

## Wolfpack Routs Trojans To Keep Conference Lead

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
Whiteville exploded for 10 runs in the fourth inning to break open a tie game and went on to post a 12-1 baseball win over West Brunswick in Waccamaw 2-A Conference play last Friday in Shallotte.

It was the second straight conference loss for West Brunswick, which also gave up a big inning in an 11-5 loss to North Brunswick last Tuesday. (See related story this issue.)

The Friday night ball game was a big one for both schools, as Whiteville maintained its lead in the conference with a 7-1 mark while the Trojans fell to 5-3 and 9-5 overall.

Lee Hill pitched a complete game for the Wolfpack, scattering eight West Brunswick hits and striking out five batters.

West Brunswick's Brian Alderson pitched 3 2/3 innings before Scott Gore entered as relief. Jason Benton pitched the last two innings for the Trojans and didn't allow a Whiteville player to reach base.

The Wolfpack pounded out 10 hits and scored just as many runs in the fourth inning to turn a 1-1 ball game into a rout.

Whiteville opened the inning with six straight singles to score three runs. With the bases loaded and one

out, shortstop Brett Harwood smashed a line drive to short right field.

Cleon Butler made a diving attempt, but missed and the ball rolled to the fence. The hit cleared the bases, giving Harwood a grand slam home run and giving the Wolfpack an 8-1 lead.

Whiteville, which sent 14 hitters to the plate in the inning, scored three more runs on a sacrifice fly, outfield error and an RBI single.

The Wolfpack added one more run in the fifth inning. Third baseman Mark Harrigan led off with a walk, stole second and scored on a Jamie Townshend single.

Whiteville had taken a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Harwood got aboard on an infield error, stole second and scored from third on another infield error with two outs.

West Brunswick tied the game at 1-1 in the third when Alderson got on base on a fielder's choice advanced to second on a ground-out and scored on a single by Bryan Fleming.

Fleming and Keane Bellamy each had two hits in the game. The Trojans left 10 runners on base, including two each in the first, fourth and sixth innings.



WEST BRUNSWICK'S BRIAN ALDERSON delivers a pitch during Friday night's game against Whiteville.

West Brunswick was scheduled to host Fairmont Tuesday night and will travel to South Robeson on Friday in continued league play.

## SPORTING SCENE

### Youth Baseball Games Serve As Good Therapy

When was the last time you saw a group of little kids playing baseball? Unless you've got kids who play, chances are it's been too long.

I've recently come to the conclusion that the older you get, the more you appreciate the simple things in life. Baseball for example.

Not every kid plays basketball or football or hockey growing up, but just about everybody plays baseball at one time or another.

The American pastime treated me well as a kid. I was fortunate enough to be on four championship teams in seven years.

My interest in the sport waned after I stopped playing organized baseball at age 15. I always loved playing, but was never one to sit and watch.

For some reason, that attitude has started to change. The game that I used to think was too slow for breathing spectators seems to be moving at just about the right pace these days.

I no longer mind watching a ball game, especially if the Philadelphia Phillies are playing.

I was fortunate enough to take in the Supply-Shallotte Dixie Youth Baseball League opener last weekend. Six games for the price of one.

Youth baseball is often a comedy of errors. In case you haven't been to a game in a while, I'll try to describe how it usually goes.

First of all, the pitcher, the catcher and the hitter are often the only kids paying attention on any given pitch. Sometimes, even the hitter's mind wanders and the pitcher can slip one by when he isn't looking.

Out in the field, at least two of the infielders are usually playing in the dirt. Another is waving to his mom at the fence and the fourth is cleaning bubble gum off his face.

Two kids in the outfield are playing with an imaginary baseball, diving occasionally to make a spectacular catch, while the other guy chases bugs away with his cap.

The team up to bat isn't much better at concentrating on the game. With the possible exception of the hitter and the kids on base, everybody else is either napping in the dugout or taking turns sticking their head under the water cooler spout.

That may be somewhat of an exaggeration, but I saw all of those things two Saturdays ago at Supply Park. They weren't all happening at the same time, but you get the idea.

On the Major League Baseball scene, there's been an awful lot of talk in recent years, and particularly this season, about the golden days of baseball.

A lot of fans want the game to go back to the way things were 40 years ago. They want to cheer for guys who always give it their best and play for their love of the game instead of their love of the dollar bill.

The Baltimore Orioles organization caught on. Its new ball park isn't anything like most modern stadiums and domes. It even has real grass.

Even my hapless Phillies changed their uniforms this season. Their new outfits look like the ones the Phillies wore in the 1950s.

In a year when the average major league salary jumped over a million bucks, watching those kids getting their first taste of baseball was mighty good therapy.

Professional baseball has become so much of a big business that most families can't even afford a night at the ball park any more.

I'm not exactly an old-timer, but I can remember paying \$2.50 for general admission at Veterans Stadium in Philly.

If the state of professional baseball has you down in the dumps, I recommend a youth baseball game at a park near you.

It'll serve as a good reminder that baseball can still be a great game. Admission is free, the hot dogs are reasonable and you'll never hear a player gripe about his salary.

Doug Rutter  
Sports Editor



### Whiteville Pounds South In Baseball

Whiteville posted an 11-0 baseball win over host South Brunswick last Tuesday, holding the Cougars to four hits in the Waccamaw 2-A Conference game.

Lewis Vaught had two of South Brunswick's hits, while Rob Wiloughby was the losing pitcher.

Whiteville scored three runs in the second inning and one each in the third and fourth to take a 5-0 lead. The Wolfpack reserves plated six more runs in the final inning.

South Brunswick was to host North Brunswick on Tuesday and will play at West Columbus Friday.

### Wrestling To Help Buy A Fire Truck For Boiling Spring Lakes VFD

A night of professional wrestling will help Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Fire Department raise funds for a new fire truck.

On Saturday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the South Brunswick Middle School gym in Boiling Spring Lakes the Coastal Carolina Wrestling Al-

liance will present five matches. Featured will be Alliance champions "Dark Starr," "Southern Express," "Kahn the Mercenary," "Kid Victorious" and others.

Admission is \$5 general and \$6 ringside, with children age 5 and under admitted free.

### Shell Point Leading 3-0 In Coed League

Shell Point nipped Antioch 17-16 on Saturday to stay unbeaten in the Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League.

In other games Saturday night at Supply Park, Town Creek posted an 18-14 win over Supply and Soldier Bay defeated Faith 20-10.

The game between Oak Island and Gospel Center was played under protest and was to have been resolved this week by a committee of representatives from each team.

Coed Softball League Standings As Of May 7		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Shell Point	3	0
Antioch	2	1
Soldier Bay	2	1
Supply	2	1
Town Creek	1	2
Faith	1	2
Oak Island	0	2
Gospel Center	0	2



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT IN THE MAY 5 PRIMARY.**

**JoAnn BELLAMY SIMMONS** DEMOCRAT

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