

# State Football Champions Honored At Awards Banquet

BY DOUG RUTTER

Last December in Chapel Hill, West Brunswick High School's football team gave its coaches and the community the most inspirational performance in school history.

Trailing the High Point Andrews Red Raiders by a score of 14-0, the Trojans scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter for a miraculous 19-14 victory in the state 3A championship game.

Last Saturday, it was time for West Brunswick's coaches and the Shallotte community to give something back to the players that brought so much joy to the area last fall.

Presentation of state championship rings to the 28 players who made magic in Chapel Hill highlighted the football awards banquet Saturday at Sea Trail Plantation's Jones-Byrd Clubhouse.

The state championship was the second straight for West Brunswick. The Trojans won the state 2A crown with a 14-6 win over Maiden in 1992, and have been to Chapel Hill each of the last three years.

Head Coach Jim Brett, who will leave West Brunswick at the end of the school year after guiding the team to back-to-back state titles, held back tears as he addressed his team Saturday night.

"The last two years have been a great experience for me personally...," Brett said. "The hardest part of having to leave is leaving you guys."

Brett will take over as athletic director and head football coach at Northern Nash next fall. Richard "Yogi" Hickman of St. Pauls has been hired to replace Brett at West Brunswick.

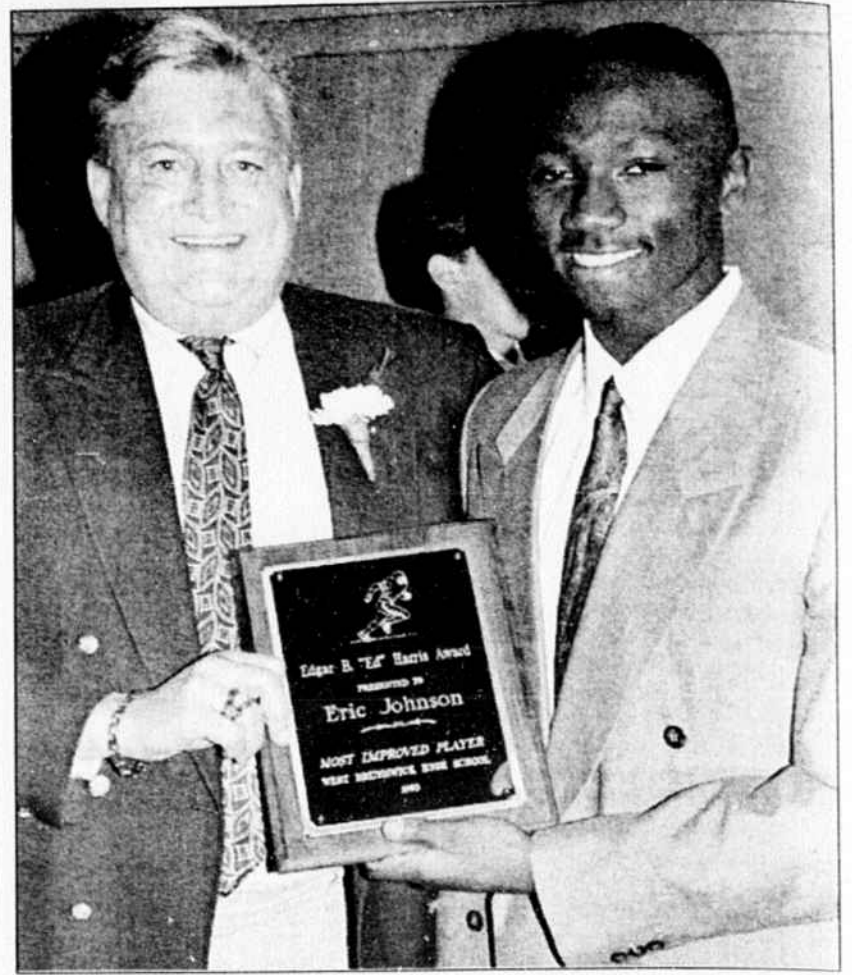
Among the special awards presented Saturday night was the Fred Bradley Scholarship, given in memory of the late West Brunswick assistant coach who embodied the



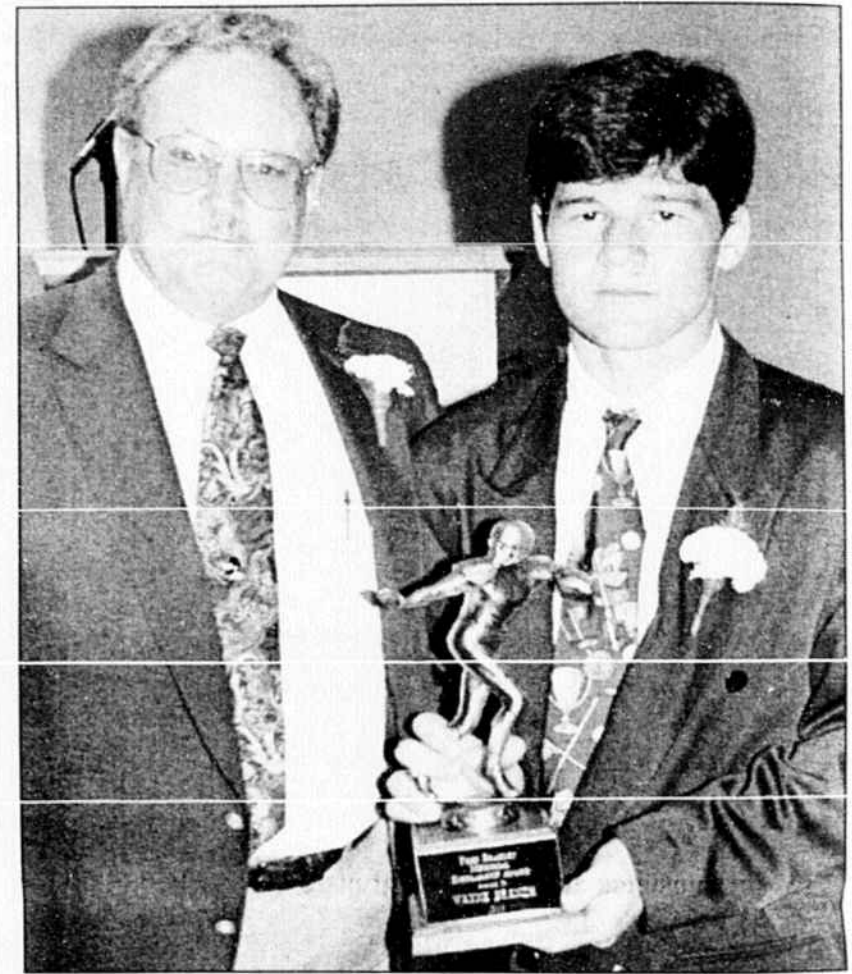
AWARD RECIPIENTS included (from left) Charlie Peele, defensive lineman; Jonathan Faulk, rookie of the year; James Morgan, most improved playoff player; William Stanley, most dedicated; Heath Inman, coaches award; and Kelley Wooten, overachiever award.



RECEIVING AWARDS SATURDAY were (from left) Phillip Johnson, offensive lineman; Kwabena Green, linebacker; Michael Lance, offensive back and coaches award; Steve Holmes, offensive back; Timothy Daniels, defensive back; and Steve Brooks, offensive lineman.



ERIC JOHNSON accepts the Most Improved Player Award from Ed Harris. Johnson also received a defensive back award.



WAYNE BRANCH receives the Fred Bradley Scholarship Award from Bill Bradley. Branch also received a defensive lineman award.

## Johnson Named East All-Star

West Brunswick High School senior Phillip Johnson has been selected to play for the East team at the East-West All Star Football Game this summer in Greensboro.

The all-star game is scheduled the last week in July in conjunction with the annual N.C. High School Athletic Association Coaches Clinic. The game is a showcase for some of the best high school seniors in the state.

Johnson, a 6-foot-2-inch, 260-pound lineman, has accepted a football scholarship to Western Carolina University. He was a two-year starter on West's offensive line and also saw action on the defensive front.

fighting spirit.

Presented by Fred Bradley's brother, Bill Bradley of Gaffney, S.C., this year's scholarship went to senior Wayne Branch, an undersized defensive end who used quickness to lead the line in tackles and quarterback sacks.

West Brunswick supporter Ed Harris presented the Most Improved Player Award to Eric Johnson, a junior who started at quarterback and defensive back for the Trojans last fall.

Other award recipients were as follows:

**Defensive Backs:** Timothy Daniels and Eric Johnson.  
**Defensive Linebacker:** Kwabena

Green.

**Defensive Linemen:** Wayne Branch and Charlie Peele.

**Offensive Back:** Steve Holmes and Michael Lance.

**Offensive Linemen:** Phillip Johnson and Steve Brooks.

**Rookie Of The Year:** Jonathan Faulk.

**Most Dedicated Player:** William Stanley.

**Overachiever Award:** Kelley Wooten.

**Most Improved Playoff Player:** James Morgan.

**Coaches Awards:** Heath Inman and Michael Lance.

Bill Hayes, head football coach at North Carolina A&T State Univer-

sity, was the guest speaker at the awards banquet. Brooks has accepted a football scholarship to the Greensboro school.

The West Brunswick Athletic Booster Club formally kicked off a major fund-raising effort Saturday night. The club is holding a raffle and golf tournament to raise money for a field house.

As proposed, the 60-by-80-foot building will have dressing rooms for West's varsity and junior varsity football teams and a room for visiting teams. The field house also will have a ticket booth, public restrooms

and a concession stand.

Three winning raffle tickets will be drawn Tuesday, April 26, when a ground-breaking ceremony will be held at the school.

A captain's choice golf tournament is scheduled Saturday, June 4,

at Brick Landing Plantation. A second tournament is being planned for August or September at Sea Trail.

For more information on the field house project, call Don Evans at 754-4325 or David Batten at 842-9663.



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