

Larry Sullivan's

## SPORT SIDE

## A Not-So-Classic Classic Finish

Touching All The Bases: Sunday night saw the conclusion of this year's World Series, otherwise known as the Fall Classic. And while it is good for baseball in general that the host Minnesota Twins were able to starve off the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh and deciding game with a 4-2 victory, it was the umpiring that seemed to take the attention away from the players.

It has been said that, when it comes to all sports, umpires and referees are at their best when they're not even noticed. That being the case, then Sunday's night crew was far from being at their best.

For the first time in memory, a number of questionable calls took place during the game, ones that were obviously wrong based on the instant replays. This is far from being the rule during major league games, particularly those of such magnitude as the seventh and final game of the World Series. As I sit here on Monday morning, I can recall three situations during which the wrong calls were made. The Twins' Don Baylor was definitely safe at home. Just as equally was Cardinal Tommy Herr not out at first as he raced back after eluding a pick-off pickle. On the other end of the spectrum, Minnesota's Greg Gagne was a sure out at first base. There may have been more. The point here is that these kind of mistakes in a game this big should not have been made in the first place.

You may be sitting there and thinking this is a plug for the use of instant replay in baseball. And you may be right. Maybe not so much during the regular season, but maybe so during the playoffs and World Series.

I've spent my share of days as a baseball umpire, and I have no ill feelings against such a procedure. I realize, though, that there is the ego factor involved among baseball's men in blue. NFL referees have accepted it, though, and use of instant replay has had little if any effect on that game.

In sport where men make their living, the best policy is to provide for the best way of judging such contests. Anytime you have humans involved, you're going to have human error. Instant replay is a way to help correct it. It's something to think about. As evidence, one needs only to look back as far as Sunday night for a not-so-classic finish to this year's Fall Classic.

Another World Series Note: No, I haven't forgot that I was among those to side with the Twins way back when as this year's baseball world champions. Okay, so I figured they'd win it in six. So I was a game off. Big deal.

The big deal here is that I was right, period. The Twins pulled it off, making series history by winning all of their home games and losing all of their road bouts. They even had to come back to complete their feat after taking a quick, two-game lead.

Perhaps I'm making a comeback of my own. It's still too early to tell.

Don't Blame The Pirates: This isn't a matter of crying still more over spilled milk. The annual football series between East Carolina University and North Carolina State has been cancelled for at least a year and perhaps forever, and all because of the senseless destruction to both property and bodies that took place after the Pirates thoroughly whipped the Wolfpack in Raleigh earlier this year.

At the time, most if not all of the blame for the disastrous results of the post-game celebration was placed on ECU. More than likely, members of the alma matter there were in on

more than their share of the goings on. However, let it show on the record that an ECU student was not the one blamed for striking a security officer. A Cary resident was charged with the attack.

Odds are, if the incident were to be looked into even deeper, it would be revealed that just as many non-ECU faithful were just as responsible as those who do call Greenville home for now.

I sincerely hate to keep recalling the scenario at all. Hopefully, the clash between the two reached its peak, and they can resume their annual rivalry beginning with the 1989 season. It's a game that neither of them would like to see come to a permanent end.

**A Personal Perch For Pearson:** Back in the mid 1960s, Mooreville was known just as much for its football coach as it was for its football. Perry Pearson was the man in charge at the time, and he was the one who helped put the Blue Devils on the football map.

Now, it seems that our Devils have repaid their former coach. Pearson, still in the craft but now doing so as the head coach at East Forsyth, is the fourth winningest active high school coach in North Carolina, according to the N.C. High School Athletic Association that specializes in keeping tabs on such matters.

Pearson has compiled an overall career record of 210 wins and 90 losses, more of the former and few of the latter coming during his tenure here. That puts him fourth on the state's active list. Leading the way is Red Springs' Clyde Parrish, whose record stands at 244-89-16.

Congratulations Coach Pearson, you couldn't have done it without us.

**Wildcats Win, Wildcats Win:** Where's Harry Carey when you need him.

Davidson College sure could have used him Saturday. Davidson's football Wildcats, mired in a losing streak that dated back over the past two seasons, stopped it at 18 straight with a 10-0 whipping of home-standing Wofford Saturday afternoon.

Davidson, just up the street and one of the few Division I-A schools that award athletic scholarships on a need basis only, is in its first season as a football-playing member of the Colonial League, joining other schools that also hand out scholarships based only on need. Prior to Saturday's non-conference game, that plan still hadn't worked, as the Wildcats suffered defeats to several of those same-situation teams in head-to-head duels this year.

But Saturday dawned a new day at Davidson. All it needed was talk to stop concerning the dreaded streak. Now it has. The team is loaded with under-class talent this season, and coach Vic Gatto is determined enough to make his system work.

**Music To Make The Playoffs By:** The high school football season enters its next-to-the-last weekend of regular play Friday, and with it comes a host of games vital to those teams seeking potential postseason berths. Consider it a game of musical chairs, and the music is just about to stop. Which teams land in the available playoff chairs will be determined by the outcomes of the next two games.

Mooreville's shot at a its first playoff spot since joining the Southern District VII Conference was narrowed to between slim and none, if that good, when the Blue Devils bowed to Bandys, 7-6, Friday night.

A win there would have put the Devils in position to fight for one of the three slots open to SD-7 teams. Actually, only one really exists, as unbeaten Newton-Conover and once-beaten Maiden are near locks to sew up one apiece. Bunker Hill, Mooreville's foe this week, has the edge in getting that third berth, but the Bears still have to play Maiden. Bandys kept its outside hopes alive with Friday's win. Senior High has joined forces with West Lincoln, Bessemer City, and Cherryville to serve as stretch-drive spoilers.

The news takes on a different light down at South Iredell. The Vikings, despite suffering a loss Friday, are still very much in the hunt for one of the three postseason bids extended to Foothills Athletic Conference teams. South has a crucial game this week at home against Statesville, whose Greyhounds are assuming the rare role as a spoiler with their playoffs hopes all but flushed away.

South Iredell currently shares second place in the league with Wilkes Central, the team's final Friday night foe, and the Vikings need one more win to virtually assure themselves of prolonging their season one more week.

This is the point in the season most teams have been playing just to get to. The music is slowing, and the number of available chairs is dwindling. The next couple of games will go far in determining which teams will still be in the game when the music stops altogether.

## CC Teams Ready For State Meet

If busy means better, then Mooreville Senior High's cross country teams are definitely on the right track.

The Blue Devils and Devillets competed in a total of three meets within a seven-day span that drew to a close last week, as they continue to prepare themselves for the rapidly-approaching state IA-2A cross country championship in Charlotte.

The state meet is tentatively set to take place Nov. 7.

In Mooreville's most recent running affair, the school featured a pair of individual first-place finishes and a single team title as well. Mooreville was one of the four teams to compete in a running attraction at East Rowan, attending along with fellow visitors Central Cabarrus and West Rowan.

The girls fashioned a first-place finish as a team, as the Devillets finished the top runner overall, the top three in succession, and placed as their runners among the race's top 15.

Monica Teeter turned in the top individual effort with a first-place finish overall. She was followed in second place by Karen Humphrey, with Yoko Blackwelder taking third, Kathryn Teeter placing fifth, Tracy Coran finishing eighth, and Ana Victoria clocking in 15th.

For the boys, they fashioned a team second-place effort behind winner East Rowan.

Terry Gwyn topped the fellows with a first-place finish overall, his first top finish this season. He was followed across the finish line by teammates Chad Moore in fourth overall, Chris Maiz in 11th, Mark Ingram in 18th, Stan Price in 19th, David Neill in 20th, Joe Greene in 22nd, and Mike Hadden in 28th.

## Wades Again Commands Top Billing During Softball's Tournament Time

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Tournament time has become Wades' time.

For the second time in consecutive seasons, Wades Kooker Sales has emerged from a second-place finish during the regular season to capture first-place honors in postseason tournament play.

The most recent display on the part of Wades came just last week, the final one of play within the Men's Fall Open Softball League double-elimination attraction.

Wades, whose two no-shows during the season cost it outright ownership of first place and forced it to settle for a second-place tie, rummaged undefeated through the two-week-long attraction and put the crowning blow on its second straight such achievement with a victory over re-charged Laney's Fish Camp Thursday night.

Wades had also surfaced from a regular-season, second-place finish during the summer softball league to wear the tournament crown in similar, undefeated fashion.

"We wanted to show that when we come to play," noted George Ervin, who served as the team's field manager, "we are the team to beat. We had a little trouble getting enough players to a couple of our games during the season, and it cost us first place. We wanted this to kind of make up for that."

And make up for it they did, as Wades became the only team to earn both a regular-season and postseason award.

Wades finished in a tie with Reddens Chiropactic Center for second-place during the season, as both took a back seat to regular-season champion Kenny's Boat Landing, and then Wades topped Laney's, a second-division finisher during the season, in the first of

## Ervin Holds Team's Regular, Postseason Awards

being eliminated at the hands of Reddens.

Reddens then appeared headed for a final-night duel with Wades until it forgot about Laney's, who upset Reddens using a form that carried it to the regular-season title and tournament runner-up spot during the summer league.

But it was an event that in the end belonged totally to Wades, which prior to the final victory also topped both Reddens and Laney's earlier in the week to become the first team to earn a berth in the finals.

Despite the team's top finish, no Wades player earned any tournament-wide individual honors, which were bestowed upon the event's leading hitter as well as the top home run producer.

The most hits trophy was earned by the Corner Store's Otis Westmoreland, who whacked out a total of 11 safeties during his team's postseason life.

Laney's Danny Hunter was also in double figures in hits, with 10, to finish second in that category.

As for home runs, Reddens' Jeff Sherrill was the only player to connect for more than one round-tripper in the attraction, as he slapped two to pick up the home run trophy.

A number of those four-baggers were pounded out during the final week of play.

Among those being credited for a dinger apiece were Wades' Jerry Wyatt, Joe Phifer, and regular-season home run champion Baxter Burris. Reddens' Kenny Forney and Monte Alley, Kenny's Frankie Thompson and Jamie Hunsucker, Ritchie's Forney's Martin Forney and Johnford Torrence, and The Corner Store's Felix Graham.

The completion of the Fall League Tournament, which was staged on the same Moor Park field that served as the playing site for regular-season action, brings a close to softball action being sponsored this year through the Mooreville Recreation Department.

## Graham Tops Fall League In Hitting

This Dr. Watson found enough clues to enable him to solve the mystery of the missing batting title in the Men's Fall Softball League without requiring the assistance of any Sherlock Holmes.

Actually, it was Watson Graham, the most consistent batter in the F&B Well Drilling line-up who wound up as the league's top regular-season hitter to win the holy contested batting honor.

Of the top 11 batters, they are all separated by less than 100 percentage points, with Graham's league-best average nipping the runner-up's effort by just over 10 percentage points.

Graham fashioned a batting average of .609 during the season to become the only hitter with an above .600 average and capture the batting title. He does so as one of two F&B teammates to finish among the top four hitters in the league.

Three members of Wades Kooker Sales and one player apiece from Fleetwood, Ritchies Foam, Brin-

ton's Surgical Center, The Rowdies, Custom Products and Reddens Chiropactic Center all help round out the league's list of top hitters.

Regular-season batting statistics were compiled by officials representing the league-sponsoring Mooreville Recreation Department.

The batting stats were released the week following the completion of

the league's season-ending, double-elimination tournament.

Postseason accolades were also distributed, as the Corner Store's Otis Westmoreland topped the tourney's most hits award with 11 safeties, while Reddens' Jeff Sherrill belted a pair of homers to lead all hitters in that department.

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**My Fellow Citizens:**

Although I will be unopposed on the ballot in our Nov. 3 municipal election, I do not take lightly the opportunity for continued service on the town board.

I am completing 14 years as a Ward 1 commissioner, and I feel I have learned a great deal during this time. One important lesson is never to take good government for granted. It is a citizen's duty to demand the best of his public servants, and it is the public servant's duty to give his best. When the government and the governed plan and work together, good government results.

I see my duty, and I have the experience and proven leadership to do it. I call upon each of you to see and do your duty next Tuesday, and I ask for your support.

**VOTE GRADY SHOE**

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**

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