

# West Brunswick Football Coach Accepts Polk County Position

BY DOUG RUTTER

West Brunswick Head Football Coach Marshall Seay is leaving the school he helped mold into a state contender to take a job as athletic director and head football coach at the new Polk County High School.

After weeks of speculation, Seay confirmed his resignation Monday night after the Polk County Board of Education voted unanimously to hire him under a two-year contract.

"I've just been offered something close to home that's irresistible at this point," Seay said. "It's not something that I really want to do. I built a house here two years ago. It's just time for Marshall Seay to move on."

Seay, the winningest football coach in West Brunswick history with a record of 48-20, met with the football team Tuesday morning.

"I challenged them," he said. "With the people that we've got coming back I think West Brunswick can be better this year than last year."

Seay took over as head football coach at West Brunswick in 1986 and led the Trojans to a 5-5 record that year.

West Brunswick never had a losing season under his leadership and posted a school best 13-2 mark last year, losing to Thomasville in the state championship game.

"The group that I'm leaving behind is the group that I most looked forward to coaching," Seay said. "It's a group that my son is a part of, and it's a group that is the most dedicated in the off season."

Seay said he's leaving a lot of talent behind at West Brunswick. "I think there's a state champion on the rise here. It's just a matter of getting after it."

Seay said Polk County officials first contacted him about the job opening more than a month ago.

Although he was talking with other schools, Seay said he wasn't really interested in the Polk County position until he visited the school, which is about 20 miles from his home town of Spartanburg, S.C.

"It wasn't the same Polk County I remember," Seay said. "They have come a long way in education. They're under some awfully strong leadership."

Seay said Polk County Schools Superintendent Jim



MARSHALL SEAY (right) talks with quarterback Brian Alderson and offensive coordinator David Arrowood during a game last season. Seay is leaving West Brunswick after six years as head football coach for a job in Polk County.

Causby has helped raise test scores above state and national averages.

"He's gotten Polk County to that level educationally, and now he's ready to move forward athletically," Seay said. "They want to win. They want to be successful."

Seay said first-class facilities at the new school at-

tracted him. The school has a 1,600-seat gymnasium, a field house and eight coaches' offices.

Polk County High will open its doors for the first time this fall. It was established when Tryon and Polk Central high schools merged.

"My job is entirely to direct athletics from the little

league to the high school," said Seay, who won't be teaching classes as he did at West.

Polk County will compete in the 1-A class next season and probably move up to 2-A when high schools across the state are realigned the following school year.

Seay said he didn't accomplish everything he wanted to at West Brunswick—namely winning a state football championship.

But he said a state title is well within the reach of the Trojans.

"I think I've taken West Brunswick as far as I can take them, not as far as they can go, as far as I can take them under the circumstances," he said.

Seay said highlights of his six years at West include three wins at Whiteville and no losses to North Brunswick, West Columbus, Fairmont or South Robeson.

The coach also has seen nine of his players sign college scholarships and more than 75 percent of his seniors continue their education after graduating high school.

Seay said he couldn't have asked for better support from the parents and the community and wants to see West Brunswick's program continue to improve.

To accomplish that, he said the head football coach and athletic director duties should be assigned to one person, as they were when he was hired.

If the positions aren't combined, Seay said West Brunswick won't be able to attract top candidates to coach football.

Instead of the principal recommending a candidate to the school board, Seay suggests a committee be formed to make the selection. The committee should include representatives from the faculty, booster club, non-revenue sports and a senior football player.

"If the committee consists of the right people, then whoever the committee chooses has the support of the right people," he said.

Seay said his family has mixed feelings about the move. His wife, Renee, has been a teacher's assistant at Union Primary for the last six years.

The Seays also have three children, including a high school sophomore, Kevin, who plays football.

## This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, MAY 14

- West Brunswick hosts North Brunswick in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts Fairmont in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- Brunswick County Church Men's Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Ocean View vs. Soldier Bay, 7 p.m.; Jennies Branch vs. Emanuel Outreach, 8 p.m.; Calvary Baptist vs. Camp Methodist, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

- West Brunswick hosts North Brunswick in softball, 4:30 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts Fairmont in softball doubleheader, 4:30 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- South Brunswick at Fairmont in varsity baseball, 7 p.m.
- Brunswick County Church Men's Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Calvary Baptist vs. Shallotte First, 7 p.m.; Soldier Bay vs. Mount Olive, 8 p.m.; Zion Baptist vs. New Britton, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

- Regional high school track competition at Camp Lejeune.
- Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League at Supply Park: Antioch vs. Soldier Bay, 6:30 p.m.; Shell Point vs. Town Creek, 7:30 p.m.; Faith vs. Oak Island, 8:30 p.m.; Supply vs. Gospel Center, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 18

- West Brunswick at East Bladen in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts Whiteville in junior varsity baseball, 5 p.m.
- Brunswick County Church Men's Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Supply Baptist vs. Jennies Branch, 7 p.m.; Seaside Methodist vs. Camp Methodist, 8 p.m.; Ocean View vs. Friendship, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- West Brunswick hosts North 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.



### High Rollers

The Shallotte Electric team received the first-place trophy in the State of Confusion Bowling League at a banquet last Friday in Calabash. Team members include (from left) Sis Howell, Jim Hartsell, Jack Howell and Jim Ramsey.

### South Tops North

South Brunswick's softball team came from behind to post a 9-8 win over North Brunswick last Tuesday in Leland.

The Lady Cougars scored six runs in their last at-bat to pull off the win, their third straight in Waccamaw 2-A Conference play.

South Brunswick, which trailed 8-3 after six innings, had only five hits in the game but took advantage of several North Brunswick errors.

The Lady Cougars will play host to Fairmont in a softball doubleheader on Friday afternoon.

North Brunswick (4-4, 11-6) was scheduled to play Whiteville Tuesday and East Bladen Wednesday and will travel to West Brunswick on Friday.



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### AT THE LANES

## Long Leads Classic League At Brunswick Bowling Center

Gary Long rolled a 233 game and 699 handicap series to lead the Men's Classic League last week at Brunswick Bowling Center in Shallotte.

Long also rolled a 582 scratch series, but finished second in that category to Rick Joyner Sr. with 597. Joyner also bowled a 231 game and 693 handicap series.

Other high games were rolled by John Johanson, 215; Ced Brogden,

212; Bill Schmidt, 208; Thomas Hemphill, 206; Myron Cumbee, 202; Jerry Weber, 202; and Rick Joyner Jr., 201.

High scratch series scores included Johanson, 579; Todd Boyles, 563; Maurice Webster, 559; Hemphill, 555; Brogden, 542; Schmidt, 534; and Bill Breeding, 533.

Top handicap series scores included Joyner Jr., 693; Marvin Polston, 674; Breeding, 650; Kenny Holden, 641; and Schmidt, 624.

*I appreciate the support, encouragement, and confidence the Brunswick County voters gave me in the May 5th Primary. We will build on these ideas in the future.*

Many Thanks,  
W.R. (Bob) Thorsen

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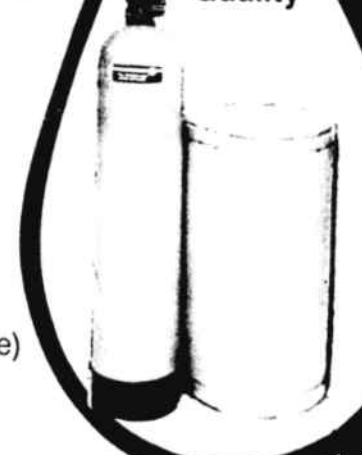
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