



WEST'S NICOLE NORRIS (left) is surrounded by Whiteville players as she looks to score Friday night. Norris had 12 points for the Lady Trojans.

SPORTING SCENE

Daniels Has Big Week For Surging Wolfpack

Ricky Daniels had arguably the biggest week of his blossoming basketball career last week for the North Carolina State Wolfpack.

The West Brunswick High School alumnus hit the game-winning shot last Monday against Tennessee and then scored 13 points Wednesday to help lead the Wolfpack in its upset of Virginia.

N.C. State Coach Les Robinson is very high on Daniels, who transferred to the Raleigh university this season after two outstanding years at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College.

"He's one of the big reasons we're turning things around," Robinson pointed out in a telephone conversation last Thursday.

Entering Monday night's game against North Carolina A&T, Daniels was averaging 6.1 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. His 4.5 rebounds are second best on the team.

Daniels has made 43 percent on his field goal attempts this season and has connected on a remarkable 41 percent from three-point range. He has made 67 percent of his free throws.

While Daniels may be raising some eyebrows elsewhere in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the North Carolina State coaching staff isn't surprised by his play. "He's doing what we felt he was capable of doing when we recruited him," Robinson said of the junior guard/forward from Longwood.

"He's a complete player. He defends, he shoots from the outside, he can drive to the basket. His overall game, it's hard to find many weaknesses. He can do it all."

Last Monday at Tennessee, Daniels sank an 18-foot jump shot with nine seconds left in overtime to lift the Wolfpack to a 72-70 win. Two nights later, Daniels scored 13 points, pulled down six rebounds and had a career-high seven assists as the Wolfpack knocked off one of the ACC's best teams, Virginia, 67-54.

Daniels was one of the first players off the bench during the first half of the season. He moved into the starting lineup Jan. 26 against Georgia Tech and has started every game since.

Robinson indicated that he wanted to insert Daniels into the starting lineup earlier this season, but the 1991 West Brunswick grad was playing so well coming off the bench.

"We felt in November after a couple of practices that he had the skills and the talent to play," Robinson said. "Like a lot of new players, he wasn't confident in our system right away."

Now that Daniels is comfortable in the Wolfpack system, his quickness and good reactions allow him to do a lot of things on the basketball court, both offensively and defensively.

"He can really defend the ball. He can rebound. He has a knack of being around the ball defensively," Robinson said. "Offensively, he comes up with a lot of loose balls."

Robinson admits that Daniels is a streaky shooter. But unlike most streaky shooters, Daniels doesn't hurt his team when he's having an off night. He still hits some of his shots and makes a positive contribution.

"When he gets in the groove like he was last night you just feel like he's going to score," Robinson said of the Virginia game. Daniels shot 4-for-4 in the first half and 5-for-8 overall against the Cavaliers.

Robinson said Daniels has an easy-going demeanor on and off the court. "Ricky's pretty quiet but he certainly is a leader. He's not real vocal. He leads by example."

Moody Scores Career-High 29 As West Girls Stun Wolfpack

BY DOUG RUTTER

By now, the Whiteville High School girls' basketball team must be getting sick and tired of Donicia Moody.

The West Brunswick freshman scored a career-high 29 points Friday night to lead the Lady Trojans to a 57-55 comeback win over the visiting Wolfpack in an important Waccamaw Conference game.

It was the second time this season that Moody played a key role in a West Brunswick win over Whiteville. Her last-second layup gave West a 54-53 victory in the Lady Wolfpack's gym Jan. 18.

After last Friday's win, Moody said she's getting more confidence in her shooting. "Before I was scared to shoot. Now I'm looking to shoot more."

West Brunswick Coach Brenda Council praised her freshman guard following the game. "She stepped up tonight and did a real good job. I knew she had the potential all year. That was the best game she's had."

West Brunswick, third in the Waccamaw Conference with a record of 5-4, knocked Whiteville out of first place. The Lady Wolfpack fell to 6-3 in the league, a half-game behind South Brunswick at 6-2.

Early in the game, it looked like Whiteville (16-4 overall) would win easily. West Brunswick committed 12 turnovers in the first six minutes as the Wolfpack pulled out to a 17-4 lead.

However, the Lady Trojans (8-12 overall) stormed back with an 11-4 run in the final two minutes of the period and only trailed 21-15 heading into the second quarter.

"We just came out flat," Coach Council said. "I want to give the

girls credit for hanging in there and battling back."

Dawn Threadgill's three-point basket early in the second quarter gave Whiteville a 24-17 lead, but West Brunswick scored seven unanswered points to tie the score.

Regina Garcia, who led Whiteville with 15 points, and Kim Garcia, who added 12, combined to score Whiteville's next 14 points and give the Lady Wolfpack a 38-34 halftime lead.

The visitors bumped their advantage to eight points early in the third quarter, but West Brunswick scored 12 of the next 16 points to tie the score at 46-46 heading into the fourth period.

Whiteville opened the final stanza with a 9-2 run to take a 55-48 lead, but the Lady Wolfpack did not score in the last 4:45.

Two baskets by West Brunswick center Nicole Norris cut the lead to 55-52 before Moody took over for the Lady Trojans.

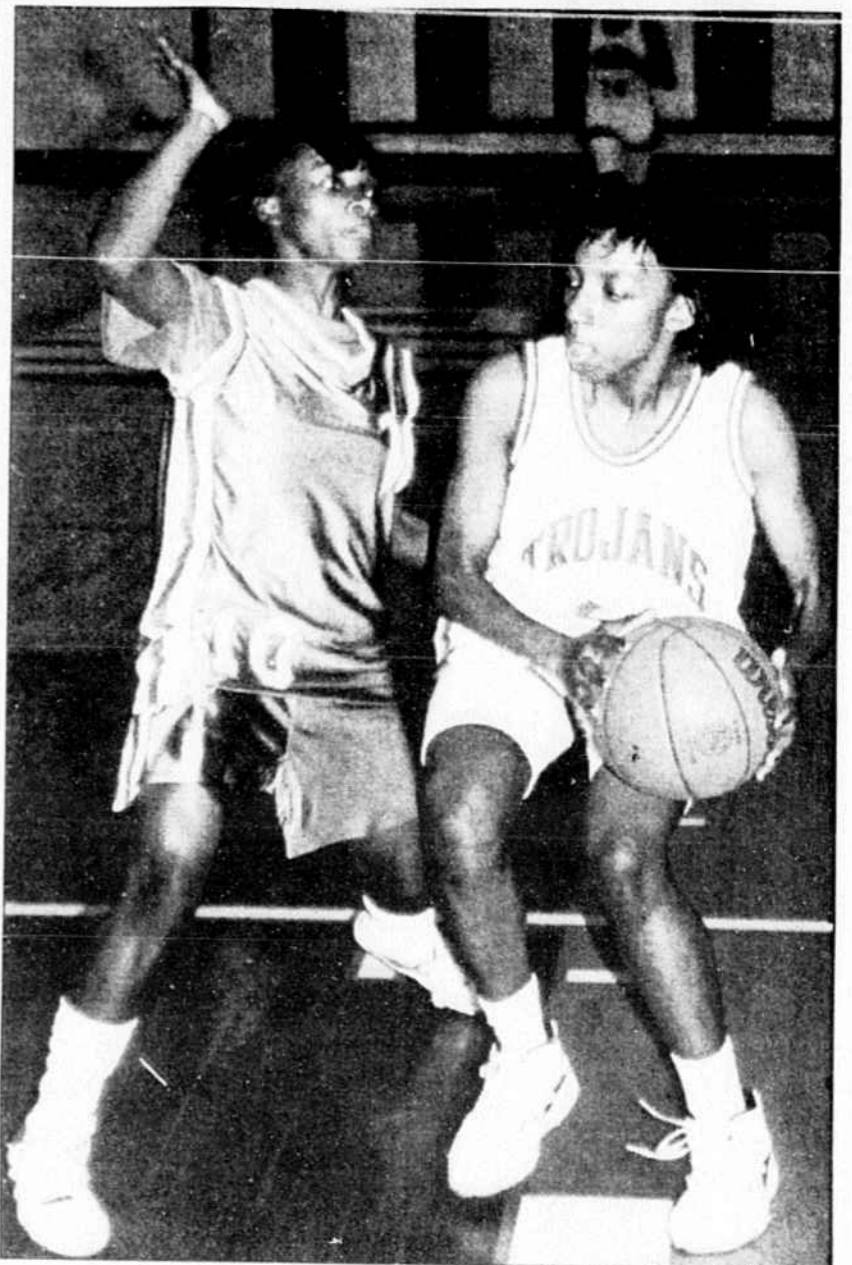
She nailed a 15-foot jump shot from the right corner with 1:43 remaining and then drained a 5-foot jumper in the lane at the 1:11 mark to give West Brunswick its first lead of the game, 56-55.

West's Felicia Morgan came up with a huge steal with 54 seconds left, and Whiteville's Regina Garcia was whistled for an intentional foul on Moody with 14 seconds remaining.

The ninth-grader made one of two free throws to give the Lady Trojans a 57-55 lead.

A West Brunswick turnover with three seconds to play gave Whiteville one last chance, but Threadgill's 10-foot jump shot bounced off the front of the rim as the final buzzer sounded.

Norris finished with 12 points for West Brunswick and Morgan added



DONICIA MOODY (right) scored a career-high 29 points Friday to lead West Brunswick to a 57-55 win over Whiteville. Defending is Stacy Wilson.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



10. Threadgill and Heather Goins had nine apiece for Whiteville.

West's win was the latest chapter in what has been an up-and-down season for the Lady Trojans, who tend to play to the level of their opponents.

West Brunswick is 3-0 against the conference's top two teams, Whiteville and South Brunswick, and 0-3 against the league's two worst teams, West Columbus and Pender.

"We just don't have any consistency," Council said. "Sometimes we just show up for a game and the next time we come out ready to play. I don't understand it. I can't figure it

out."

The Lady Trojans were slated to play at East Columbus Tuesday night. West Brunswick will return to Columbus County Friday night for a game against the West Columbus Lady Vikings.

Score By Quarters

Whiteville	21	17	8	9	55
West Brunswick	15	19	12	11	57
Whiteville scoring:	R. Garcia, 15;	K. Garcia, 12;	Goins, 9;	Threadgill, 9;	Toon, 8; Holden, 2.
West Brunswick scoring:	Moody, 29;	Norris, 12;	Morgan, 10;	Grissett, 4;	Moll, 2.

Sign-Up Set For Babe Ruth League

Registration for the Charlotte Babe Ruth League will be held Saturday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, March 5, at the Charlotte Volunteer Rescue Squad building on N.C. 179.

Hours will be 9 a.m. until noon each day. Area children will be able to register for T-Ball (boys and girls ages 5-7), baseball (boys and girls ages 8-12) and softball (girls ages 8-15).

The registration fee is \$20 per child, and parents must bring a birth certificate to verify their child's age.

Anyone interested in coaching, assisting, working at the concession stand or umpiring is asked to leave their name with one of the registrars.

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