night.

Fairmont scored eight straight points midway through the first quarter and had an 18-11 lead after one period.

South Brunswick stayed within six or seven points for most of the second quarter. But Fairmont ended the half with a flurry capped by Winningham's steal and slam dunk and took a 35-23 halftime lead.

The Golden Tornadoes used a 9-0 run midway through the third quarter to build a 46-26 lead. South rallied late in the period and trimmed Fairmont's lead to 51-37 going into the fourth quarter.

The Cougars never got closer than 14 points in the final period as Fairmont put together an 8-0 run early in the quarter to pull away.

Terrence Watson scored 14 points and Robert McKinnis added 11 for the Golden Tornadoes, who had four players score in double figures.

Josh White led South Brunswick with 19 points, followed by Preston McGriff with 17.

The Golden Tornadoes advanced to the tournament finals with easy wins over West Columbus and North Brunswick.

Grissett scored 30 points and Watson chipped in 26 to lead Fairmont to an 87-65 win over West Columbus last Wednesday.

The Tornadoes routed North Brunswick 92-52 in the tournament's opening round last Tuesday.

South Brunswick qualified for the tournament final by beating East Bladen and South Robeson in the preliminary rounds.

Score By Quarters

South Brunswick 11 12 14 13—50
Fairmont 18 17 16 19—70

South Brunswick scoring: White, 19; McGriff, 17; Moore, 6; Clarida, 5; Fullwood, 2; K. Smith, 1.

Fairmont scoring: Winningham, 18; Grissett, 18; Watson, 14; McKinnis, 11; Addison, 7; McNair, 2.

East Bladen

Scouter Moore banked in a short

jumper with two seconds remaining to lift South to a 63-61 comeback win over East Bladen in the tournament semifinals last Thursday.

The Cougars were plagued by turnovers early in the game and trailed by as many as 14 points in the second quarter.

South, led by McGriff's 28 points, trimmed East Bladen's lead to 35-30 at halftime and tied the game at 50-50 going into the fourth quarter.

East Bladen regained the lead in the fourth quarter, but South's White nailed a three pointer from the corner with two minutes to play to tie the game at 61-61.

Following an East Bladen turnover, the Cougars got the ball back with 33 seconds remaining and held for the last shot.

With less than 10 seconds left, White penetrated the lane and passed to Moore, who banked in the game winner.

Anthony McKoy led East Bladen with 26 points, and Gary Rhoda added 11 for the third-seeded Cougars.

Score By Quarters

East Bladen 20 15 15 11—61
South Brunswick 13 17 20 13—63

East Bladen scoring: McKoy, 26; Rhoda, 11; Meares, 9; Gray, 5; Powell, 4; Young, 2; Melvin, 2; Johnson, 1; Priest, 1.

South Brunswick scoring: Mc-

Griff, 28; White, 15; Moore, 9; Fullwood, 6; Smith, 3; Simon, 2.

South Robeson

McGriff scored a game-high 29 points to lead the Cougars to an easy 75-56 win over South Robeson in the tournament's opening round last Tuesday.

South Brunswick jumped on the seventh-seeded Mustangs early, taking a 27-12 lead in the first quarter.

The Mustangs played even with South Brunswick in the second period, but trailed 43-29 at halftime.

The Cougars increased their lead to 61-37 at the end of three quarters, holding South Robeson to just eight points in the period.

White scored 14 for South Brunswick, and Moore added eight for the Cougars.

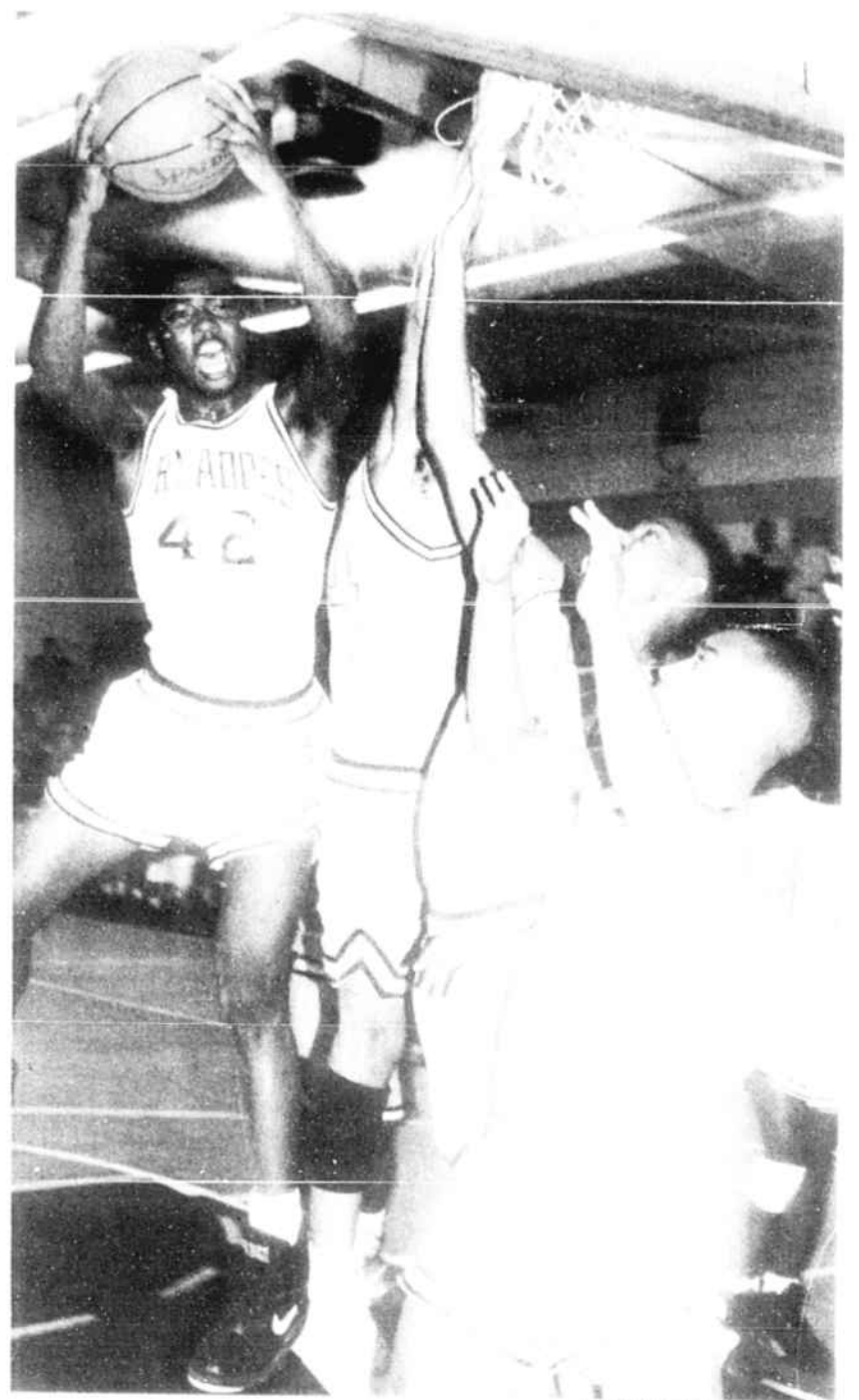
Tracy Jacobs and Laron Nealy scored 14 points each to lead South Robeson, which ended the season 3-12 in the conference and 5-17 overall.

Score By Quarters

South Robeson 12 17 8 19—56
South Brunswick 27 16 18 14—75

South Robeson scoring: Jacobs, 14; Nealy, 14; Hunt, 11; Alford, 10; Pierce, 3; Rately, 2; Graham, 2.

South Brunswick scoring: McGriff, 29; White, 14; Moore, 8; Brice, 6; Fullwood, 6; Clarida, 4; Simon, 2; Jennings, 2; Smith, 2; McLaughlin, 2.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

ROBERT MCKINNIS (42) grabs a rebound for Fairmont in the conference tournament final Friday night at South Brunswick. Also pictured (from left) are Preston McGriff, James Clarida and Lamont Taylor.

Trojan Season Ends With Loss To East Bladen

BY DOUG RUTTER

It was only fitting that the West Brunswick boys' basketball team ended its season last week with a 10-for-27 performance from the free throw line.

Poor shooting and missed opportunities were what kept the Trojans from winning all year long, according to Head Coach Billy Mims.

West Brunswick fell to East Bladen 66-51 last Tuesday in the opening round of the Waccamaw 2-A Conference tournament at South Brunswick.

Anthony McKoy scored 24 points to lead the Cougars, and Andre Gray added 15 for the Elizabethtown crew.

East Bladen streaked out to a 21-12 lead in the first quarter, but the Trojans rallied in the second period and trailed only 33-29 at halftime.

The Cougars pulled away in the third period, outscoring West Brunswick 16-8 to take a 49-37 lead into the final quarter.

Guard Shaun Bowens led the Trojans with 17 points, and Lonnie Mitchell chipped in 12 for West.

"We lost because of our inability to score points, like it's been all year," Mims said of the East Bladen game.

Coming off their best season in



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

WEST BRUNSWICK Coach Billy Mims hopes to turn things around next year after seeing his Trojans struggle through a 4-19 season.

13 years, the Trojans went 3-12 against conference opponents this year and finished 4-19 overall.

At the start of the year, Mims had expected a good season after losing only two seniors from a squad that went 21-6 a year ago.

But Mims said the bad attitudes of several players and a lack of senior leadership did the Trojans in

this year.

Seven players either quit or were kicked off the team during the season for missing practice without permission.

The casualties included three starters and another player who had a lot of experience last season.

"They did not want to see West Brunswick basketball succeed," Mims said. "I didn't get rid of them. They got rid of themselves."

With the season behind him, Mims looks forward to next year. "We're not dead. We'll be back in the thick of things next season."

To succeed, Mims plans to find some students who will put basketball ahead of other sports and activities.

"I'm going to get some kids who are committed to basketball first," he said. "We cannot compete if we're waiting on seven or eight football players."

West Brunswick will lose three seniors from this year's team, including Shaun Bowens and Jerome Marlowe, who handled most of the point guard duties.

Forward Jimmy Grissett also will

graduate and head off to N.C. State where he will play on the football team.

Mims expects Lonnie Mitchell, Shawn Stevenson and Calvin Reeves to return next season for their senior year.

Others likely to return to the team next year include Anthony Moody, who showed a lot of improvement late in the season.

Mims expects those four players and a few others to make up the nucleus of the 1992-93 Trojan basketball squad.

"I'm serious about West Brunswick basketball," he said. "I want kids who feel the same way. When they put on that uniform and step on the floor, I want guys who want to win."

Score By Quarters

West Brunswick 12 17 8 14—51
East Bladen 21 12 16 17—66

West Brunswick scoring: Bowens, 17; Mitchell, 12; Grissett, 7; Stevenson, 5; Moody, 5; Reeves, 3; Hewett, 1; Marlowe, 1.

East Bladen scoring: McKoy, 24; Gray, 15; Powell, 8; Rhodes, 8; Melvin, 5; Johnson, 4; Priest, 2.



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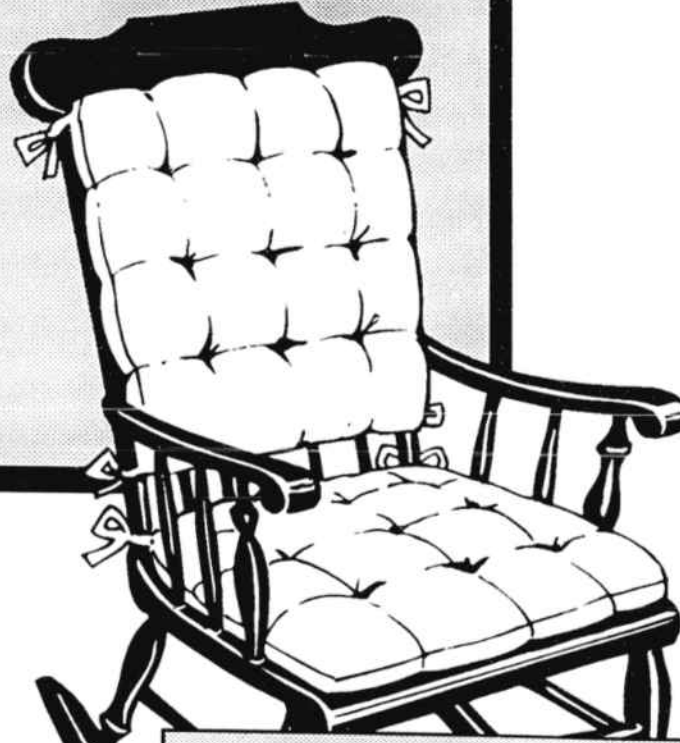
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