



South's Paul Cotton Eyes A Break-Away During Action Against Mooresville

Viking Booters On Track To Repeat

It's supposed to be harder to repeat as conference champions, but South Iredell's soccer Vikings are making it look awfully easy.

The Vikings registered consecutive wins number 13 and 14 for this season during Foothills Athletic Soccer Conference play last week.

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Softball Tournament Underway

For some, it represents a new life. For others, it's simply a continuation of the old.

Such is the way it was during the opening week of play within the Men's Fall Softball League post-season double-elimination tournament.

A number of teams that bypassed success during the regular-season found new life during the first week of post-season play, while other teams that turned in solid seasons during regulation play stumbled somewhat in the tournament.

And for still others, their seasons failed to skip a beat at all.

The first week featured it share of successes, as the Corner Store and Lane's Fish Camp both were successful in both of their games, while both Wades Kooker Sales and Reddens Chiropractic Center won their only outing apiece.

Among other teams, regular-season champion Kenny's Boat Landing jumped off to an 8-1 start in post-season play.

Elsewhere, a trio of teams finished their seasons by suffering two losses each, faces that faced Custom Products, Fleetwood Homes, and The Rowdies.

Others on the brink of elimination, meaning those with one loss each, included Brimtons Surgical Center, F&B Weld Drilling, Ben-Ryan Corp., Specialty Wood Products, and Richies Foam Company.

Among the players, a total of seven home runs, all of them the inside-the-park variety, were rapped.

Three teammates off one team, and two players each from a couple of more squads accounted for the dingers.

Those with a post-season home run apiece included F&B's Burn Nantz, Alan Nichols, and Watson Graham, Wades' Todd Burris and Joe Phifer, and Brimtons' Glenn Ferrell and Frank Meadows.

The tournament, sponsored through the Mooresville Recreation Department, is scheduled to run through this week, with games taking place on Monday through Thursday nights.

As the games are being staged on the Moor Park field.

Upon the completion of tournament play, regular-season and post-season team and individual honors will be presented by officials within the recreation department.

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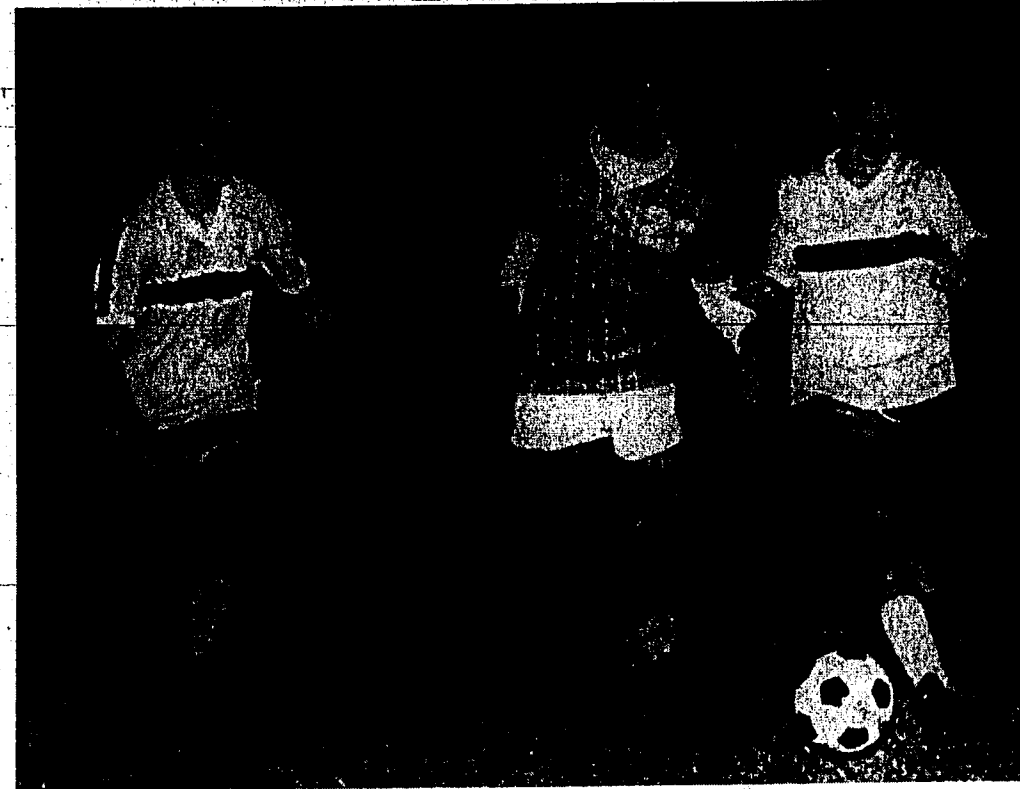
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Devil Mark Lewis Sandwiched Between Vikes Steve Smith, Mike Cummings

Mooresville Maintains Soccer Pace

Conquering teams they're supposed to beat has posed little problem for Mooresville's soccer Blue Devils.

However, getting past those tougher teams has.

It was once again that kind of week within the Foothills Athletic Soccer Conference for first-year head coach Steve Smith's boys, who were tripped up by the current high-rising first place club before they turned the tables and skipped past an opponent ranked below them in the league standings.

Monday night, the Blue Devils quadrupled host North Iredell, 4-1, to maintain their status in the league's upper division.

That decision, though, followed by five days a 3-1 verdict handed down by undefeated and host South Iredell, a defeat that continued Mooresville's inability to register a win over its most fiercest of athletic rivals.

Since the FASC was originated four years ago, South Iredell remains as the only team Mooresville has failed to beat at least once.

As a result of the split week of play, the Devils end their three-match road trip, interrupted only by

an open date, by returning home tonight (Wednesday) with a 5-3 record in the conference and a 5-7-1 record overall.

Against North Iredell Monday, Brad Chappell booted home a pair of winners, and teammates Matt Touchton and James Gallimore

knocked home one apiece, as the visitors completed the season's two-match sweep over the Raiders.

In fact, heading into this evening's match, Mooresville's only defeat in the conference have come to the two teams that rank above in the league standings, namely two to South Iredell and one to runner-up Statesville.

Mooresville goal keeper Jeff Lovett allowed the single goal Monday while registering eight saves, as the Devils enjoyed a near 10-to-one ratio over the hosts in the league standings.

The previous Wednesday night, in the middle of the three straight road games, Mooresville completed its season series with South Iredell by winding up on the short end of the 3-1 stick.

Touchton provided the guests with their only score as he scratched off a penalty kick in the first period that kept Devils within one at in-

termission.

Vikings David Cerwonka, Mark Helmer, and Scott Deese paced the winners with a goal apiece, with Deese and Mike Cummings registering assists.

In the net, Lovett was pelted with 20 shots at goal, saving all but the net-finding three, while South keeper Jackie Wallace recorded nine saves among the 10 Devils shots.

Mooresville returns home this evening to entertain Wilkes Central, whose Eagles have already fallen victim to the Blue Devils attack once this season.

Mooresville needs a win over Wilkes to keep alive its hopes for a possible post-season bid, as the Devils continue to battle Statesville's Greyhounds for that second-place spot.

The league's first and second-place regular season finishers earn the right to advance into the 3A-4A soccer playoffs, which get underway in mid-November, and South Iredell is all but assured of pocketing one of them.

This evening's match is slated to get underway on the field behind Mooresville Senior High beginning at 7 p.m.

Devils Beat Ironmen Again In Homecoming Bout

History may have a way of repeating itself, but Mooresville found a way to prevent it Friday night.

Entertaining Cherryville in a Southern District VII Conference match-up last weekend, Senior High scored with 25 seconds remaining to overcome a pair of crucial break-

downs by its specialty teams and prevented the Ironmen from doing to the Blue Devils what the latter did to the former almost precisely a year ago with a 21-14 victory.

The triumph brought a successful climax to annual Homecoming Week at the host school, and it enabled the Devils to register their second straight homecoming win over Cherryville.

The favorable verdict, which was preceded by a large tailgating party on the part of the home team faithful, pushes Mooresville to the 4-3 level overall, giving it twice the number of wins secured all last season, and evened the team's SD-7 record at 2-2 heading into a vital stretch of league play.

As for Cherryville, the Ironmen dropped to 1-6 overall and remained winless, at 0-4, in the conference.

Just about a year ago to the day, Mooresville visited Cherryville in what was the homecoming tie for the Ironmen, and it was Mooresville that spoiled that ceremony with a 21-6 triumph.

Friday, the Devils weren't about to try fitting on the other shoe, although there was some doubt as to whether that issue would be settled in regulation play.

Mooresville was less than a minute away from being involved in its third overtime session of the season, with both of the other two resulting in home field wins, before freshman fullback John Pinkston wrestled with Ironmen tacklers the necessary nine yards he needed to reach the endzone to account for the winning score with those 25 ticks left to play.

"Anytime you come to a Mooresville home game," kidded Steve Young, "you can expect an exciting ball game. We've had two overtime games here and now this one is decided in the final seconds. We don't plan them that way, but as long as we wind up on top, we'll take them. Seriously though, it really should have never been that close. Our defense, for all practical purposes, recorded a shutout. They scored off two mistakes by our punting team, and that's what made it as close as it was."

Mooresville began its eventual winning drive just as the Cherryville side of midfield with right at three minutes left to play.

The Devils almost didn't need to score on that final drive, as a just-missed field goal by senior place-kicker Frank Matthews barely flew off target to end the hosts' previous possession.

While the offense came through when it had to, it shouldn't have even needed to score as far as the defense is concerned. Mooresville's defenders limited the guests to less than 100 total yards of offense and kept the Cherryville offense from reaching the end zone.

In fact, the Ironmen's most successful weapon of the night was their punt-blocking ability, as both Cherryville scores came as the direct result of blocking a Ron Carroll punt and then recovering the loose ball in the Mooresville scoring zone.

"We missed some blocking assignments on one of those blocked punts," revealed Young, "and their came about because of a bad snap. These are things you really can't prepare for. We didn't let them get us down, though. We were able to come right back after both of those mistakes."

Mooresville's main weapon was once again the pass, as the Devils remain the most air-oriented team in a run-filled conference.

Devil quarterback Chris Sherrill aired it out 25 times, and completed 10 of them for 175 yards and a touchdown. Anthony Harper was the top target, as he snared seven passes for 120 yards and the score, while John Alexander caught a pair for 35 yards. On the ground, the hosts rumbled for 102 yards, with fullbacks John Linker and Pinkston combining for 76 and fullback Tommy Blakeney adding 25 more.

After a scoreless first period, Mooresville scored the only points of the first half when Sherrill spotted Harper open on a flare pattern and hit him with a 13-yard TD pass. Matthews' point-blank kick pumped the lead to 7-0, which stood at intermission.

Mooresville's first possession of the third period ended on the first of the two blocked punts, which enabled the guests to knot the score.

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