

Trojans Lose Sea Shell Opener In First Round Action

Wilmington Laney scored five runs in the sixth inning en route to a 7-1 win over West Brunswick in the first round of the Seashell Invitational high school baseball tournament Monday at Wilmington's Hardee Field.

Laney pitcher Tony Pigott struck out 12 West Brunswick batters, and his bases-loaded triple was the only hit in the big sixth inning. Two errors, three walks and a pair of passed balls added to the Trojans' demise.

Pigott and Joey Stevens each had RBI singles in the first inning to give the Buccaneers a 2-0 lead.

The Trojans cut the margin to 2-1 in the fourth when Eric Johnson scored on a ground-out by Heath Inman.

West Brunswick sophomore pitcher Josh Baker suffered his first loss of the season and fell to 3-1.

The Trojans (4-3) were scheduled to play the Golden Bulls of Fayetteville E.E. Smith on Tuesday. Laney (6-3) advanced to face North Brunswick in a winners-bracket game.

The Scorpions (4-4) rode the strong pitching of Casey McBride to a 10-2 victory Monday over E.E. Smith.

McBride, a junior right-hander, struck out nine batters and yielded just two hits in six innings to improve his pitching record to 3-1 for the season.

In other first-round action, defending state 4A champion New Hanover rolled to a 10-1 victory over South Brunswick's Cougars.

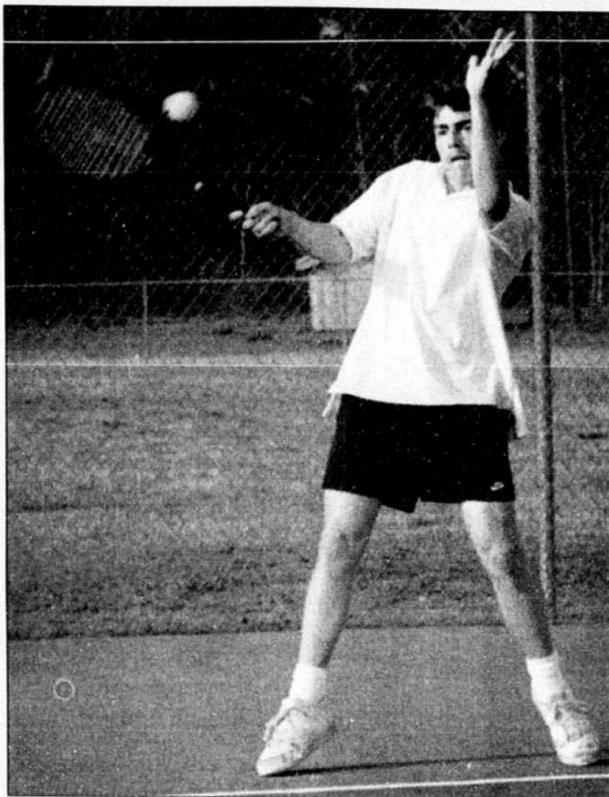
Winning pitcher Eric Faulk had two triples and three RBI for New Hanover. Shawn Gallagher added a two-run home run and Parker Southerland had two RBI for the Wildcats.

Jerry Galloway's RBI double in the sixth produced South Brunswick's only run. The Cougars fell to 4-4, while New Hanover (7-0) extended its winning streak to 33 games.

Wilmington Hoggard defeated Hoke County 2-1 in the tournament's other first-round game Monday. New Hanover and Hoggard (4-2) were scheduled to meet Tuesday.

South Brunswick was slated to face Hoke County in the second round. The Cougars lost the first two games between the teams this season.

The tournament was scheduled to conclude Wednesday with the championship game at 8 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

WEST BRUNSWICK'S KELLEY WOOTEN defeated Neil Jenkins of West Columbus 6-0, 6-0 last Wednesday. Wooten has helped lead the Trojan tennis team to a 4-1 record in the Waccamaw Conference.

SPORTING SCENE

Spartan Coach Willing To Wait For Fleming

As a baseball player at West Brunswick High School, Bryan Fleming was an offensive powder keg likely to blow at any time. Line doubles and massive homers jumped off his ringing aluminum bat like anti-aircraft missiles.

The excitement did not end when Fleming the catcher set down his bat and settled in behind the plate. He had a rocket-launcher of an arm. The type of arm that cut down potential base-stealers like a chain saw cuts down saplings.

Fleming was a leader on and off the field and when his illustrious high school career came to an end last May, he was recognized as West Brunswick's first all-state baseball player.

When Bryan graduated from high school, he had dreams of continuing his dominance on the diamond as a scholarship player at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

That dream is very much alive, although Fleming has found the road a bit rockier than he had hoped.

After undergoing back surgery at the end of last summer, Fleming had no choice but to sit out this season as a medical redshirt.

"He has recuperated very well. His rehabilitation program has proceeded excellently," UNCG Coach Mike Gaski said last week. "He has done some skill work. He's not 100 percent yet, but he's approaching that."

Last year, while playing baseball for West Brunswick and American Legion Post 445, Fleming experienced what he thought were nothing more than a few nagging injuries.

However, it turned out that those minor aches and pains were related to a much more serious back problem that Fleming had somehow endured for more than a year.

Coach Gaski said he can't believe Fleming played in his condition and dominated games the way he did. "I remember talking to the surgeon about it, and he was just mortified," the coach said.

So Fleming had back surgery and for the first time in many years, spring is here and Bryan isn't playing ball. He has watched his new team, the Spartans, reach the season's mid-point with a 20-7 record.

In the meantime, Coach Gaski says Fleming has shown great dedication in sticking with a rehabilitation program. He's also doing well in the classroom at UNC-Greensboro.

Gaski expects Bryan to make a full recovery and is looking forward to getting his big bat and awesome arm in the lineup next spring.

"He's going to be an outstanding college player. I have every reason to believe that," Gaski said. "I'm happy to have him here. He's going to be the center of our team next year."

For four years, Fleming was the keystone of West Brunswick's baseball team. He was selected to the all-county squad all four years and was chosen as the county's co-player of the year in 1992.

Fleming led West's baseball team to the eastern finals that season, and the following fall quarterbacked the Trojans to the state 2A football championship.

Last year, Fleming again was the leader of the Trojans and Post 445. He also was an integral part of the Region 2 scholastic baseball team that won the gold medal at the North Carolina State Games.

In Bryan Fleming, Coach Gaski realizes he has a winner on his hands. He's more than willing to wait for the wounds to heal.

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



Trojans Conquer Vikings

West Brunswick's tennis team blasted visiting West Columbus 8-1 last Thursday, running its record to 4-1 in the Waccamaw Conference.

Lamarr Hardy, Kelley Wooten, Jon Trull, Jeremie Varnam and John Coble won their singles matches for the Trojans.

Hardy and Wooten, who also teamed up to win the number-one seed doubles match, did not lose a game in any of their matches. Trull and Varnam also won in doubles play, as did the team of Jon Thomas and Davis Simmons.

West Brunswick is scheduled to resume conference play Wednesday, April 13, with a home match against arch rival South Brunswick.

West Columbus Results

Singles: Hardy (WB) def. Nobles, 6-0, 6-0; Wooten (WB) def. Jenkins, 6-0, 6-0; Trull (WB) def. Barber, 6-2, 6-0; Varnam (WB) def. Shelley, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1; Williams (WC) def. Ballou, 6-4, 6-4; Coble (WB) def. Inman, 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: Hardy/Wooten (WB) def. Nobles/Jenkins, 8-0; Trull/Varnam (WB) def. Barber/Shelley, 8-1; Thomas/Simmons (WB) def. Williams/Inman, 8-3.

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BOOSTER CLUB FISH FRY

Hickman Visits West Monday

New head football coach Yogi Hickman will be the guest of honor when the West Brunswick High School Athletic Booster Club holds a fish fry Monday, April 11, at 6 p.m. at the school.

The appreciation fish fry is being held for supporters of a 4800-square-foot field house that the booster club plans to build at the south end of M.H. Rourk Stadium.

Booster club member David Batten will report on efforts to raise money for the field house, which will include dressing rooms for West's varsity and junior varsity football teams and a visitors' dressing room.

The building also will house a ticket booth, concession stand and men's and women's restrooms. A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled Tuesday, April 26, at 11 a.m.

"I'd like to encourage the people to come out to the fish fry and meet Yogi," Batten said. "There's not going to be a program or anything. It's going to be very informal."

The booster club is selling raffle

tickets to raise funds for the field house. Three tickets will be drawn at the ground-breaking ceremony, and the winners will receive \$200, \$100 or \$50.

A captain's choice golf tournament scheduled Saturday, June 4, at Brick Landing Plantation also will raise money for the building. A chicken bog is planned after the tournament for golfers and non-golfers.

West Brunswick's football team has won two straight state championships under head coach Jim Brett, who is leaving at the end of the school year to take a job at Northern Nash High School.

Hickman, head football coach at St. Pauls High School for the last six years, has been hired to replace Brett. Hickman is expected to start work at West Brunswick this summer.

For more information on the field house project, call Don Evans at 754-4325, David Batten at 842-9663 or Bobby Williamson at 754-6619.

Lady Stallions Dump West

South Columbus defeated visiting West Brunswick 16-6 last Tuesday in the Waccamaw Conference high school softball opener for both teams.

The Lady Stallions only outthit the visitors 12-11, but South Columbus benefited from nine West Brunswick errors.

"Errors are still plaguing us. Being young we haven't put it together yet," West Brunswick Coach Tracey James said. "They only had us 7-6 in the fourth inning, but we fell apart."

James said Kaneka Grissett and Jackie Moll have been playing well for West Brunswick, which fell to 2-6 overall.

"We're getting close and we're getting better," James said. "We're hitting the ball pretty well, but we're just making too many mistakes in the field."

West Brunswick will compete in the Southern Shore Invitational tournament this Friday and Saturday at Wilmington's Hoggard High School. (See related story this issue.)

"That's going to give us an indication of how we'll do when the conference starts up again," James said of the tournament.

The Lady Trojans are scheduled to resume Waccamaw Conference play April 12 with a home game against Whiteville.

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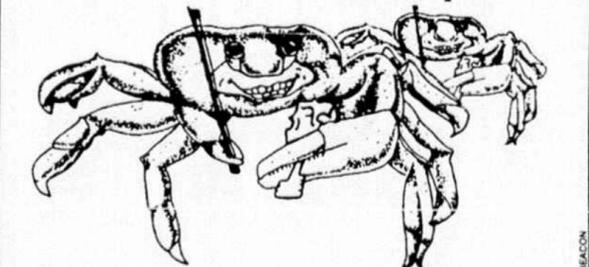
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OVER 30 LEAGUE

Top Guns Move To 9-1

The Top Guns improved their record to 9-1 Monday night with a forfeit win over the Has Beens in the Brunswick County Over 30 Men's Basketball League.

In league play last Thursday, Galloways Gang got 23 points from Conel Jenkins in an 88-57 win over the Wannabes. Wait Marlee and Mitch Healy scored 19 apiece for the Wannabes.

Last Thursday's game between the Has Beens and Doshier Hospital was a double forfeit.

On March 28, Donald Stanley scored 33 points to lead the Top Guns to a 105-77 victory over the

Wannabes. Steve Randone scored 21 in a losing cause for the Wannabes.

Galloways Gang was an 89-77 winner over the Mule Riders last Monday. Curtis Marshall led the Gang with 22 points, and Al Elrod netted 20 for the Mule Riders.

Brunswick County Over 30 Men's League Standings As Of April 5

Team	Wins	Losses
Top Guns	9	1
Galloways Gang	8	2
Mule Riders	6	4
Wannabes	3	7
Doshier Hospital	2	8
Has Beens	1	9