

Lady Braves Cap Successful Season

Whether or not the successful season of Brawley Middle School's girls volleyball team becomes even more successful remains to be seen as the Lady Braves capped regular-season play at home Monday afternoon.

The Braves entertained Iredell County Middle School Conference member Central for a couple of best-of-three games Monday that wrapped up the season for both teams.

Each combatant collected a win, with Brawley's win giving it 11 victories on the season while the loss by the hostesses was only their third of the season.

Central turned the tables following a first-game loss in the first match, by a 15-6 count in Brawley's favor, to win game two, 15-14, and then take game three, 15-4, to triumph in the opening match.

In the second match, it was Brawley that manned the offensive after suffering a first-game, 15-11 loss, as the Lady Braves bowed out of their season in style with consecutive convincing wins, by scores of 15-12 and 15-3.

As a result of Monday's bouts, Brawley finishes the season at 11-3 overall, good enough for either a tie for first or a tie for second.

Complete 10th-grade volleyball standings were still in doubt as midweek.

Should Brawley finish in a tie for first, then a playoff would take place in the school gym to determine the regular season champion.

However, if the Braves finished tied for second, that's where they would end their campaign.

Monday's showing gave Brawley a 1-1 record during the final week of the season. The team hosted Troutman Middle School for a pair of bouts last Wednesday afternoon and triumphed in them both, needing only five games, one of them via shutout, to do so.

The Lady Braves conquered the Lady Bobcats, 8-15, 15-9 and 15-4 in the first match, and they then topped the guests in straight games, 15-9 and 15-0, in the second match.

In Monday's split of affairs with Central, the home team was paced by the overall play of sixth grader, Kristi Knox, as well as the net.

It marked the first time in three years that Mooreville enjoyed conference status in the sport of volleyball, and the Devilettes celebrated that return to league play by not only winning the circuit championship but also by conquering the first undefeated volleyball team at Senior High.

After wrapping up their season last week, it was originally thought that the spikers would have nearly two weeks off prior to engaging in the opening round of the playoffs.

The date of the first match was first set for Oct. 20.

Just this week, the match was moved up to Thursday, as the Mooreville and Union Pines were idle all this week after completing their respective seasons of play.

"In a way," announced Dilks, "it's better that we are playing earlier. Two weeks is a long time to be off. This is Homecoming Week, and the girls are glad they now have something to contribute to it. We don't really need to get down to business until it's time to, and now is definitely the time."

Union Pines, whose Lady Vikings will make a nearly three-hour long trip to get to Mooreville, finished as the runner-up in the Central Tar

Vikings Run Past Warriors

South Iredell head football coach Bill Mayhew claims his team has more than just an adequate passing game.

But so far, he hasn't had that much of a chance to prove it.

In fact, his Vikings have hardly had cause to seek security through the air because of the week-by-week improvement of their already vaunted running attack.

That fact was once again evident this past weekend, when the visitors from Barium Springs lugged the pigskin for over 360 yards on the ground to literally run past the Warriors of West Iredell, 46-7, Friday night in a cross-county Foothills Athletic Conference battle.

"The offense did a fantastic job," quipped Mayhew, celebrating this his 25th season as a head coach by displaying one of his best mid-season showings. "We blocked well, and we definitely ran the ball well. I wish we could have opened up our passing game a little more, because I feel it, too, can be effective. We didn't really need it, though, because we stayed with what was working."

And work it did, as the Vikings stayed well in the hunt for one of the three postseason bids up for grabs among the seven FAC members by shooting 14-0 in league play and taking their overall record to 5-1.

As a result, South Iredell enters this week's action with a share of first-place in the league, as both the Vikings and Statesville's Greyhounds flash identical showings within the FAC at the crucial halfway point.

North Iredell, which was idle last week, is also among other team unbeaten in league play, as the Raiders take their 2-0 record to Statesville this week.

It's just the opposite story for West Iredell, who captured the FAC pennant with an undefeated regular-season last year, as the Warriors plunged to 1-5 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

With one exception, all of South's touchdowns Friday night came via the offensive rush, as the visitors broke free from a 7-7 tie early in the second quarter to score 30 unanswered points, including 18 in the third period alone, to swamp the guests.

The Vikes finished the game with 363 yards on the ground and added nearly 60 more through the air on perfect three-for-three passing.

The South defense limited West Iredell and its potentially dangerous air-oriented attack to only 46 yards on the ground and right at 100 through the air.

"To say the least," noted Mayhew, "I'm very pleased with our progress on offense. We've improved with every game, and we know that's what would have to happen for us to be successful. There's not much more I can say about our defense. We're allowing an average of less than a touchdown per game, and anytime you can do that, you can keep yourself in any game you play."

South Iredell was only in Friday's game through early in the second quarter, before using the first of its six straight running plays to reach the Warriors' endzone.

The Vikes used a 36-yard fumble return of a Warrior fumble by Duane Winford to account for their only score of a quiet first quarter.

After West knotted matters with what turned out to be its only TD of the night, fullback Ray Grady tallied what proved to be the winning six-point drive with a five-yard run.

The point-after attempts, including one kick and a pair of conversions, all failed following the three third-down scores.

The Vikings then capped their evening's work in the final stanza, when reserve quarterback Jeff Blackwell rammed nine yards for the crowning blow. This time, Woods' kick successfully followed the TD.

Lenster topped the winners with his two touchdowns and 147 yards, while Chauncey Harris and Grady accounted for 112 yards from the fullback position, a game second-high 58 picked up by Harris.

Hobbs hit his intended target on all three passes, each of them aimed at split end Gerald Childress, that accounted for the 58 aerial yards.

In addition to Winford, who made the most of his by returning it for a touchdown, Chuck and Chauncey Harris also recovered a Warrior fumble.

South Iredell ventures away from FAC play this week, but not away from trouble, as the Vikes celebrate their annual homecoming festivities by entertaining non-conference foe Providence Day.

Providence Day, averaging nearly 30 points per game, was undefeated prior to dropping Friday night's decision to Charlotte Latin in a high-scoring affair, 43-35.

The highlight of the homecoming ceremony, that of crowning the 1987 queen, will take place during the halftime of Friday's game.

Kickoff time is set for 8 p.m. in Viking Valley.

With Blocking Help From Bobby Renwick, Davidson Eyes Running Room

Quarterback Mike Hobbs then tackled on the final score of the first half, as he capped his team's 30-yard drive with a 16-yard scoring scamper.

Toby Woods provided the point-after kick following all three first-half scores.

In the second half, it took only three plays for the guests to resume their scoring juggernaut for a second straight week, as Friday's point total, combined with the previous week's 54-point effort, gives the Vikings 100 points in their last two games.

On that third play, Omar Lenster, among the county and league leaders in rushing and scoring, padded both totals with a seven-yard scoring dash.

T.J. Davidson, one of a host of non-regulars involved in the decision, took care of South's fifth score, it coming on a 37-yard dart.

Lenster then once again reached paydirt, this time closing out the three-TD third period with a one-yard drive.

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Devils Victimized By Second Top 10 SD-7 Opponent

Mooreville has had its share, thank you, of playing teams ranked in the state's top 10.

Squaring off against a second member of the Associated Press' top 10 2A poll in three weeks Friday night, the visiting Blue Devils once again joined the ranks of the believers as host Newton-Conover scored early and often on its way to a 36-6 Southern District VII Conference victory.

The homecoming-celebrating Red Devils' shrugging the contest as the state's sixth-ranked 2A team, according to the most recent AP poll, and they left little doubt as to how they achieved that lofty respect, as their first-string offenses and defenses combined to account for a 30-0 halftime lead before freely substituting in a second half that still saw them match Mooreville with a conversion-less touchdown apiece.

"We didn't play well from the start," shrugged Steve Young, fifth-season head coach of the Devils, "and that's something we couldn't afford to do against a great team like Newton-Conover. We let them get ahead of us early, and you can't let a good team get a jump on you. It wasn't a very good night for us at all."

The win improves Newton-Conover's record to 1-1 in the conference.

Following Monday night's 6-0 upset past visiting Wilkes Central, South Iredell improved to a perfect 7-0 level against FASC opposition.

That conquest, coupled with last Wednesday night's 1-0 inching past host non-conference foe Providence Day, hikes the Greg Crowley-coached Vikes' overall record to the undefeated, 12-0 level.

As a result of those marks, South Iredell easily maintains its comfortable advantage over the rest of the league field in its quest for an unprecedented third straight FASC crown.

In this, the school's fourth season of fielding a soccer program, it has never finished lower than in second, which it did that first season.

Since then, South Iredell has shared first-place honors and then won the honor outright on its own by cruising unbeaten through league play last season.

Heading into tonight's (Wednesday's) return to conference play, the Vikings are riding a 17-game winning streak against circuit foes dating back to last year's 10-0 showing.

Monday night's battle against Wilkes Central successfully kicked off the second half of league play for the Vikes, as they recorded their second victory this season over the Eagles and have failed to lose to the second-year member in now four meetings overall.

In preserving their swelling four-game lead over second-place Statesville in the league standings Monday, the Vikings displayed a balanced attack that featured at least one goal from five different players and assists from three others.

Steve Smith kicked home a pair of goals, and Scott Ceronka, Mark Heiner, Carl Spaulding, and Mike Cummings all added one each as the hosts built the 5-0 lead at intermission and extended the cushion by one in the second half.

Heiner was credited with a pair of assists, while Ceronka and Smith picked up one apiece.

The Vikes swamped the Wilkes Central net with 27 shots, and they allowed only eight on the part of their over-matched guests.

In keeping the team's second straight shutout, starting goalie Jackie Wallace picked up a couple of saves before being lifted around intermission. His substitute, Chris Gilliland, recorded four saves to help preserve the shutout.

Wednesday night, on what was South's open date against FASC foes, the Vikings traveled to Providence Day and brought home the 1-0 victory.

The triumph was secured on Ceronka's goal 12 minutes into the opening half of an assist provided by Christian Eastman.

From that point, both teams remained scoreless, with Wallace giving 11 saves.

South again kept the pressure on defensively, though, as they played 22 shots in the direction of the Providence Day goal and allowed only half that many.

South Iredell will be looking to extend its consecutive match winning streak against Mooreville this evening, when the Vikings and Blue Devils gather on the former's home field for a 7 p.m. clash.

Throughout the four-year history of the league, South Iredell has never lost to Mooreville, whose Blue Devils remain in a battle with Statesville and North Iredell for second place.

In the season's earlier meeting between South and Mooreville, the Vikings registered a 5-1 win.

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Mooreville will be looking to get back on track, and extend its home-field winning streak to three straight, when it entertains Cherryville this week.

The Ironmen, smarting from back-to-back lopsided losses to Newton-Conover and Maiden, enter town as Homecoming guests of the Blue Devils, with queen-crowning ceremonies slated to take place at halftime.

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Bright Running Spot Pinkston Squirts Free For One Of Few Rushing Gainers

first-half scoring spree with its fourth TD of the game four minutes away from intermission.

After a scoreless first period, the Blue Devils busted up the Red Devils' bid for a shutout on their second possession of the fourth quarter when freshman tailback John Pinkston, heir apparent to the backfield slot, darted 66 yards — nearly three times the total amount of yardage picked up by Mooreville in the game to that point — for a touchdown.

A two-point conversion pass by another freshman, Nathan White, fell short.

Newton-Conover's second offense also jumped in on the scoring with a 60-yard run that came in the game's final minute.

Mooreville finished with 69 yards rushing and another 12 through the air, while the Red Devils piled up 320 rushing yards and tackled 66 with perfect six-for-six passing. The hosts clicked off 18 first downs to only three allowed by the guests, none of them coming until after the half.

Mooreville was paced by the running of Pinkston, who fashioned a 92-yard effort on just eight carries. It was his running in general, and his break-away TD dash specifically, that kept the Blue Devils out of the red numbers in total yardage.

When looking for a silver lining, it popped up in the play of senior defensive back Tod Alexander, who padded his league-high mark of fumble recoveries by falling on three Newton-Conover bobbles.

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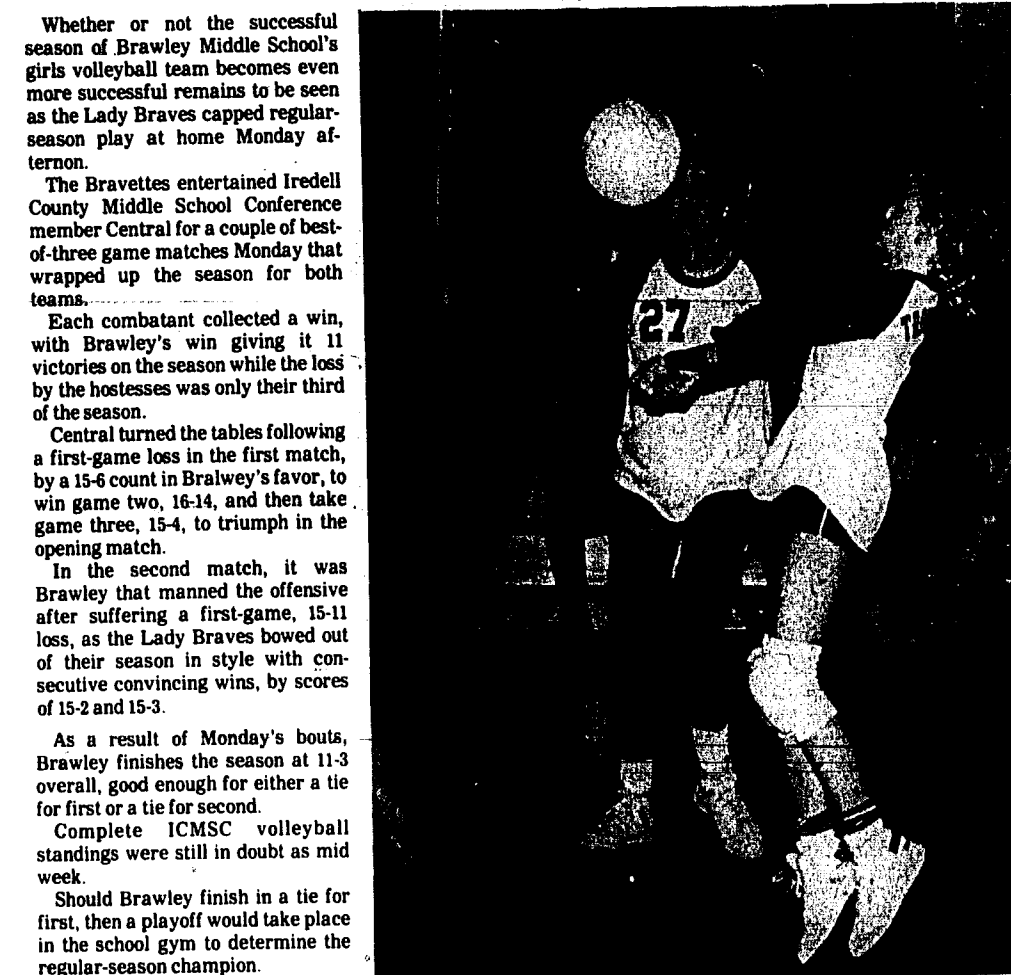
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Quarterback