

McGriff Inks With UNC Wilmington Seahawks

BY DOUG RUTTER
South Brunswick basketball star Preston McGriff signed a grant-in-aid Tuesday with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The 6-foot-11-inch senior, the all-time leading scorer at South with 1,799 career points, will play his college ball close to home.

McGriff will play Division I basketball for UNC-Wilmington Coach Kevin Eastman's Seahawks of the Colonial Athletic Conference.

"I think he'll fit in real well," South Brunswick Coach Gene Doane said. "He has the tools. Now what he does with them is up to him."

McGriff was recently chosen as Brunswick County's best prep basketball player of the year after averaging 21 points per game his senior year with the Cougars.

Doane thinks the signing will prove to be the right decision for McGriff and the university, which he said needs a good player from the area.

"I'm very pleased Preston has chosen UNC-Wilmington," Doane said. "I truly believe Preston is going to a program and a coach who really care for the total person and not just the player."

Doane, who has coached basketball for 32 years and recorded more than 500 wins, said UNCW's Eastman gets the most out of his players.

"There's no question they're doing it the right way," Doane said of the Seahawk basketball program.

Doane said he thinks McGriff can help turn UNCW into a contender as he did at South Brunswick. "It's kind of like him being at South. I think he can do the same thing."

The Cougar coach said McGriff's decision will also be welcomed by

South Brunswick fans who followed his prolific high school career. They'll be able to watch him play college ball without traveling far.

McGriff will be the third South Brunswick basketball player to latch on with a Division I college program in the last two years.

Former Cougar Carl Parker was a redshirt freshman this year at William and Mary, where he recently received the most improved player award.

"That's not bad to be picked as the most improved and never get to play in a game," Doane said. "They're expecting big things out of him next year."

South Brunswick's Greg Williams made the basketball team at UNC-Greensboro last season as a walk-on.

Doane said the success of McGriff and others brings attention to the South Brunswick basketball program and its players.

"As far as helping get kids in college, it helps," Doane said. "It helps get lesser kids in smaller schools. They know they get a solid kid with a good attitude."

Doane said McGriff considered more than a dozen schools and had narrowed the field to UNCW and UNC-Charlotte.

"Just about every team in the Colonial Athletic Conference recruited him," the Cougar coach added.

Doane said the UNCW head coach told McGriff that he was the number one big man the Seahawks would be recruiting this year.

"I think that made a difference," Doane said. "A lot of schools say they're recruiting you, but not many will say you're their number one guy."



PRESTON MCGRIFF (left) blocks the shot of Hoggard's Adam Carlsson during a game in January. Also pictured is South's Josh White.

SPORTING SCENE

School Rivalry Thriving Between West And South

When West Brunswick and South Brunswick meet on the athletic field, you can forget about the records.

The cross-county rivals will always give each other a game, no matter which team has the most talent or best record.

South Brunswick's softball team proved that again last Thursday when it stopped West Brunswick's undefeated streak at eight games.

The Lady Trojans entered the game at 8-0, averaging a hefty 19 runs per contest in its previous four games.

South Brunswick entered the game at 4-3, with losses to two of the conference opponents that West had already beaten.

On paper, West Brunswick should have won the game. But grudge matches like the West-South clash aren't played on paper.

When it comes to West versus South, the team that wants it more than the other team usually wins.

South's girls apparently wanted it more than West's girls last Thursday at Boiling Spring Lakes. They won 10-1.

The same night in Shallotte, the West and South boys were going head to head on the baseball diamond.

West, with a 7-2 record going into the game, obviously has a better team this year than South, which entered the contest at 3-8.

The Trojans won the game, but only by two runs. South fell behind 6-0 in the second inning but kept chipping away at the lead.

The Cougars were only one or two timely hits away from making the game closer than it already was.

West and South have battled for 20 years, pulling kids from two sections of Brunswick County that have a history of waging verbal warfare.

The West-South rivalry is a healthy one. Competition among neighboring schools is great for the communities they represent as long as it doesn't get out of control.

Several Columbus County schools will be saying goodbye to long-standing rivalries when consolidation takes effect next year.

That's a shame for both the kids who must change schools and their parents who helped build those rivalries, but progress has a price.

We're fortunate in Brunswick County. From the looks of things, West and South will be going at it on the athletic field for many years to come.

That's good news for everyone, whether you're a diehard Trojan fan or bleed Cougar blue.

Summer Camp At West

West Brunswick Head Basketball Coach Billy Mims is getting ready for the fifth annual Trojan Basketball Camp to be held June 22-26.

The camp is for boys and girls ages 8 to 17 and costs \$35 per child. Each participant will receive a T-shirt and refreshments daily. The purpose of the camp is to teach the fundamentals needed to improve as a basketball player.

Highlights of this year's camp will include a guest appearance by former West Brunswick superstar Ricky Daniels, who recently completed an outstanding freshman season at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College.



Doug Rutter
Sports Editor

North, South Lose In Tourney

North Brunswick and South Brunswick both lost their opening-round games in the Sea Shell Invitational baseball tournament Monday in Wilmington.

As a result, the Scorpions and Cougars were scheduled to play each other Tuesday afternoon at Hardee Field in a losers-bracket game.

West Brunswick, the recipient of the tournament's only first-round bye, was to play Hoggard Tuesday night.

On Monday, North Brunswick was a 9-7 loser to the Laney Buccaneers, while South Brunswick took a 12-0 loss to New Hanover's Wildcats.

In the North Brunswick game, Adrian Black hit a two-run home run to left field in the second inning to erase a 2-0 Laney lead.

The Scorpions later took a 4-2 lead before Laney came back and plated three runs in the bottom of the third to take the lead for good.

West Brunswick got a bye in the first round after Dreher High School of South Carolina withdrew because of a scheduling conflict.

The Trojans took a three-game winning streak into their game Tuesday against Hoggard, which ad-

vanced to the second round of the tournament with a 4-3 win over Bishop McNamara of Maryland on Monday.

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