

Clark's return keys Cougar win

By BEAU DURE

Staff Writer

BOILING SPRING LAKES — The South Brunswick boys' basketball team has made the most of the four corners, but it was the nine toes of Mike Clark that helped the Cougars pull an unbelievable win Tuesday.

Clark, seeing his first action since a hunting accident claimed one of his toes, keyed a 13-2 run capped by a spectacular Antoine Johnson shot to give South Brunswick an 57-56 home win.

The win kept alive playoff hopes for the Cougars (7-14 overall, 3-8 Waccamaw 2A/3A conference).

The Cougars trailed 53-44 midway through the fourth quarter. After Johnson fed Scooter Moore for a basket, Clark hit consecutive 3-pointers to cut the lead to one.

South Columbus' Travis McPherson hit a free throw with 2:05 left. After a Cougar miss, the Stallions' Carl Wright hit two free throws. But Clark fed the ball to Mark Kennedy, who hit his fourth

3-pointer to cut the lead to 56-55.

Moore then swiped the ball. With five seconds left, Johnson drove the lane, saw Wright coming toward him, adjusted and hit the prayer.

"I thought the big guy was going to block me," Johnson said. "I didn't know what to do, so I double-clutched."

The frenzied fans had to sit on the celebration while Brandon Simmons missed a shot. Andre Clarida (15 points) was fouled but missed both free throws. A last-second shot bounced away.

"Thanks to the good Lord, we won," said Johnson, who led the Cougars with 17 points.

Cougars coach Gene Doane put in Clark in the third quarter to guard Wright, who had banged the Cougars into submission.

"Mike Clark didn't take it," Doane said. "He stood up there and banged back."

"I was really out there on adrenaline," Clark said as fans streamed from the stands to congratulate him.

Simmons was spectacular in de-

feat for South Columbus (8-14, 4-8), hitting from long range and swiping the ball for a slam that left the rim crying in pain to get 16 first-half points, 21 total.

"I've never seen such a shooting exhibition as I saw in the first half," Doane said.

South Brunswick's girls (14-8, 8-3) took a sloppy 35-29 win behind Tameka Davis' 13 points and 10 points by Natalie Smith. Rita Ford led South Columbus (11-11, 5-7) with 11 points.

"Offensively, that was the worst game we played all year," said Cougars coach Mike Isenberg.

Byron Batson had 20 points to lead the Cougars' JV to a 73-30 win.

BOYS

South Columbus 10 21 13 12 - 56
 South Brunswick 15 10 8 24 - 57

South Columbus: Simmons 21, Clarida 15, Wright 8.
 Silver 6, McPherson 6.

South Brunswick: Johnson 17, Kennedy 12, Clark 8,
 Vaughn 8, Simon 6, Moore 6.

3-point goals: Simmons (SC) 3, McPherson (SC), Silver
 (SC), Kennedy (SB) 4, Johnson (SB) 2, Clark (SB) 2.

GIRLS

South Columbus 6 8 8 7 — 29
South Brunswick 17 5 6 7 — 35

South Columbus: Ford 11, McDowell 6, Bullock 4, Dozier 4, Bellamy 2, Ravnell 2.
South Brunswick: Davis 13, Smith 10, Bryant 8, Sellers 4.

3-point goals: Ford (SC)