

Blue Devils Shoot Down Falcons Forecond Footry

Several Mooresville players walked off the field Friday night making plans to go down hunting the following morning.

But that was only small talk, because, after all, the Blue Devils had just finished shooting down a high-flying flock of Falcons.

Senior Hugh polished off a three-game, non-conference stand at West Rowan Friday night by spilling their third straight road homecoming party with a 13-7 victory pitched by the offense but definitely saved by the defense.

After falling behind by a touchdown that resulted on West Rowan's initial possession of the game, the guests tallied the game's final two TDs and preserved the precarious winning margin by forcing four turnovers.

As a result, Mooresville, a member of the competitive 2A Southern District VII Conference, improved to 2-1 for the season heading into this week's all-important league opener.

As for the host Falcons, the emotions surrounding their annual homecoming festivities wasn't enough to prevent the 3A South Piedmont Conference members from suffering their second straight loss and slipping to 2-2 overall.

"I feel like it really came down to a matter of which team wanted it

more," summed up Steve Young, Mooresville's fifth-year head coach, "and that team was us. It was really a team effort. We had several players who were hurt and unavailable, and the guys we called on to take their places got the job done. This kind of win says a lot about the character of this team. It is determined to play well."

Mooresville received additional incentive to do just that upon learning that it was West's Homecoming. Last year, both of the Devils' wins during a 2-8 season came at the expense of hosting SD-7 teams that were also celebrating that special game of the year.

The chances of Mooresville protecting that streak appeared jeopardy early, as it entered the game without the services second-year defensive specialist Tod Alexander, who didn't even dress out because of a hand injury, an ankle third-year running back Tommy Blakeney, who re-injured an ankle early in the second half.

"We've got guys who are capable of getting the job done," acknowledged Young, "but it sure would have been a lot nicer knowing Tommy and Tod were out there. It could get worse, too, as the status of both key players was still in question as of midweek with the

Devils preparing to enter league play by hosting highly-touted Maiden, top-ranked in the Charlotte Observer's Sweet 16 poll and positioned third in the Associated Press' state 2A rankings, Friday night.

"We just don't know right now," shrugged Young. "We'll just have to wait and see."

There was plenty of waiting and a lot to see at West Rowan Friday, as the Devils once again turned to the airways with success both before and after the loss of ground workhorse Blakeney.

Mooresville finished with a net total of just 10 yards rushing, with Blakeney still leading the way with his 62 yards and a touchdown. The guests aired it out for 180 yards, with junior quarterback Chris Sherrill connecting on half of his 22 attempts.

Senior split end John Alexander continued in his role as this year's playmaker, as the lanky receiver cradled six series, including strikes covering 67 and 26 yards that each set up a Blue Devils score, for a total of 121 yards.

"We've found some success if passing the ball," noted Young, "and John is a big reason why. He's definitely one of the players we look for when we need something to happen."

After West jumped ahead on its first possession, Mooresville used Alexander's 67-yard reception to set the stage for its tying score. The pass play itself would have done that, as Alexander rushed into the endzone with the catch covering over 80 yards, but it was brought back to the Falcons because of a penalty.

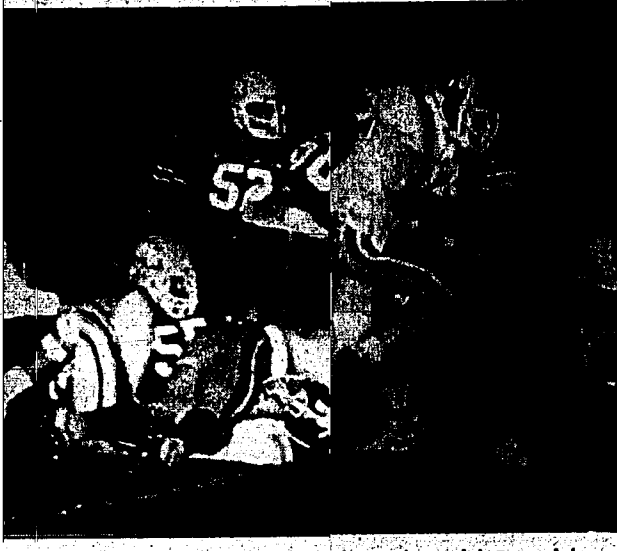
The guests weren't to be denied though, as six plays later Blakeney snaked over from two yards out for his first rushing score of the season. Frank Matthews supplied the point after that knotted the score with five minutes left in the opening period.

The game's final tally came early in the fourth period, and it was again set up by an Alexander catch. This one, on a fourth-down play, covered those 26 yards and wound up at the WR one. From there, fullback Andy Phillips plowed into the endzone.

The dramatics were still there, though, as the PAT was thwarted with a block.

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Phillips Leaves Friends, Fag Mid-Field Rumble

weemes have helped us get ready for Mous week. Maiden is a state membership calibre team, so we're going to have to play our best. totinor offense is going to have to score average points, and our defense has to be able to at least slow them down. I'm rushing and just over that. The turnovers were still there, though, as the PAT was thwarted with a block.

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At Last, ImGet To OpeSeason

They've sat back and watched as high schools and colleges have been at it for going on a month.

They've followed the plights of their favorite pro teams that have done it for the past two weeks.

They've experienced hunger pains while eyeing the early season troubles dumped on Mooresville's Pee Wee and Midget league teams while doing it for a couple of weeks.

And even some of their own opposition has already done it once or twice.

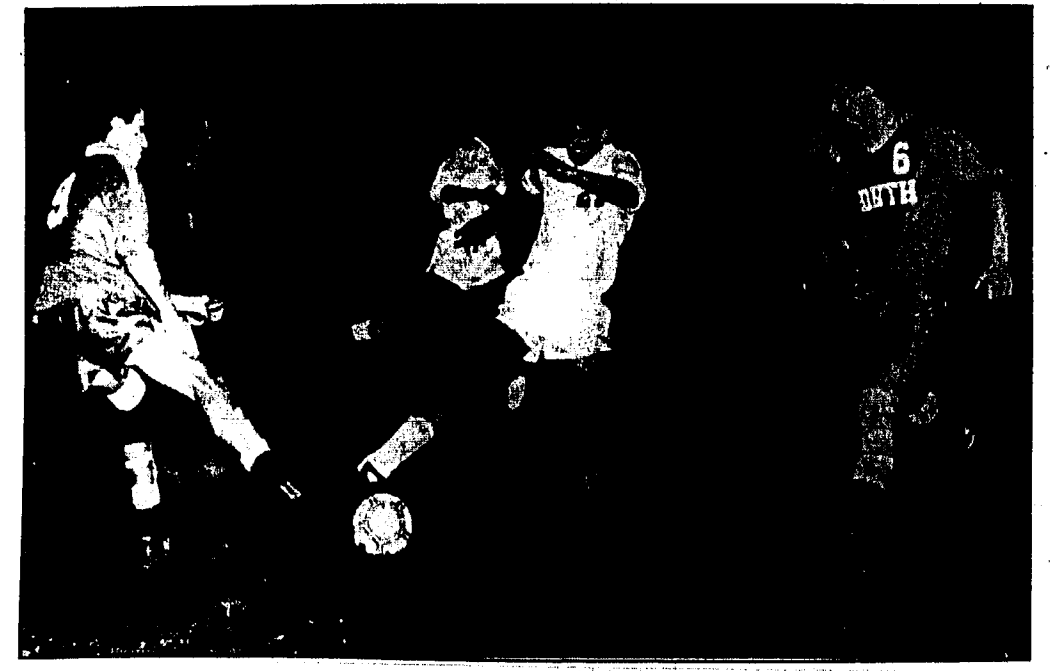
And now, at long last, it's Mooresville Junior High's turn to do it.

What it is, football, and Junior High's Red Imps get in on the long-awaited action as this (Wednesday) afternoon, doing so not only to christen their 1987 season but also by making their home-field debut as well as kicking off their second campaign as members of the Bi-County Conference.

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Devil Touchton Engages In Foot Fight With Vikes Smith, Left, And Weber

South Stays Spotless, Mooresville Winless After Bout Between Them

Two soccer teams traveling in different directions passed each other Monday night.

And neither was forced to re-route its course.

South Iredell visited Mooresville for a Foothills Endite Conference soccer match Monday, the affair between the cross-county rivals serving as the second league outing for the former and the initial one for the latter.

And it was the host Vikings, who entered the match undefeated and virtually untested on the season, who stayed that way, riding a 3-1 half-time lead to a 5-1 victory.

The win pushed South, the FAC's two-time defending champions, to 6-0 for the year, and 2-0 in FAC play.

The Vikings' successfully opened conference play, as expected, with a 10-1 romp past host Wilkes Central last Wednesday night.

As for the host Blue Devils, Monday's loss dropped them to 0-5-1 for the season, and 0-1 in league play. The Vikings' are still looking for that initial win to post for first-year head coach Steve Smith.

In the Devils' final non-conference match a week earlier, they did manage to halt a four-game skid by battling visiting Charlotte Christian to a 1-1 tie.

"South was by far the best team we've played," noted Smith, a Davidson College graduate student.

"We hung right with them, even though the score may not sound like it. We gave them one goal, and they scored two more on penalty kicks. Take those away, and it's only a one-goal difference. We feel like we're playing with them. They're already looking forward to playing them again."

The win by the Vikings, who for the first time in the four-year history

of their soccer program are playing under a second-season coach in Greg Crowley, enabled them to continue their mastery of the Devils.

South Iredell remains the only team in the FAC that Mooresville hasn't been able to beat on the soccer field.

The guests quickly jumped ahead in Monday's match on first-half goals by Chris McKee, Scott Cowan, and Christian Eastman.

Mooresville countered with a single goal in the first half, it coming off the left foot of co-captain Frank Matthews.

In the second half, the hosts were held scoreless by the in-goal efforts of Jackie Wallace, who was credited with 12 saves for the match, while Eastman and Steve Smith booted one winner apiece for the Vikings.

Cowan, last year's conference player of the year and the leading scorer in the league, was also credited with an assist.

South fired 17 shots at Mooresville netman Jeff Lovett, compared to 13 shots at goal for the hosts.

Both teams' first half was the first within a week's time for the visitors, who preceded it with that 10-1 shellacking of host Wilkes Central that opened FAC play last Wednesday and a 4-2 tip verdict over final non-conference foe Kannapolis one night before that.

Against Wilkes Central, the Vikes paraded out to a 6-0 lead, courtesy of two goals from Cowan and one each from David Deese, Mark Heffner, Mike Cummings, and Steve Smith.

In the second half, the action continued to fall in South's favor, as Deese scored the second goal of the night, and Jeff Young, Darren Cook, and David Cook all slipped home a winner.

In improving to 5-0 overall, and getting off to the 1-0 start in the league, South Iredell punished the Eagle goalie with 37 shot attempts and limited the hosts to only seven.

One night earlier against visiting K-Town, the Vikes registered their third shutout of the season with the 4-0 blanketing of the Wonders.

Chris Meredith supplied the hosts' with the match's only first-half goal.

In the second half, Cook scored off an assist provided by Cummings, and Smith rammed home a blocked shot to up the spread to 3-0. Todd Lancaster capped the scoring by nailing a penalty kick attempt into the net.

Once again, South displayed an aggressive attack by more than doubling the number of shots against Kannapolis, 25-12.

As for the Blue Devils, their only good news so far this season came in their final outing prior to league play, when they fashioned the 1-1 tie with visiting Charlotte Christian.

Blue Devil Matt Touchton provided the locals with their only score, it coming in the the first half that gave Mooresville the 1-0 lead at intermission.

Charlotte sneaked in a goal midway the second period, and neither team scratched from there, leaving the final as a dead-end.

This (Wednesday) evening, both teams are slated to return to league duty, with South Iredell making its first conference home appearance of the season by entertaining West Iredell and Mooresville staying at home to host the Raiders of North Iredell.

South will play on the school football field, while Mooresville can be seen playing on the field behind Senior High.

Both matches, like all FAC bouts, feature 7 p.m. starts.

predicted starters on offense for the first time this week, no Imps' first-season head coach, and then seven names appeared one of three newcomers to the list.

The defensive backfield will consist of two fresh faces, those tri-clubbing to Keenan Brandon and Broshon Connor at the corners, and two-way player in Cowan.

It was Frank Drake, the 303 Rebels, who were beaten, 40-12, by another week-end winner of the Rebels, who was also two shy of being a perfect report card and second closest to the top point

"Going into our first game," said Pinyan, who will also be leading his initial contest at the Junior High level following several baccars as a high school varsity footballer, "our strength appears to be on defense. That's where all of our athletes are. We've got to be able to establish our running game on offense to be effective. Our problem is we're with our limited size on the field."

Today's game kicks off a six-week season for the Imps, who follow their Gumbo debut with a pair of road trips before returning home to entertain a flag-conference foe for the first time.

In the 3-1 win over Park Sharron, addition to the Blue Devils, the Rowdies received one goal last week's winners in the apiece from Jeff Case, Brooke Case, and Greg Edwards.

In the day's second match against the Central Cabarrus, South won a strong string team, the event, Statesville, West Lincoln, Wake winners were forced to battle from st. Bucknell, Duke, and one-goal deficit at the half to score late.

In the second half and pocket center page, sponsored by the win.

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