

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- ☐ South Brunswick at Topsail in golf, 1:30 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick at South Robeson in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick at West Columbus in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- ☐ South Brunswick at West Columbus in softball, 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick at South Robeson in softball, 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick hosts West Columbus in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick hosts South Robeson in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- ☐ North Brunswick at East Bladen in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

- ☐ Waccamaw Conference golf tournament at East Bladen, 1:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick hosts Fairmont in boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick hosts St. Pauls in boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick hosts South Robeson in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick hosts West Columbus in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- ☐ West Brunswick, North Brunswick and East Bladen at Whiteville in track, 3:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick hosts West Columbus, Fairmont and South Robeson in track, 3:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick at South Robeson for softball doubleheader, 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick hosts West Columbus in softball, 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ South Brunswick at South Robeson in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick at West Columbus in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- ☐ North Brunswick hosts Whiteville in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- ☐ South Brunswick hosts Whiteville in boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
- ☐ West Brunswick at East Bladen in boys' tennis, 4 p.m.
- ☐ North Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the Beacon. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

SPORTING SCENE

This Strike Would Be Hokey

Remember the uneasy feeling you got in your stomach every time your high school geometry teacher strolled into the classroom and announced a pop quiz?

Well, it's time to take out a sheet of paper and put your books under the desk. Doug's giving a pop quiz.

Don't sweat it. I'm only going to ask one simple question: Which group of athletes is threatening to strike because they're not making enough money?

I'll give you a few hints. They wear sharp pieces of steel on their feet and spend time in isolation if they're caught breaking the rules.

No, it's not the chaps who play arena football. I'm talking about what could become the first players strike in National Hockey League history.

I know most of you are furrowing your brow right now. You're thinking, what do I care about ice hockey?

But I know there are at least a few hockey fans in the crowd. I can't be the only one in Brunswick County who cares about this imminent strike.

The players were thinking about walking out this week, just before the end of the regular season and start of the playoffs.

The players and owners just can't agree on salaries. Don't worry if that sounds familiar. Players and owners don't get along in any of the major pro sports.

I really can't blame ice hockey players for wanting more money. Their sport is as physically demanding as any other, and players have been grossly underpaid for years compared to other athletes.

Hockey players read the papers. They see the salaries of other pro sports stars going through the roof, and they want a piece of the action.

Most Major League Baseball players would be aghast if they had to play for the paltry sum the average hockey player earns. That's too bad because baseball players are the laziest and most overpaid athletes on Earth.

Anyway, I would hate to see the pro hockey players go on strike even though I think they deserve more money. Hockey doesn't have the best image to start with, and a strike would only create a bigger crack in the ice.

The National Hockey League hasn't had a players strike since it was formed 75 years ago. There's always been something different about hockey.

The players seem to play because they love the game. I know I always loved playing ice hockey and still love to watch a game whenever I get a chance.

I think a players' strike would cheapen ice hockey. The NHL would become too much like the other sports leagues.

Pro hockey is too much fun to become a business like baseball, basketball and football. The bottom line shouldn't become the bottom line.

Southern Swing

Carrollton High School's baseball team makes a southern swing this month through Brunswick County.

The Ohio high school ball club will spend its Easter vacation on the road and probably manage to squeeze in a few hours at the beach.

Carrollton opens up its county loop against North Brunswick's Scorpions on April 13, before playing South Brunswick on the 14th and finishing up at West Brunswick on the 15th.

All three county high school clubs will also be competing in the Sea Shell Classic tournament in Wilmington during the week of April 20.

Daniels Honored

West Brunswick freshman Timothy Daniels was named to the all-star team at the Coastline Promotional Sports Invitation basketball camp March 21 at Socastee (S.C.) High School.

"He hung in there and did a real good job going against a lot of rising seniors," West Brunswick Coach Billy Mims said.

The one-day basketball camp featured underclassmen from North and South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



DWAIN WADDELL (right) led North Brunswick in scoring this season with 22 points per game.



MADUKA BALLARD swoops in for a Scorpion dunk.



PRESTON MCGRIFF (41) stood head and shoulders above his opponents this season as South's 6-foot-11 center.



LONGNIE MITCHELL (40) pulls down a rebound for West Brunswick's Trojans.

ALL-COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL

Cougar Center Is Player Of Year

BY DOUG RUTTER

South Brunswick's Preston McGriff has been named county boys' basketball player of the year after leading the Cougars to a respectable 21-6 record.

McGriff, a 6-foot-11-inch senior center, heads a talented all-county team featuring teammate Josh White, Dwain Waddell and Maduka Ballard of North Brunswick and West Brunswick's Lonnie Mitchell.

South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane was named county coach of the year after leading the Cougars to a second-place finish in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference and a state playoff berth.

McGriff, a three-time selection to the all-county squad, averaged 21.4 points a game for the Cougars this season and scored a school-record 1,799 points during his career.

As much of an offensive and defensive threat as McGriff was inside, South's Josh White was from the perimeter.

White, a junior point guard, scored 15 points a game for the Cougars this season to earn his second straight selection to the all-

county team.

While McGriff will leave South Brunswick this year, White will return next season. His quickness and ball-handling abilities should make him one of the top high school basketball recruits in the region next year.

Lonnie Mitchell, West Brunswick's lone selection to the all-county team, averaged 12 points and seven rebounds per game for the Trojans.

The junior forward/center was West Brunswick's most consistent scorer during a disappointing season in which the Trojans posted a 4-19 record.

North Brunswick guard Dwain Waddell averaged 22 points per contest for the Scorpions this season.

Forward Maduka Ballard scored 11.5 points per game for North Brunswick, which finished the year at 5-16.

Members of the all-county basketball team and the player and coach of the year are chosen by the sports staff of *The Brunswick Beacon* and *State Post Pilot* newspapers.



JOSH WHITE (20) played good defense this season and scored 15 points per game for the Cougars.

East Bladen Nips South

East Bladen edged South Brunswick 7-6 in eight innings last Friday in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference baseball opener for both schools.

"The boys played well. We just couldn't pull it out," South Brunswick Coach Jack Brown said. "They're probably the best team in the conference."

South won one out of three non-conference home games last week, splitting a doubleheader with Hoke County Saturday after losing to Lancy last Tuesday.

Sophomore Rodney Willoughby pitched a five-inning no-hitter for South in the second game Saturday to lead the Cougars to a 2-1 win over Hoke.

The Cougars scored their two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to pull out the win.

In the first game, South Brunswick led 6-1 after two innings but yielded nine runs in the third inning. Hoke went on to post an 11-8 win.

Laney High pounded South Brunswick 17-5 last Tuesday at Cougar Field in other non-league play.

South Brunswick took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning, but Laney tied the game in the second inning and scored eight times in the third to pull away from the Cougars.

"We're doing alright," Coach Brown said Monday. "We're young but as soon as we mature and get some games under our belt we'll start winning."

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Surfers Win Trophies

Three Shallotte Middle School surfers won trophies last month competing in Eastern Surfing Association contests. Shawn Lang (left) took fifth place in the boys' division in contests held March 22 at Carolina Beach and March 8 at Holden Beach. George Cuff (center) was fourth in the boys' division at the Holden Beach contest, while Jack Cuff (right) placed third in body board.

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