

# Cougars Face Tough Task At Reidsville

BY DOUG RUTTER

Friday night could be an extremely long one for the South Brunswick High School football team.

Not only must the Cougars face the top-ranked 3A team in North Carolina in the first round of the state playoffs, they must travel halfway across the state to do so.

Reidsville, located more than 200 miles from the South Brunswick campus, is in Rockingham County near the Virginia state line. The Rams will host the Cougars Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"We've got a tough assignment," said South Brunswick Coach Bill Hewett, who is taking the Cougars to the playoffs for the second time in his four years as head coach. "They are the number one team in the state."

South Brunswick (5-5) is coming off a 29-20 loss last Friday to arch rival West Brunswick, while Reidsville (10-0) enters the playoff fresh off a 38-0 thrashing of Rockingham.

Coach Jim Teague's Rams, champions of the Triad Conference, finished the regular season 10-0.

Reidsville should be ready for the Cougars after sending five assistant coaches to Boiling Spring Lakes last Friday to scout South Brunswick against West Brunswick.

South Brunswick, which has scored 207 points this season and given up 177, has posted wins over East Duplin (13-0), Lejeune (41-6), Laney (13-6), East Columbus (29-28) and Pender (20-0).

Besides last week's loss to West Brunswick, the Cougar have fallen to Clinton (47-27), West Columbus (26-23), Whiteville (14-7) and South Columbus (21-14).

In addition to Rockingham,



**SOUTH BRUNSWICK TAILBACK O.J. MORRIS (33) follows the blocking of fullback Terry Galloway (34) last week against West Brunswick. The Cougars play at Reidsville Friday night in the first round of the state playoffs.**

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Reidsville has defeated Northwest Guilford (21-0), Bartlett Yancey (32-6), McMichael (27-0), Northeast Guilford (14-0), Eden Morehead (35-21), South Stokes (41-14), Greensboro Smith (31-0), Chapel Hill (40-0) and Thomasville (14-0).

Reidsville has been impressive on both sides of the football this season, scoring 293 points while surrendering just 41 points, which is the fewest in the state.

However, the Rams have not been tested often this season, playing only three teams with winning records—

Thomasville, Eden Morehead and Northeast Guilford.

Reidsville, which was 9-3 last year, defeated Eastern Randolph 24-

8 in the first round of the 1992 playoffs before losing to eventual state champion Burlington Cummings, 41-15, in the second round.

## FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

(Continued From Preceding Page)

the 3A ranks at Tarboro for 18 years. "Every game's going to be tough and the further we go the tougher they'll get."

West is making its third straight appearance in the state playoffs and its fifth appearance in the last six years. The Trojans have been to the playoffs eight times and have a 12-6 record, including 9-1 the last two years.

Coach Brett, who owns an 18-6 record in two years at West Brunswick, is 186-67 overall in 20 years as a high school head football coach. This is his 14th straight trip to the playoffs.

In other first-round playoff games Friday night, South Brunswick's Cougars (5-5) will travel to Reidsville (10-0) to face the top-ranked 3A team in North Carolina.

Whiteville (7-2-1), recipient of the Waccamaw Conference's lone

2A playoff berth, will host East Bladen (7-2-1). The teams battled to a 14-14 tie the first week of the regular season.

### WACCAMAW CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

| Team       | Conf. | O'all | PS  | PA  |
|------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| W. Colum.  | 5-1   | 8-2   | 257 | 94  |
| Whiteville | 5-1   | 7-2-1 | 247 | 108 |
| W. Bruns.  | 5-1   | 7-3   | 300 | 135 |
| S. Colum.  | 3-3   | 6-4   | 184 | 192 |
| S. Bruns.  | 2-4   | 5-5   | 207 | 177 |
| E. Colum.  | 1-5   | 2-8   | 152 | 267 |
| Pend. Cty. | 0-6   | 1-9   | 65  | 197 |

### LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

- West Brunswick 29, South Brunswick 20
- Whiteville 35, East Columbus 0
- West Columbus 26, Pender 7

### FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES

- Northeast Guilford at West Brunswick
  - South Brunswick at Reidsville
  - East Bladen at Whiteville
- All games start at 7:30 p.m.

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## THREE RIVERS ROUNDUP

# Struggling Scorpions Lose 19th Straight

BY DOUG RUTTER

North Brunswick Football Coach Gary Baldwin said Monday he had "mixed feelings" about the Scorpions' 0-10 season that ended last Friday with a 36-20 loss to South Robeson.

While pleased with his team's effort and improvement during the year, Baldwin said he was disappointed that the Scorpions didn't win any games. North has lost 19 in a row.

"I feel good and bad," Baldwin said Monday morning. "I felt like we should have gotten a game here and there."

North Brunswick led conference champion St. Pauls for nearly three quarters before the Bulldogs pulled away for a 31-9 win. The Scorpions also played well in losing efforts to playoff teams Red Springs and South Robeson.

"Our biggest problem was we couldn't come up with big plays in critical situations," Baldwin said.

North Brunswick, prone to turnovers early in the season, scored just nine points in its first five games, including two on defense. But the Scorpions showed more punch in the second half of the season with 64 points.

"I thought the kids played hard and got better as the season went on," Baldwin said. "I think we were much improved over what we've been the last couple of years."

Baldwin said the team will lose nine seniors to graduation, but most of the offense will return next fall.

"There's a good nucleus for us to start with next year. The key for us is going to be just (to) continually improve," Baldwin said. "We had pretty good numbers on the JV team, and I hope those kids come back next year."

Despite North Brunswick's woes, the Three Rivers 1A/2A Conference will be well-represented when the state football playoffs open up Friday night. Five of the league's eight teams received post-season berths.

Perennial powers St. Pauls and East Bladen will compete in the 2A playoffs, while South Robeson, Bladenboro and Red Springs battle for state supremacy in the 1A ranks.

St. Pauls wrapped up the Three Rivers Conference championship last week with a 41-7 win over Tar Heel. Coach Yogi Hickman's Bulldogs were 6-1 in the conference and 9-1 overall.

Burlington Cummings, also 9-1

*"I thought the kids played hard and got better as the season went on. I think we were much improved over what we've been the last couple of years."*

—North Brunswick Coach Gary Baldwin

and ranked fifth in the state, will visit St. Pauls Friday night for a first-round playoff game. Cummings won last year's state 3A championship, while St. Pauls lost to West Brunswick in the eastern 2A title game.

Coach Mike Brill's South Robeson Mustangs were the surprise team in the Three Rivers Conference this season, improving from a 1-9 record one year ago to finish 5-2 in the league and 7-3 overall.

The Mustangs, making their first playoff appearance since 1990, will host South Stanly (3-7) in the first round of the 1A playoffs Friday night in Rowland.

In other first-round 2A playoff games, East Bladen (7-2-1) will play at Whiteville (7-2-1). The Cougars at Wolfpack played to a 14-14 tie the first week of the regular season.

The Red Springs Red Devils will visit North Moore, and Bladenboro's Bulldogs will host Jordan-Matthews in other 1A playoff games involving Three Rivers Conference teams.

### THREE RIVERS CONFERENCE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

| Team         | Conf. | O'all | PS  | PA  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| St. Pauls    | 6-1   | 9-1   | 259 | 81  |
| East Bladen  | 6-1   | 7-2-1 | 273 | 82  |
| South Rob.   | 5-2   | 7-3   | 213 | 141 |
| Bladenboro   | 5-2   | 6-4   | 160 | 118 |
| Red Springs  | 3-4   | 4-6   | 144 | 210 |
| Tar Heel.    | 2-5   | 2-8   | 144 | 316 |
| Fairmont     | 1-6   | 2-8   | 100 | 284 |
| North Brun.. | 0-7   | 0-10  | 73  | 286 |

### LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

- South Robeson 36, North Brunswick 20
  - St. Pauls 41, Tar Heel 7
  - East Bladen 41, Fairmont 3
  - Bladenboro 20, Red Springs 6
- FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES**
- Burlington Cummings at St. Pauls
  - East Bladen at Whiteville
  - Red Springs at North Moore
  - South Stanly at South Robeson
  - Jordan-Matthews at Bladenboro
- All games start at 7:30 p.m.

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