



Wins over SC heighten Brunswick showdown

Three weeks ago, North and South Brunswick's football seasons were in danger of missing the postseason with both teams under .500 and heading into a daunting Waccamaw Conference slate. Few thought that



Bret McCormick

games for each team against West Bladen and South Columbus would have been just the remedy that both the Scorpions and the Cougars badly needed.

While both teams got by West Bladen, fairly easily in South's case, the South Columbus game represented a gut check as it does every year. But both North and South responded with big plays and equally huge wins over their once invincible conference foe. It was South Brunswick's first win over the Stallions since 1995, and the Scorpions' first ever.

"It's huge for us beating one of the perennial powers in the conference," said Bishop in a relaxed Monday afternoon tone of voice. "They're a good football team and coming off of a previous win before it gives us two in a row, which makes our team a little bit more confident."

Confidence isn't something that teams have historically had heading into games against South Columbus. Before the Cougars beat South Columbus in Tabor City two weeks ago, the Stallions hadn't lost in league play since 2006. Needless to say, they've never lost two in a row, something they've now done after North upended the Stallions 27-21 in overtime last Friday night.

The wins were huge for the Brunswick schools, while also demonstrating the difficulty of replacing a coaching legend. South Columbus first year head coach Jake Fonvielle took the reins this season from Joey Price. While the Stallions still have the horses on both sides of the ball that they do every year, it's hard to recapture the mojo of a legendary coach when it's lost, even if Fonvielle did play for Price and was born and raised in Tabor City.

"He's been on his staff and he's from South Columbus, so it's not like turning over a whole new program to somebody coming in. They're still doing the same stuff, it's just hard to follow a legend," said Bishop. "He's done a good job, they've moved the

See McCormick, page 4C

South hosts conference meet this week

Cougar girls first at cross-country

By Bret McCormick
Sports Editor

Kristin Gregg won the grudge match but Carmen Hilliard's team won the meet. North Brunswick's Gregg and South Brunswick's Hilliard split the previous four meets this year in finishing first amongst female runners in the Waccamaw Conference. Well, Gregg nosed past the finish line last Tuesday ahead of Hilliard, but the South runner could take consolation in her team winning the meet by 18 points over North Brunswick and West Brunswick.

Gregg finished the 3.1-mile track at West Brunswick in 20:17, and while Hilliard technically finished at the same time, it did appear as though Gregg nipped her just at the finish. Coming in three minutes later was South runner Kalani Doyle who finished third with a time of 23:09. Another South runner, Erin Williams, came in fourth at the 24:45 mark.

Rounding out the top-10 for South was Brooke Beasley. She finished seventh with a 25:12 time and Hailey Tippett placed 10th, crossing the line in 26:41.

South's male runners didn't have as much success but did place three Cougars in the top-10. Bradley Phillips came in seventh with

a time of 19:38 and Brandon McGirt and Kenneth Shadid crossed the finish directly after Phillips. McGirt's time was 19:43 and Shadid's 19:48.

West Brunswick won the boys' meet with 24 points, North finishing a distant second with 49. West Brunswick's Roberto Valerio smoked the course, finishing in 17:50, while North runner Nic Merritt was second placed with a time of 18:35. South Brunswick placed third in the team standings ahead of West Bladen whose runners weren't scored.

South Brunswick hosts the conference meet this week ahead of regionals next week. Undoubtedly, Hilliard will be trying to even the score with Gregg.

Photo by Bret McCormick
Bradley Phillips finished seventh for South Brunswick cross-country last Tuesday. The Trojan boys team and the Cougars girls team won the meet. South hosts the Waccamaw Conference meet this week on Tuesday.

Aquaculture's hardly floundering

Grants, partnerships push Bey's program, fish science forward

By Bret McCormick
Sports Editor

Barry Bey's aquaculture class tosses feed into fish tanks and the surface erupts as if it's been sprayed with a machine gun. The students gather around and watch the hungry, young fish devour the pellets floating on the surface.

They watch intently, knowing that some day these fish will be released into their natural environment, just as a mess of Southern flounder were set free last Wednesday.

Fortunately fish don't mind wet conditions because it was a nasty day at 40th Street on Oak Island. Bey and his South Brunswick High School students were stocking Davis Canal with a truck full of Southern flounder fingerlings, the final leg of a process the class is studying and honing daily.

For 10th grader Kayla Hux, the release was a bittersweet moment.

"It was really cool. I thought it wasn't going to be as big a splash as it was and it kind of made me sad to see them go because I'm so used to seeing them in the lab everyday," said Hux. "It's going to be different now walking into the lab and our flounder are not in the tank anymore."

But repatriating the fish into their natural environs is the whole goal of the burgeoning aquaculture program at South Brunswick. From the time the fish are minuscule eggs to the time they are released as fingerlings, the students and Bey take care of them, nurturing them daily toward their ever-approaching release.

The program is well-funded thanks to Bey's efforts, and the flounder aspect of the program is the result of a partnership with Fish For Tomorrow. The brainchild of Wilmington resident Tim Barefoot, Fish For Tomorrow is concerned with conservation and ensuring that there are enough fish for tomorrow.

"The very reason I felt very comfortable with Barry Bey and his high school group was the leadership Barry provides

See Aquaculture class, page 7C



Photo by Bret McCormick
A final Southern flounder fingerling is flicked into Davis Canal after being stranded on the lip of the truck emptying the young fish and his cohorts into the water. The flounder stocking was part of the South Brunswick aquaculture class's almost yearly release of flounder into area waters.

North Brunswick 27, South Columbus 21 - OT

Overtime win North's first over Stallions

By Doug Rutter
Special to The Pilot

What was surely one of the most satisfying and electrifying homecoming wins in North Brunswick High School football history ended with Chris Hamilton being carried off the field on the shoulders of his teammates.

Hamilton's 95-yard fumble return for a touchdown on the second play of overtime lifted the Scorpions to an improbable 27-21 victory over the South Columbus Stallions.

Garry Bishop said Friday night's Waccamaw 2A/3A Conference win was one the biggest in his 15 seasons as head coach at North Brunswick, in part because of the opponent.

South Columbus has won nine conference championships in the last 11 years and had dominated the Scorpions since they became league rivals in 2005, winning the four previous meetings by a combined margin of 142-41.

But things were different this time around. The Scorpions moved the ball behind the power running of D.J. Graham and the accurate and resourceful passing of A.J. Perkins. But the Scorpions defense came up biggest, making several huge plays on defense, including a goal-line stand on the final play of regulation after Hamilton's turnover TD.

"I'm proud of these kids for really sticking in there and playing with a lot of confidence," Bishop said.

"They could have been intimidated by that team. They've beaten us up pretty good the last couple years, but these kids weren't intimidated. They were ready to play tonight."

See Overtime turnover, page 2C



Photo by Bret McCormick

D.J. Graham rushed for 157 yards and one touchdown. But it was his 91-yard kickoff return TD that brought North Brunswick back into the game after falling behind South Columbus last Friday night. The Scorpions went on to beat the Stallions for the first time ever, Chris Hamilton returning a fumble 95 yards for a touchdown in overtime. The 27-21 win was North's second consecutive triumph, improving their record to 4-5 and 2-2 in the conference.



Photo by Bret McCormick
Rheanna Lawson and Sarah Ferguson, South Brunswick volleyball seniors, stoop to dig the ball off the floor against East Bladen last week. Volleyball state playoffs begin on October 24th.

Volleyball team sends seniors off with win

By Bret McCormick
Sports Editor

The South Brunswick volleyball team celebrated Senior Night with a 3-0 sweep over visiting East Bladen last Thursday night. The match honoring seniors Sarah Ferguson, Rheanna Lawson, Samantha Pruitt and Caitlin Beville brought the Cougars to within one win of sharing the regular season Waccamaw Conference title with West Brunswick.

With the distraction of Senior Night inevitable, South didn't make quick work of the Eagles despite winning 26-24, 25-17, 26-24. Despite going to extra points in two of the games against East Bladen, South coach Chad Shoaf was pleased to send his four seniors out with a win in their home finale.

See Volleyball seniors, page 6C