

## Imps, Parents Share 'Day' Success

On what was billed as "Parent's Day," the Red Imps had quite a day of their own.

Members of Mooreville Junior High's seventh and eighth grade football team celebrated their second home appearance of the season, and of only three all year, by honoring their parents during a halftime ceremony and gracing them with a 33-6 shelling of visiting non-conference opponent Hibernian Junior High Wednesday evening.

The Imps, making the final showing of the season against a non-Bi-County Conference foe, battled back from a halftime deficit for a second straight week and led the issue with a 21-point fourth-quarter flurry that preserved their unbeaten home field winning streak and prolonged their current winning spree to two straight.

With the win, Junior High is now 3-1 overall, and the Imps remain at 2-0 in the BCC heading into the vital home stretch of league play.

"This is kind of our way of saying 'Thank you' to all the parents," stressed Joe Pinyan, Mooreville's first-season head coach, who has shown us so much support all season. We'd like them all to know just how much we appreciate it. There's no way we can tell each and every one of them, so we're doing it today. We are pleased that we were able to put on this kind of a show in this particular game."

But Pinyan, as well as those parents in attendance, were beginning to wonder when, or perhaps even if, the show was going to start.

The Imps managed but a second-quarter score and trailed, 6-6, in the locker room at the half.

But, following the recognition of parents that highlighted the mid-game break, the hosts jumped ahead to stay with a touchdown in the third period and then registered the trio of insurance tallies in the final stanza to reach the final winning margin of 23 points.

"We made some adjustments, mainly on defense, at the half," Pinyan offered, "and they worked. They did some things on offense that we were totally unprepared for. You have to give the guys a lot of credit. We threw some new things at them at the half, and they responded as though they had been doing them all year. It was our defense in the second half that made the difference."

That defense, which was on the field for all but 10 plays in the first half, checked the guests in the second half, holding them scoreless while the offense awakened and



In An Often-Repeated Scene, Connor Pulls Away From Lunging Pursuit

sized command.

Captaining that effort once again was running back DeComba Connor, who rushed for over 100 yards for a fourth straight game, and cracked the 500-yard barrier for the season, with 107 yards on a dozen carries. Among those totes were two that wound up as touchdowns.

Ronnie Duquette, week-by-week becoming more than just Connor's backfield sidekick, added 68 yards on just 10 carries, and he, too, logged the football a couple of times into the Hibernian scoring zone.

After Hibernian tallied first in the opening period, Duquette pulled the hosts to within a couple of points just to stay with a touchdown in the third period and then registered the trio of insurance tallies in the final stanza to reach the final winning margin of 23 points.

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offense, and it was the defense's turn to contribute, as linebacker Mac Guin-batted a Hibernian pass in the air, grabbed on to it with one hand, and then returned it 45 yards for a score. Stuts then ended the point making with his third PAT boot of the game.

It marked the second straight time that Mooreville overcame a somewhat sluggish first half with a near perfect second half to battle from behind and snare a win.

I really hope we're not becoming a second half team," shrugged Pinyan, whose team turned in a similar effort against conference foe Lincolnton the Wednesday

week, an effort that rewards him with the \$12 weekly cash grand prize.

The battle for second and third place, the final two cash-paying spots, was determined through the use of not one but both tie-breakers set up for just such a close-knot competition.

Both Elton Overcash and Jimmy Lewis were among the five copot's entries who missed a single game last week.

In the first tie-breaker, that of using the combatant's total point

before. "We've got to be able to start playing right from the start. We've got two big games ahead of us, and we can't afford to tie ourselves any holes in either of them."

The first of those "big games" takes place this Wednesday afternoon when the Red Imps visit BCC enemy East Lincoln for a 4:30 encounter.

A win there would then set the stage for an even bigger outing, as Junior High is scheduled to host current league-leading and unbeaten Statesville Junior High Oct. 28 in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Steve Jones of Mooreville landed membership into the elite Mooreville Tribune high school and football contest circle the old-fashioned way.

He earned it. The 829 East Ireddell Avenue resident did so by becoming the third contestant this season to turn in a perfect weekly report card involving games featured in this weekly newspaper's most recent contest.

Jones was perfect in picking the outcome of all 12 games featured last week. Though the third person to do so this season, he was the only one without a blemish this past

## Unbeaten North, Challenging South Earn FAC's Shifting Grid Spotlight

The spotlight shining on Foothills Athletic Conference football has shifted from the West to the North, but it's not for the challenge from the South.

North Ireddell has taken the lead held all last year by West Ireddell and run with it this season, as the Raiders became one of four FAC winners from last week's action and remain as the four-year-old 3A circuit's lone undefeated squad.

But don't count out South Ireddell, as the Vikings also connected with a winning blow last week, albeit one that knocked out a non-conference opponent, and continue to boast of a campaign blemished only by a loss to the state's fourth-ranked 3A team, according to the Associated Press.

And it will be those two who will square off in this weekend's headline attraction, one that once again finds all seven FAC teams on the field.

South Ireddell and North Ireddell meet head-to-head this week to determine which one of them will remain as the only one undefeated in league play.

They each represent a huge part of the league's overall success to date, as North Ireddell carries with it the state's eighth 3A ranking while South Ireddell will be defending its 10th ranking in the same poll.

Both the Raiders and the Vikings were among the group of four league winners from last week's action, being joined in that circle by North Surry and Wilkes Central.

But with the wins come the losses, and the latter were suffered by league members Statesville, West Ireddell and Forbush, while outside challenger Providence Day also

tasted defeat at the hands of a FAC member.

This week, in addition to the conference's headline attraction at North Ireddell, North Surry travels to Statesville, Wilkes Central calls on West Ireddell and Forbush hosts non-conference foe East Surry.

Last Friday night, North Ireddell took a huge step towards its first FAC championship by trouncing annual force Statesville, 38-7, on the Greyhounds' home field in a meeting between two of the circuit's hottest teams.

With the win, the Raiders extended their league-best winning streak to seven games, moving to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the FAC. The loss halted Statesville's four-game victorious string, as the Hounds fell to 4-4 and 3-1, respectively.

South Ireddell received the offensive challenge it expected when celebrating homecoming with the date against non-conference member Providence Day, whose Chargers presented a better than 30 points per game scoring average in this the season that marks their defense of the state independent class title. The Vikings showed some offensive explosiveness of their own in taking the decision, 37-24.

The win heightened South's overall record to 8-1, with that loss coming via a 6-0 count against fourth-ranked Central Cabarrus, and the Vikes remain at 3-0 in league play. As for Providence Day, it fell to 4-2.

Wilkes Central matched North Ireddell for the weekend's scoring honors, and it earned the widest winning margin award for Friday night, with a 38-6 grounding of

visiting Forbush. The match provided a duel between backs, with the Eagles battling the Raiders, and the Devils made sure it was even a longer ride back home.

The Lady Devils, sporting an unblemished regular-season record that enabled them to fly the Rocky River-Southern District VII Conference championship banner, entertained the Union Grove High School Lady Vikings of the Central Tar Heel Conference in the opening-round battle Thursday night in the Mooreville Senior High gym.

And it was the hostesses who zoomed out to a two-game lead and then coasted to the 3-1 advantage in games to move into this week's second round of statewide post-season play.

The Devils, celebrating their return to conference affiliation after three years of playing as an independent by capturing the RR-SIX pennant, battled from behind to win games one and two by identical, 15-13 scores over the second-place CTHC finishers before reversing that trend and losing by the 13-15 tally in game three.

Mooreville then proved its worth, and lived up to its higher billing, by hammering out a 15-3, substitute-free decision in the fourth, and final, game.

"This is just great," beamed Nancy Dilks, seasoned head coach of the Devils, who doesn't know quite how to act while preparing her squad for second-round play. "Before I go any farther, I must say how much we appreciate the efforts of Coach (Steve) Young (Mooreville's fifth-season athletic director). He was the one who got us in a conference. There wouldn't have been any room for us in the playoffs if we were still playing as an independent. He deserves a lot of thanks."

"As for the team," continued Dilks, "first of all, I've never had an undefeated team in any sport. Also, I've had teams that have been in the playoffs before, but we've always gotten beat in the first round. This is beyond and above anything we ever expected. It's just great."

Due to its lofty record, which now stands at 19-0 overall, Mooreville will remain a host team for as long as it continues to prolong its post-season life.

The Lady Devils will once again perform on their home gym floor tomorrow (Thursday) night to fight for the right to move into round three of the four-legged volleyball playoffs.

"This has been a season of breaks going our way," noted Dilks. "Balls we hit that hit the net still go over, while those that other teams hit

## Devilettes Pass 1st-Round Test

It took Mooreville Senior High's first-round opponent in the state 2A high school volleyball playoffs three hours to get here for Thursday night's best-of-five-game match.

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### Houston Spikes Home A Winner At The Net

don't. Now we've got teams coming to our place to play. It just couldn't be set up any nicer. It's always been our goal to be in the playoffs, and at home, and that works even more in your favor in the playoffs. If we would have had to drive three hours and then spend about 10 minutes warming up, I'm sure it would have been a different story."

But this is one that features a happy ending for Mooreville faithful, as the Devilettes overcame early-match litters and first-round nerves to battle back from a 2-2 deficit in game one, thanks mainly to a five-point run, including one ace, during the serving turn of senior co-captain Lorle Key.

Sophomore Wendy Frye, a setter by trade, added three service points to key the 15-13 win.

In the deciding game, a balanced attack spearheaded the winners, as Valerie Waugh pocketed four service points, three of them with aces, while Cindy Key unloaded a pair of untouched serves.

In the game Mooreville lost, Valerie Waugh pocketed four service points, three of them with aces, while Cindy Key unloaded a pair of untouched serves.

Except for that final game, throughout the playoff match, and continuing a trend followed during the season, Dilks substituted freely, playing as many as 10 players per game.

"That's one of the pluses of this team," revealed Dilks. "They are so flexible. In the past, when I've put substitutes, the team hasn't been able to adjust right away on the court. These girls never miss a beat. The keys to playing well, particularly at this point, are being able to settle down early and making the proper adjustments. We were able to do just that."

And because they were, the Devilettes, already the most successful volleyball team in the school's history, now move into this week's second round.

Mooreville will once again be serving as the hostessing team for a second-round postseason match tomorrow (Thursday) night in the school gym.

As required by North Carolina High School Athletic Association, a \$2 per-person admission fee will be charged, as Senior High and it's opponent, which wasn't determined until late Tuesday night, will split the gate receipts.

Should the Lady Devils advance past the second round, round three will also be played here, with that winner earning the right to fight for the state 2A volleyball crown.

## JV Vikes Whitewash Blue Devils

Although it was a rare mid-season, non-conference game, it was merely another night on the field for South Ireddell High School's junior varsity football team.

And the Jayvee Vikings responded much as they have throughout the entire season, using a pair of fourth-quarter scoring plays and relying again on a stingy, wire-to-wire defensive effort to record a 14-0 triumph over host Maiden Thursday night.

The contest came during a week of non-league activity for the Foothills Athletic Conference member, as the school's varsity squad also ventured outside the circuit for competition the following night.

Thursday night's shutout, which continued a torrid six-game display on the part of the Baby Vikes' first defensive unit, was the first of a two-night, non-conference sweep, as the varsity Vikes emerged victorious in an offense-filled, 37-24 downing of visiting Providence Day Friday night.

The Jayvees helped successfully

kick off homecoming weekend at South Ireddell, as they emerged from a scoreless tie after three quarters to push across the game's only points within a 10-minute span in the fourth period and register their third shutout of the season.

In the past six games, including Thursday's blank job, the starting defensive unit has not allowed a score of any kind. The only points registered by opponents during that span has come off offensive team turnovers or against second team defensive personnel.

"Our defense is really getting the job done," declared Ron Shepherd, a varsity assistant who mans the Jayvee controls. "The play of our defense has been a pleasant surprise. It is keeping us in the games until our offense can score some points. Sooner or later, we feel we're going to do that. It was later against Maiden, but it was enough."

Enough, indeed. After three full periods of scorelessness, the Vikes broke the

Joe five seconds into the final stanza, when Ronnie Eckles tucked away a 10-yard pass from quarterback Trey Cutrell for the initial touchdown of the game. The conversion attempt on the point after failed, leaving South Ireddell as 6-0 leaders with 11:55 left in the game.

Following a couple of possession exchanges, the guests settled the issue at the 2:10 mark of the game, when Tountant Clark darted into the Blue Devil end zone from 20 yards away. Again, the conversion attempt failed, but the game was safely tucked in South's favor.

For the game, the winners ran freely on the ground, rushing for 265 yards, and they added 36 yards through the air on four-of-nine passing.

Halfback Clark paved the way with his 111 yards on 17 carries, while fullback Mike White added 98 yards. White also snared a couple of passes, good for 21 yards, while Eckles caught the TD spiral and Clark received the other stipulation. The Baby Viking defense stymied

Maiden, a member of the Southern District VII Conference with a rich history of football success, limiting it to 78 yards rushing and 20 yards passing.

While doubling as a free safety, snatched an interception and also collected a fumble recovery to lead the defense, which was also aided by Clark, Andy Crane, and Scott Stewart.

Once again, punter Chris Brown emerged as a vital weapon for the Jayvees, as he averaged nearly 50 yards per punt while constantly putting the Blue Devils in poor field position.

With the win, the Vikes improved their record to 6-1 overall, and they remain at the co-leading 3-0 level within the FAC heading into this week's action.

Tomorrow (Thursday) night, the Baby Vikes resume league activity by playing host to the Baby Raiders of North Ireddell.

Game time in Viking Valley is set for 7 p.m.

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