

# Devils' Game Plan Finally Pays Off In Overtime, SD-7 Victory

Although it hadn't succeeded in the first quarter, the Devils' game plan finally paid off in overtime, as the team defeated the Rebels 7-0 in a hard-fought, 20-14, overtime comeback triumph over the Rebels.

And Senior High's dedicated perseverance for sticking to its guns finally paid off and wound up carrying it to a hard-fought, 20-14, overtime comeback triumph over the Rebels.

Still looking at the same 14-6 deficit that had stood since late in the first quarter, the Blue Devils engineered a touchdown drive that pulled them within two points with just over a minute left, and they then converted the all-important conversion attempt to keep the score.

A West Lincoln fumble on the ensuing kickoff enabled the hosts to

fire a desperation shot at breaking the tie near the end of regulation, but the Rebels' blocked field-goal attempt fell just yards short on the game's final play.

In the overtime, which was played in the Kanan's Gym, the Devils awarded both teams the ball at the 10-yard-line and presented each with a maximum of four plays in which to score. Mooreville tallied its third six-pointer of the night on the extra session's first play, but the point-after attempt was wide, leaving the door still cracked for the Rebels.

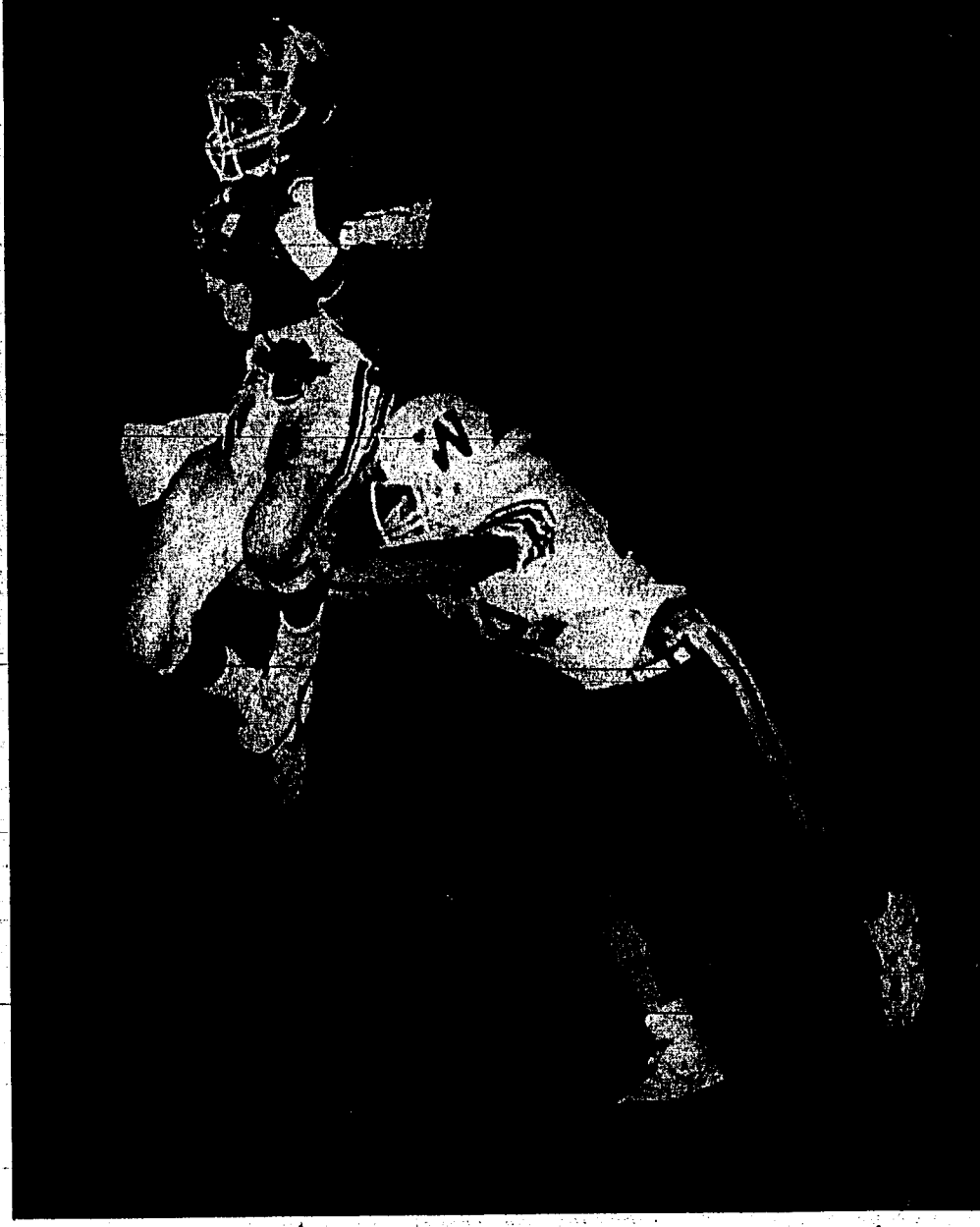
The home team's defense failed to break, though, as West was denied entrance into the endzone, allowing the locals to preserve the come-from-behind decision.

"We didn't do anything different late in the game," explained Steve Lane, Mooreville's fifth's season

coach. "It was just a matter of things starting to go our way. We did the same things we had done throughout the game, but this time they started working. We didn't play that good of a game, and the kids weren't sliding back to the school on the bus, it was like we had just lost. Still, this team did something that no team here has done in some time, and that's come back late in the game and win. We're hoping that some of that momentum carries over with us into the rest of the season."

With the victory, played on perhaps the season's most perfect night for football, Mooreville improved to 3-2 overall, and even its SD-7 slate at 1-1.

West Lincoln exited the affair it appeared to have locked up with records of 2-3 and 0-2, respectively.



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## Red Imps Ganged Up On In Loss

It took two teams combined into one to hand Mooreville Junior High's football team its first loss of the season.

The Red Imps, coming off an impressive season and Bi-County Conference opening performance a week earlier, ran out of steam against host and rival Lincoln.

North Rowan Wednesday afternoon, as they watched their 20-14 evaporate and turn into a 22-20 deficit by game's end.

"We just weren't good," strummed Joe Pinyan, the Imps' first-season head coach. "We had them down, but we let them get back in it. They're a big team, probably the biggest we'll face this season, and that had a lot to do with us wearing out at the end. You never like to lose a game, but it's good that this one

came outside the league."

The game marked the only time this season that North Rowan will be able to combine both its separate seventh and eighth grade teams into one to battle the Imps, who are made up of both seventh and eighth graders.

As a result of the loss, Mooreville takes a 1-1 overall record, and that 1-0 BCC mark, into this week's play. The guests took command of the contest early, scoring the only points of the first quarter, holding a 12-0 lead at intermission, and building it to 20-0 midway through the third period.

From there, though, the Cavaliers began their comeback, and they used a bad snap by the Imps in punt formation to score the go-ahead touchdown late in the final quarter. The Imps put together one last-

ditch attempt, but the effort was thwarted by an interception.

"We never quit," noted Pinyan, "even when we got behind. It would have been easy for us to get down on ourselves after losing our lead, but we kept on playing just as hard. It just wasn't to be."

West Lincoln relied heavily on the running of Decomba Connor, who responded in style for a second straight game. Connor rambled for a game-high 123 yards in just 12 carries, with a 35-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, holding a 12-0 lead at intermission, and building it to 20-0 midway through the third period.

The workhorse tailback scored on a 35-yard run, and he used a 12-0 lead to set up a 12-0 lead at intermission, and building it to 20-0 midway through the third period.

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## Farm Losses Lead To Losses In Wildlife In Tar Heel

North Carolina's economy and its farmers aren't the only things in jeopardy as the state's wildlife—especially small game—is suffering too.

In recent years, wildlife biologists and managers and small-game hunters in this state, and throughout the southeast, have been asking themselves, "Where have all the rabbits and quail gone?" Now, they're getting some answers.

"In North Carolina, we're losing a lot of traditional farm land, especially in the Piedmont, because farmers can't afford to stay in business," Terry W. Sharpe, small game project leader for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, said. "In the past, we've taken advantage of the fact that small game has been a natural by-product of agriculture since most farm land provides good cover for small animals...especially quail and rabbits. Now we're going to have to develop a new philosophy, as far as small game goes, so small game."

Last month, small game experts from 15 southeastern states came to North Carolina at the invitation of Gov. James G. Martin and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to discuss the decline of small-game populations.

"We know there have been population declines and changes in hunting pressure since more people are hunting deer," Sharpe said. "But the people who still hunt small game, live for it."

"Years ago, people could hunt small game in their back yards," he said. "Now they have deer in their back yards. Deer are just more plentiful, and many hunters are going to spend their time hunting whatever will make them successful."

"We found out our problems are even more similar than we imagined," Sharpe said of North Carolina's cooperative efforts from southeastern states. "But we are very hopeful that this workshop and studies that are developed through it will lead to solutions that can help restore small game populations."

During the Southeastern Small Game Workshop held in Asheville last week, participants from 15 southeastern states met to discuss the decline of small-game populations.

Brad Mueller of the Tall Timber Research Station in Florida, said changes in land use make it difficult for small-game hunters to find their resources.

"If you go to a place where you used to hunt quail, and there's a subdivision on it, you'll see your small-game problem," Mueller said. "We're also finding higher populations of small-game predators. We've got the techniques for better management of game. We've just got to use them."

Sharpe agreed. "For rabbits, research shows they need a wide variety of cover," he said. "Farmers and other landowners need to try to provide such cover as honeysuckle and blackberry."

"Food plots are a part, but not the complete answer for the quail problem. We need to look at each farm individually. District biologists in North Carolina are available to give advice to people who want to manage their land for wildlife. We may see a new attitude...the person who works for his land will have it. But, I'm afraid that may price a lot of people out of quail hunting," he said.

Billy Miner of the University of Tennessee said "no-till" farming helps to save cover for small wildlife.

During an address last week to members of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Winston-Salem, Gov. Martin said of cooperative efforts from southeastern states, "But we are very hopeful that this workshop and studies that are developed through it will lead to solutions that can help restore small game populations."

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## '77 Rowdies Return To Win 6th

A week away from the action didn't seem to bother the 1977 Iredell Select Soccer Association Rowdies one bit.

The 77's kept their record unblemished on the year upon returning to play last weekend by first roaring past Greenville, 4-1, prior to edging Jacksonville, 1-0.

The victories marked the return to play for the 1977 crew, which was idle the previous weekend.

In the first game, Bobby Cummings registered a pair of goals, and teammate Jeff Case and Nick Cline booted home one net-finder apiece.

In the one-goal victory over Jacksonville, the match's only score came off the foot of Daniel Jones, who used the goal as a way to celebrate his ninth birthday.

In both contests, the young Rowdies displayed a strong defensive effort keyed by the play of goalkeeper Josh Buntin and defenders Shane Curtis and Cory Leatherwood.

The 77 Rowdies will be at home this weekend defending their 6-0 record against a pair of visitors.

The Rowdies will square off against Greensboro and Raleigh. In addition, the select group's 74 and 76 Rowdies will also be playing their matches at home this weekend, giving the Iredell Select Soccer Association a full slate of games all day Saturday at the soccer complex and on the High School field.

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## No Pooling, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Is Big Fun

Fun is the key word associated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Iredell County. And nowhere was that more evident than at the volunteer group's picnic and swim party held recently at the War Memorial pool.

Big Sister Helen Nasser is surrounded by Little Sisters, clockwise from far right, Arlene Poland, Marsha Saltz, Jackie Poland, and Tish Davidson, as they all enjoy a cool dip in the pool. Big Brothers/Big Sisters offers companionship and, more importantly, friendship to children of one-parent families throughout Iredell County, and volunteers for the program are constantly being sought. For more information, contact Big Brothers/Big Sisters by calling 872-8170, or by writing to P.O. Box 5441, Statesville, 28677.

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## Ben Bishop Tee-Off Set For Weekend

The prize, and surprise, filled Ben Bishop Bluebird Open golf tournament will take place on Saturday.

Door prizes include 10 dozen golf balls, five putters, two Dunlop golf bags, two Ping golf bags, and a Hogan Beryllium copper special wedge.

Upon registration, players will receive a golf shirt, a complimentary golf package, and a sleeve of balls.

As for the play itself, it, too, will be richly rewarded.

The top three finishers in each flight will receive coveted honors.

First place will be rewarded with a complete set of Hogan irons.

A set of Hogan woods will be presented to the second-place finishers in each flight.

Third place will also be adequately acknowledged, with those golfers receiving a Hogan golf bag for their efforts.

Part, if not all, of the array of prizes are being supplied by the first-ever major sponsor of the Ben Bishop, a tournament named for a former Mooreville resident, an avid golfer, and a just as interested bird watcher particularly when it came to bluebirds.

Victor Blackwell Enterprises of Charlotte has agreed to serve as the sponsor of this year's attraction.

In addition to the prizes available, a catered barbecue supper will be provided for players following Saturday's opening 18 holes of play.

All tournament players will be able to bring a guest with them to the catered meal.

Although the tournament is a traditional member of the local golfing family, it will be played under a new light this time around.

In the immediate past, the event has been staged under the two-man, best-ball format, following the same format as a number of other area attractions.

This weekend, though, the tournament will be played under an individual style of play, with players on their own as far as tournament success is concerned.

The 36-hole affair will be fought following play on Saturday.

Players will be grouped in foursomes at random on Saturday, except in those cases when golfers formed their own playing crew.

However, during Sunday's all-important final round, tournament officials, once again being captained by Spencer McLaughlin, will pair those players performing in the same flight with each other if at all possible.

The entire tournament will be staged on the Mooreville Municipal Golf Course, which plays to a par 72, counting an even 36 strokes per nine-hole side.

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