

## FAC Pockets A Pair Of Wins On Opening Night

Though far from a dud, the Football Athletic Conference's opening-night party also fell short of being a total success.

Instead, with five of the league's seven charter members attending, the first Friday night of the 1987 high school football season finished somewhere in between for the three-year-old league, with the circuit failing to be shutout in victories altogether but still finishing with more losses than wins.

Of those five faces making their debuts, two of them collected triumphs, with one of them being

forced into an extra session before doing so.

Elsewhere, the news was less comforting, as the remaining three teams to fly the FAC flag lowered their half-mast after each fell in defeat.

As a result, all seven teams will be in action this Labor Day weekend, each of them attempting to do their part to better the league's 2-3 showing to date.

Of last week's two victors, the homecoming Eagles of Wilkes Central, 1-0, were the most impressive, as they cornered a 24-12

doubling of intra-county rival West Wilkes.

The win successfully kicked off Wilkes' season.

Another team to pocket a win in its initial try was the Raiders of North Iredell, even though it took play beyond regulation to secure it. After finishing the game knotted at seven, the visiting Raiders, now 1-0, bowed the extra-session field goal to nip host Starmount, 10-7.

Despite suffering the losses leaguewide, the league battled tough, as all came by but a combined total of 10 points, with a pair of teams losing by only a safety's margin.

One of them was West Iredell's 0-1 Warriors, last year's FAC champions, who had their regular-season streak of consecutive victories stopped at 10 with the 14-12 loss to visiting Alexander Central.

North Surry, also a playoff contender last season, was also a two-point loser, as Winston-Salem Cary Inched past the visiting 0-1 Greyhounds, 9-7.

The league's widest losing margin was administered to Statesville, whose Greyhounds, now 0-1, failed to take advantage of the home field in

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## WHIP To Air Blue Devil, Tiger Tilts

Big time high school, and even bigger time college, football will be broadcast this fall over Mooreville radio station WHIP.

Once again, the station, broadcasting at 13.50 on the AM dial, will maintain its close ties with Senior High varsity football by airing all of the Blue Devil games on a tentative tape-delayed basis the following morning or afternoon.

At the collegiate level, WHIP, which broadcast N.C. State games last year, switches allegiances within the Atlantic Coast Conference and will provide live coverage of the Clemson Tigers.

Two hours later, and live, coverage of Clemson's season opener against Western Carolina University will begin.

Beaver himself will handle the play-by-play duties during the Mooreville games.

For the Clemson coverage, the Tiger team consists of play-by-play announcer Jim Phillips and commentators Tim Bourret and Mike Epley.

The airing times for games involving both teams will differ throughout the season.

For games involving Mooreville, the broadcast schedule looks like this:

Sept. 26: Mooreville vs. West Lincoln, 10 a.m. Oct. 3: Mooreville vs. Newton-Conover, 3 p.m. Oct. 10: Mooreville vs. Cherryville, 10 a.m. Oct. 17: Mooreville vs. Bandys, 10 a.m. Oct. 24: Mooreville vs. Bunker Hill, 10 a.m. Oct. 31: Mooreville vs. Bessemer City, 3:30 p.m. Nov. 7: For Clemson broadcasts, tune into 13.50 at the times and dates for these games:

Clemson vs. West Lincoln, 10 a.m. Oct. 24; Clemson vs. Wake Forest, noon, Oct. 31; Clemson vs. North Carolina, 11:05 a.m. Nov. 7; And Clemson vs. Maryland, 11:05 a.m. Nov. 14.

According to Beaver, there is a possibility that, sometime during the season, WHIP may be granted evening broadcasting status by the FCC.

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Coverage of both cranks up this weekend, according to Hugh Beaver, sports director at the radio station.

Saturday morning, Mooreville's season-opener against visiting Mt. Pleasant will be aired, beginning at 10 o'clock.

Mooreville vs. Mt. Pleasant, 10 a.m. Sept. 5; Mooreville vs. Northwest Cabarrus, 4 p.m. Sept. 12; Mooreville vs. West Rowan, 10 a.m. Sept. 19; Mooreville vs. Maiden, 4 p.m.

## Buccaneers Open Season For Vikings

As of Friday, it's open season for South Iredell.

And the Vikings come out shooting by visiting their annual non-conference opponent, the Buccaneers of independent-class member Charlotte Country Day.

South Iredell's varsity, and junior varsity, football teams christen the 1987 season this week, one Friday later than in the past because of a revamped schedule.

The Vikings and jayvees do their initial tackling against different foes this week, the former doing so against Country Day Friday and the latter visiting Burns one night earlier.

That's the case as the Buccaneers do not field a junior varsity program.

The two sibling clubs will stray away from the same opposition only once more during the season, that coming during Homecoming Week

game, regular-season slate being scheduled by the Football Athletic Conference members.

South Iredell will be entering its third season as a charter member of the FAC.

Back to call the signals for the Vikings is veteran varsity head coach Bill Mayhew, the dean of area coaches in this his 25th season. Mayhew has been at the school as long as it has been the school, and he's the only head coach the Vikings have ever had.

Both teams enjoyed a rare open date this past week, marking the first time that has happened in a number of seasons at South Iredell.

Both clubs observed open dates last week, and they will now be in action for the next 10 straight weeks, beginning with the pre-Labor Day holiday weekend.

In the past, the varsity squad will tackle four non-conference foes, with the other six dates on the 10-

game, regular-season slate being scheduled by the Football Athletic Conference members.

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## SD-7 Teams Taste All Three Of Football's First-Night Dishes

The Southern District VII Conference tasted all three dishes cooked up by high school football on the season's opening night Friday.

Two of the courses were the tried and true of the SD-7's liking, as a pair of conference members feasted on shutout wins.

A third offering was a little more difficult to swallow, as it wound up in a bad aftertaste left in the mouths of another two league members who were dealt defeats in their debuts.

With five of the league's eight members in action on the first weekend of the season, the SD-7 carries

the 2-3-1 showing into this week's play that features all but two of the circuit's gridiron brothers in action.

Most impressive among the two shutouts was Maiden's victory over the Blue Devils, the pre-season choice to take the league's championship flag this season.

Maiden, christening the season as the top-ranked team, the Charlotte Observer's Sweet 16 prep poll, lived up to that pre-season billing by busting visiting St. Stephens, 40-0, running its record to 1-0.

Joining Maiden as not only opening-night winners but also as producers of a shutout was the Red Devils of Newton-Conover, last year's SD-7 champs.

Newton-Conover, also playing at home and also 1-0, slapped a 21-0 decision on Lincolnton, scoring a touchdown and PAT each in the second, third and fourth periods.

As for the homecoming Trojans of Bandys, who joined Newton-Conover and Maiden in making the playoffs last season, they battled incoming East Lincoln to a 6-6 tie, leaving them a 0-0-1 entering this week's play.

Cherryville's Ironmen, who also opened at home, scored a TD each in the first and last quarters, but that wasn't enough to offset a balanced

Fred T. Ford offense that produced points in all but the opening period as the 0-1 hosts suffered the 19-14 defeat.

In the only SD-7 game that took place on the road, Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets used their defense tally all their points in an 18-0 setback delivered by homecoming Kings Mountain. The 0-1 Jackets' only points came on a pair of safeties.

This week, the three teams that were open last week lost three of the five teams that were in action last week in carrying the league's flag into gridiron battle.

Of this week's six games, only two of them will take place on the home field of SD-7 teams.

Bunker Hill's last week, opens its season at home to help kick off the extended Labor Day holiday by entertaining the Warriors of West Iredell.

As for Newton-Conover, it will look to extend its defensive unit's scores string by also taking to the road for the first time this week's action pitting the Red Devils against East Burke.

Bandys will aim towards getting its first mark in the win column during its first road trip of the season, one that will take the Trojans to the home stomping ground of the St. Stephens Indians.

West Lincoln, whose Rebels also sat out last week's schedule, makes its seasonal debut at Lincolnton, whose Wolves are already on the prowl after suffering the whitewash at SD-7 member Newton-Conover last week.

## Softball Survivors Dwindle

The list of teams surviving with unbeaten records within the Men's Fall Softball League was narrowed to two following the second full week of regular-season play.

Reddens Chloroplastic Center became the first team to reach the four-win plateau and was joined among the ranks of the undefeated by only the Corner Store as the slew of teams head into this final full week of play prior to the Labor Day holiday break.

All 14 of the league members have played at least three games during the first two weeks of play, entering this week, just over half of the field feature records at or above the .500 level.

Eight teams sport break-even or better marks, a group of teams

highlighted by 4-0 Reddens and 3-0 Corner Store.

Another two teams share the same, 3-1 ledger, marks identically reached by both Wades Kooker Sales and Ritchies Farm.

Three teams occupy the next level in the standings, all three doing so with the same record: Custom Products, Kenny's Boat Landing, and Laney's Fish Camp all tote 2-1 showings into this week's play.

Rounding out the list of teams staying at or above the water line is Specialty Wood Products, which used a pair of wins to move to 2-2 for the season.

Heading up the list of second division teams is thirteenth of F&B Well Drilling, Ben-Ryan Corp., and the Rowdies, all with the same, 1-2 efforts.

Burlington checks in next with an 0-3 mark, one of three teams yet to pocket a triumph.

The other two are Fleetwood and Brintons Surgical Center, both burdened by the same, 0-4 marks.

Among the surprise and took place during play last week's was Kenny's victory over Laney's, the

Friday's opener kicks off a stretch of three straight non-conference games for the Blue Devils, with both of the other two taking place on the road.

Following visits to Northwest Cabarrus and West Rowan on successive Fridays, Mooreville Senior High's varsity football team kicks off its new life, administering the killing blow to 1986 and giving birth to 1987 in one fell swoosh.

The Blue Devils tee it up for the first time Friday night when they entertain the Mt. Pleasant Tigers of the 2A Rocky River Conference.

It marks the first time ever the two schools have met on the football field.

Mooreville observed its open date last weekend, the first official one of the high school season in North Carolina.

That marked the first time in a number of years, and perhaps ever, that the Devils weren't among the teams helping kick off the new prep season statewide.

But with the arrival of Friday, which itself kicks off the extended Labor Day holiday, Mooreville returns to the gridiron, hoping to make the best of two controlled scrimmages and the extra week of preparation time.

In addition to the season's late arrival, at least as far as the Devils are concerned, there will also be no junior varsity team at the school this season.

Back to guide the Devils from the sidelines will be Steve Young, who is returning for his fifth year. Young will once again be assisted by a number of returning staff members, as well as a full-time newcomer.

Together, they will all attempt to push the right buttons in an attempt to avoid a repeat of last year's showing.

Assisting Young this year are veterans Gary Karkis, Barclay Marsh, Mark Quinn and Preston Harris, with Scott Rydon signing on as the newest assistant.

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