

Larry Sullivan's

## SPORT SIDE

## The Old-Fashioned Way Of Football

Touching All The Bases: A new twist is being provided for early arrivals at this weekend's Homecoming football game at Mooresville Senior High. Actually, it's not so much new to football in general as it is new to Senior High.

A high-faluting good time is planned for all by the Mooresville Athletic Boosters Club Friday prior to the kickoff between the homecoming Blue Devils and Cherryville's Ironmen, brother of the Southern District VII Conference, by way of a tailgating party.

Tailgating is an every-weekend affair at most colleges, what with alumni and other faithful gathering hours before game time to enjoy fellowship with each other as well as delicious food and drink, the former mainly of the home-made variety. It is also a time for those who perhaps haven't seen each other in a while to re-acquaint themselves with long-lost friends.

And what better time to do just this than during Homecoming? It is the one game of the year that former students now off at college or who have joined the real working world make a point to attend. Regardless of how many years past, a night at a high school homecoming game cuts them away and immediately places you back in time. It's the magic of the moment.

This year, the Boosters club is providing additional props. Demanding, understandably, that no alcoholic beverages be present, the hosting Boosters will be taking care of the drinks Friday evening. Those attending the tailgating party, which in my time will be the first ever at the school, are free to bring whatever their little hearts desire to eat. If this tailgating goes like most, what you bring will be shared with others, who, in friendly exchange, will in turn allow you to test their offerings.

It is, a name implies, one big party. It will serve as a way to better gear up the fans for the game itself, which is at the crux of the gathering and will serve as its highlight. Our Blue Devils go into the game desperately needing a win to stay within sight of a potential state postseason berth.

On the heels of last week's 38-6 drubbing at the hands of a den of Red Devils from Newton-Conover who themselves were celebrating homecoming, Mooresville has its two toughest opponents behind it after three weeks of league play. Cherryville, too, has felt the impact of playing Maiden and Newton-Conover in recent weeks, as the Ironmen come into town following 62-0 and 66-0 losses, respectively, to the state's third and sixth-ranked 2A teams in the Associated Press poll. We need something to get us back on track, and the tailgating get-together may be just the thing. It's an idea that may be unique in this area, but it a common part of the game on a larger scale. Who knows? It could also become a mainstay here in Mooresville. Let's hope so.

The fun begins around 6 p.m. and will continue right up until, and even past, kickoff. WHIP will be on the scene broadcasting live until around 6:45, when the AM station must leave the air. Don't know about you, but it sure sounds like fun to me.

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me. It Pays To Know Your Scabs: Eddie Black works in the production department here, or at least he claims he does. He also claims that a school-boy friend of his, I suppose one of the two he has, has earned a roster spot as a replacement player on one of the strike-lamented National Football League teams. Eddie checked the newspaper bright and early Monday to see if his friend received any notice.

That got me to thinking, which is always a danger and even more so this early in the week. A lot of us still keep in touch with our teams even if our star players are boycotting the action. With that in mind, and courtesy of an editorial cartoon that appeared in a recent edition of the Christian Science Monitor, here are some replacement players, otherwise referred to as picket-line breaking scabs, to watch for:

Larry Bonka, wide end or perhaps wide beginning, even Larry's not sure. Claims he is a former usher at the Houston Astrodome.

Hugh Doll, former actor; player George Gipp in summerstock; received rave reviews.

"Yes-Yes" Czabo, tackle; 7-10, 410 pounds. Formerly with the Peoples' Democratic team of ball on foot, he has a vocabulary of one.

Vernon "Gramps" McBrump, who can't recall the last time he played for. "One day the lights went out," he says.

Joe Biden, former star quarterback at Syracuse University. His credentials are being checked.

Irvyng Krupp, former accountant with the Chicago Bears. He was told by Mike Ditka, the Bears head coach, to get in there or get lost.

Mike "Mike" Mudbottom. He will play with the Raiders or the Rams, depending on the amount of traffic.

And Joe Bzyrck, who is free on waivers from the San Diego Padres. He does everything, none of it, apparently, very well.

Well, there you have it. A quick look at just some of the faces now wearing NFL uniforms. And you can tell them by their style of play. Hey, when else was the last time the Indianapolis Colts were listed as the leaders of their AFC East division? Let's hear it for these scabs.

A Dawn Of A New Davidson Era: Okay, so talk around the Davidson College campus during football season usually centers around the upcoming basketball season. That's the way it goes when your team is on a current 17-game losing streak. Thank goodness for Columbia, whose Lions now hold the all-time record for consecutive losses by a Division I team with its 35th straight setback as of Saturday.

Sports at Davidson are looked at the way sports at the collegiate level are supposed to be viewed. They are extracurricular activities, apart and well separated from the academics. Davidson would survive even if it's sports didn't. How many other colleges can safely make that boast? You can probably count them on one hand.

Saturday, prior to the Wildcats' homecoming game against Wingate, the college broke ground for its \$17 million complex for varsity and intramural sports. The first portion of the complex, the 36,000-square-foot Carl and Louis Knobloch Tennis Center, opened in 1985. The additional 142,000 square feet, including a basketball arena seating 6,000, a multiple-use gymnasium, natatorium and administrative offices, is scheduled for completion in July 1989.

The college has raised \$11.5 million for the project. The goal includes \$14 million for construction, and a \$3 million endowment to maintain the complex.

The facility will be named for alumni John D. and Thompson S. Baker, brothers and successful businessmen. John, now retired, helped develop the Dean Witter brokerage firm, and Thompson heads Florida Rock Industries. They have pledged \$3.5 million to the complex. The Bakers are the kind of former teammates Davidson is most proud of. Other colleges should take note.

A Note In Passing: I haven't yet seen 'Hoosiers,' the basketball-based movie that made such a noise a couple of years back. I still say, though, that "One On One" is the best hoop-centered film there is. I've watched Henry Steel, played superbly by Robby Benson, tell his coach where to stick that scholarship 50 times, and each time the effect has been just as rewarding. I could watch it another 50 times.

And One More Thing: For those of you who missed out on playing in last weekend's Ben Bishop Bluebird Open, you missed a whale of a golf tournament. It could be a while before anything like this takes shape around here again. Everyone taking part was a winner. Thanks Vic, Spence, Terry and all the others responsible.

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## Countdown For SD-7 Battle Resumes

The countdown continues. The most looked-forward-to rivalry football meeting of the season within the Southern District VII Conference approaches the week mark, and that bout's featured combatants each continued to sharpen their respective plectrums in anticipation this past Friday night.

Dens of Devils from Newton-Conover, whose are Red, and Maiden, whose are Blue, were among the group of four victors that emerged following this past Friday night's conference games.

As a result, they each kept pace with one another and remained tied for the league lead, a knotting that appears will be broken only when the two engage each other on N-C's home battle ground not this Friday but the next.

In addition to Maiden and Newton-Conover, who both won at home this past Friday, visitors Bandys and Bunker Hill also collected favorable decisions.

On the other hand, down in defeat fell, respectively, Cherryville, Mooresville, Bessemer City and West Lincoln, as all eight SD-7 squads were featured in league play for a second straight weekend.

All eight teams are once again tabbed for league play this week, one that will open the second half of conference play for all involved.

Maiden and Newton-Conover, ranked third and sixth, respectively, in the Associated Press 2A state poll, take on second-division members, with the former hosting Bessemer City and the latter taking on homecoming West Lincoln.

That will be the final game for each prior to their vaunted meeting against each other.

Elsewhere, this week's games find Mooresville celebrating homecoming by entertaining Cherryville, and Bandys serving as incoming opposition for host Bunker Hill.

Although they may not have agreed to it formally, both Maiden and Newton-Conover, in preparing for their scheduled meeting, have engaged in battle of one-upmanship during the season, each attempting to have better showings than the other against similar opposition.

Last week, it was Maiden's turn to try and out-do the 62-0 drubbing Newton-Conover had hammered on Cherryville the previous Friday, and the Blue Devils succeeded, scoring the most number of points than any other SD-7 member with their 66-0 coquering of the visiting Trojans.

The win shoots Maiden, top-ranked in the Charlotte Observer's Sweet 16 poll, to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in league play, while Cherryville reels to 1-5 and 0-3, respectively.

In Newton, it was the Red Devils' challenge to score more, 31 points, and allow less, 14, than did Maiden against Mooresville, and they, too, prevailed by posting a 38-6 verdict on the visiting Blue Devils.

The victory keeps Newton-Conover deadlocked with Maiden for the league lead in wins overall and within the league, as it, too, improved to 6-0 and 3-0, while Mooresville, one of two SD-7 teams to already play both co-leaders, takes 3-3 and 1-2 records, respectively, into this week's game.

Bunker Hill became the league's third winning team, as it sank the hopes of hosting West Lincoln with a 28-6 decision.

The win hikes the Bears' marks to 5-1 overall and 2-1 in league play, while West Lincoln's Rebels stayed in the league cellar with Cherryville at 2-4 and 0-3, respectively.

Bandys became the fourth team to shoot above the .500 mark against league competition as the Trojans invaded and topped Bessemer City, 19-7.

The performance allows Bandys to take a 4-1-1 overall showing, and a decision.

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