

Devils, Bears Claim SD-7 Victims

It was a Devil of a weekend during Southern District VII Conference football play. Of the four teams registering wins at the expense of fellow league members during the second week of full-scale conference play, three of them somehow make use of Devils in their team nicknames.

Two crews of Blue Devils, those hailing from touted Maiden and stubborn Mooresville, and one den of Red Devils, the cruising shipmates from Newton-Conover, joined the

Bears of Bunker Hill by connecting on triumphant blows Friday night. In effect, losses were pinned, respectively, on Bandys, West Lincoln, Cherryville, and Bessemer City.

Friday night's play marked the first of six straight that will feature all SD-7 teams being involved in conference play only.

This week, the eight of them again face circuit foes, with Bandys travelling to Bessemer City, Bunker Hill taking on host West Lincoln,

Larry Sullivan's

SPORT SIDE

Violence: Football's Accepted Rule

Touching All The Bases: Friday night's Southern District VII Conference football game between host Mooresville and visiting West Lincoln may have just been one of the most physical played on the part of both teams in quite some while. For that reason, those viewing the game might consider it one of the best.

In football, that's the way it goes. The more body pounding you have, the better.

This particular game became quite tight, folks, with the host Blue Devils scoring in the game's final minutes to forge a tie, and then floundering an ideal opportunity to break that knot less than a minute later, to force the contest into overtime.

During that Kansas City-style format used to break league ties, in which each team receives possession of the ball at the 10-yard-line and is awarded a maximum of four plays in which to score, Mooresville tallied on its first play but then missed the point after. The Rebels were then denied entrance into the endzone on all four of their plays, the final one being met with a roar of approval from the hosts. Mooresville appeared to have one foot in the grave, but it revived itself during those final minutes of play to steal the 20-14 overtime win.

However, it may not have been that kind of late-game play that the crowd found most satisfying, as grid followers go. The stage was possibly set on the first series of downs when, on the game's second play, a West Lincoln ball carrier went down with what was later diagnosed as a broken leg. The snapped limb came as a result of a solid and clean hit, and, more than likely, the player responsible was met with congratulations.

Throughout the game, a number of heated debates between opposing players took place. Twice, blockers off one team connected with targets from the other after the whistle had blown indicating the end of a play. This kind of competitive fire continued late into the game as well.

A fourth-quarter Mooresville drive was thwarted by an unsportsmanlike conduct call on a Blue Devil after that receiver had just caught a pass to give his club a crucial first down. Just moments later, the Rebels contributed handsily to the hosts' game-tying drive by drawing flags on a pair of unsportsmanlike conduct calls.

The most violent of the accepted violence, though, was still ahead.

After Mooresville scored on its first play of overtime, West Lincoln began its trek. On the Rebels' second down, a pass was thrown, and a Mooresville defender and West receiver arrived at the ball simultaneously. As a result of the contact, the ball, originally thought to be caught by the Rebel, bounced free. It showed more life than the downed receiver. Though the Devil defender jumped to his feet, the West Lincoln player showed no movement at all.

Rescue personnel were quickly called to the scene, and, after several tense moments, the player was revived. He was taken to the hospital for no less than cautionary purposes, but a slight concussion was a definite possibility.

There was more.

After the Rebels were denied a score on their final play, the Devils began their post-game celebration. It, though, was cut short when the Mooresville defender in on that hit a couple of plays earlier suddenly fell on the ground and started jerking and twitching uncontrollably. Though conscious, the defensive back was completely disoriented, shouting out questions like "Who am I?" and "Where am I?" Dr. David Alford, the sideline physician kept so busy Friday, was again called on, and, with his help, the Mooresville player, perhaps feeling the delayed response to the solid contact rendered a short time earlier, was eased back to reality. It was a hairy scene, to say the least.

But the point here is that these are accepted facts of the contact sport. Without them, it just wouldn't be football. Sure, you have your share of cheap hits, but they are the exception, and, more times than not, they are dealt with rapidly and correctly.

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WSOC, Where Were You?—I still can't believe it. One of the biggest baseball games of the year, and Charlotte's ABC affiliate, WSOC, decides to fill the air time with local programming? Now you go figure.

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WSOC, however, did not broadcast the game, opting instead to fill the time with some off the wall programs for viewing, things such as "Man In The Iron Mask," "Fullhouse," "Three's Company," and "Star Search." Smart move, wouldn't you say.

Concerning the game itself, it must have been a beauty. Sunday is my lone golf-playing day of the week, so I make the most of it by teeing off around noon and coming back home around dark. It doesn't set too well with the wife, but I'd be an even harder to live with so-and-so if I didn't get my 18 or so holes in.

With the Tigers claiming of the division title with the one-run win, marking the seventh straight time that games between those teams were decided by that margin, it capped perhaps one of the biggest choke jobs ever registered down the stretch. With Sunday's loss, Toronto, three and a-half games up on Detroit a week earlier, lost seven straight to finish two games behind the Tigers. Four of those losses were to Detroit, while the other three were administered by Milwaukee.

As a result, Detroit now meets Minnesota to decide the American League pennant, while San Francisco and St. Louis square off to determine the National League flag winner. I've shied away from predictions most of the year, and one needs only to look at my overall record to realize why. But everybody makes a choice this time of year, so it's my duty to oblige.

To go with Minnesota in the American League, and San Fran in the National, primarily because neither of those teams have been there recently. It's good to get some fresh blood into the World Series every now and then. From there, I'll side

with the Giants. Their pitching, I think, will carry them the distance.

I would guess that the ABC network will somehow be involved in baseball's postseason. I wonder if WSOC-TV will be so inclined as to tune us in.

A Big Weekend In Sports: Mid-October probably isn't the ideal time to plan outdoor activities, but they will be in full bloom this coming weekend in these parts is the racing activity at Charlotte Motor Speedway that will lead to the running of the Oakwood Homes 500 Sunday.

More locally, the staging of the annual Ben Bishop Bluebird Golf Open is set for the weekend. The individual-styled format tourney this year carries with it a host of prizes and surprises for the players. It will take place Saturday and Sunday, with the Municipal Course serving as the host.

Elsewhere, our Blue Devils kick off the hectic weekend by traveling to Newton-Conover, Friday night. The host Red Devils will represent the second of the state's top 10 2A teams Mooresville will play in three weeks. Senior High faced third-ranked Maiden two Fridays ago, and goes head-to-head with ninth-ranked Newton-Conover this week.

Mooresville's Southland League youth football teams also continue their season this weekend, with Saturday's play for all four teams taking place at Lincolnton High School.

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2. In case of ties, total score of Mooresville game will decide winners; in case of further ties prize money will be determined by time received at Tribune or postmark time.

3. All entries must be in the Tribune office not later than 3 p.m. Friday of each week, and post marked not later than 3 p.m. if mailed.

4. Employees of the Tribune are not eligible for prize money.

5. All entries must be the entire page from the Tribune.

6. No purchase or other consideration is necessary to win.

7. Persons may enter not more than 3 entries any one week (Only One Entry Considered For Cash Prize)

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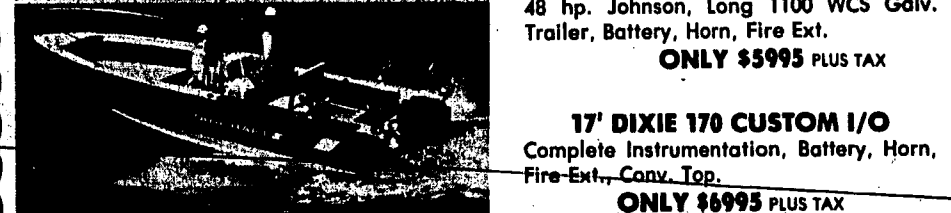
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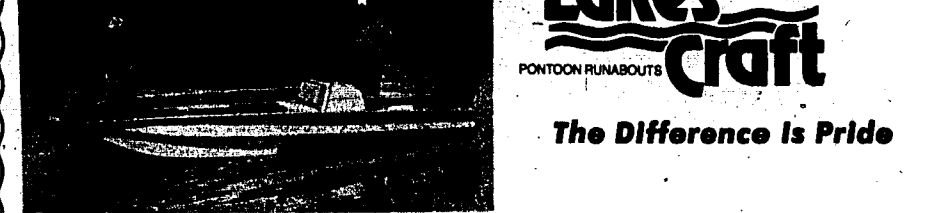
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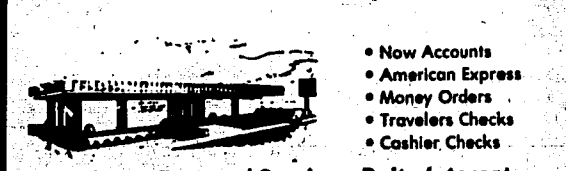
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