

Volleyball Devilettes Cruising

The Devilettes continue to cruise, but their most troubled waters lie ahead.

Mooreville Senior High's girls volleyball team raised its record for the season to the stellar 14-0 level with a quartet of best-of-three game match sweeps during the past week.

As a result, the Lady Devils find themselves right in the thick of a packed-house run for the Southern District VII-Rocky River Conference title, with a pair of crucial matches on tap that will close out regular-season play during the coming week.

Coach Nancy Dilks' crew collected wins number 13 and 14 in succession at home Monday afternoon, opening the tri-team match with a straight set downing of Charlotte Christian, 15-11 and 15-2, before sidestepping past league opponent West Lincoln also in two games, 15-7, and 15-11.

As a result of that second win, Mooreville is now tied for first place with those four vital conference affairs remaining.

Prior to Thursday's twin wins at home, the Devilettes visited Concord for a pair of non-league bouts last Thursday.

There, Mooreville swiped past the hostessing Lady Spiders, 15-2 and 15-4, and downed the local Lady Patriots from West Rowan, 15-1 and 15-12.

In Monday's opening match against Charlotte Christian, Mooreville collected a 10-1 deficit at one time in the first game before putting together a comeback effort that carried it not only to victory in that first game but also shot it to an easy win in the second game.

Paving the way in the first game was the serving of Michelle Wright, who banged a couple of aces while collecting a total of seven service points. Four more points were scored during the serving tenure of

Windy Frye.

In the second game, Lorie Key wound up with 12 of the 15 service points for the victorious Devilettes.

In the match against league foe West Lincoln, which fell to Mooreville a second time, the winners combined for a total of six aces, with three each being recorded by Jamie Gilbert and Cindy Warren.

Warren picked up 10 service points in the second game, while Gilbert collected seven in the first game. Valerie Waugh also added three service points in game one.

Thursday against Concord, Mooreville allowed only six points while scoring its 30.

In the first game, Key served up three aces and picked up five points, while both Wright and Frye could be the determining match of the season to prove that it wasn't.

And so, after entering last week's action undefeated and with what appeared to be a safe cushion within the Men's Fall Open Football League, Reddens now takes a once-broken record and a precarious home cushion into this week's battles.

Against West Rowan, Wright was the top serving gun, picking up a pair of ace while scoring 10 points in the first game.

In the second bout, Key served for six winners, and Gilbert collected four more.

Mooreville eyes its first ever SDV-RRC volleyball title this week by taking part in a pair of league outings, the second of them scheduled to be held at the school. Tomorrow (Thursday), the Devilettes visit Monroe for a match with host Piedmont and Charlotte Catholic, both of whom are members of the conference.

The following Monday, in what could be the determining match of the season for the teams involved, Mooreville will host Monroe Parkwood and Charlotte Catholic in a crucial three-team match.

That affair will get underway at 4

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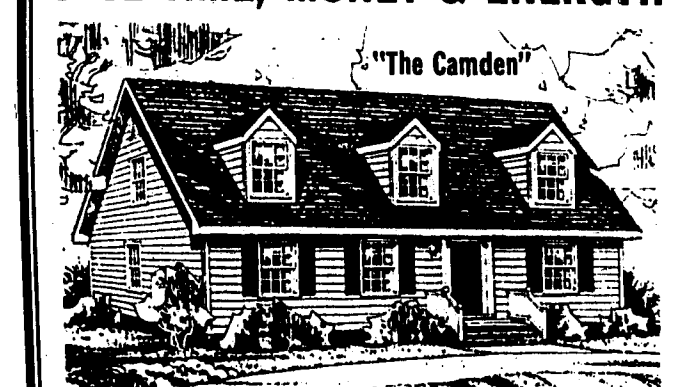
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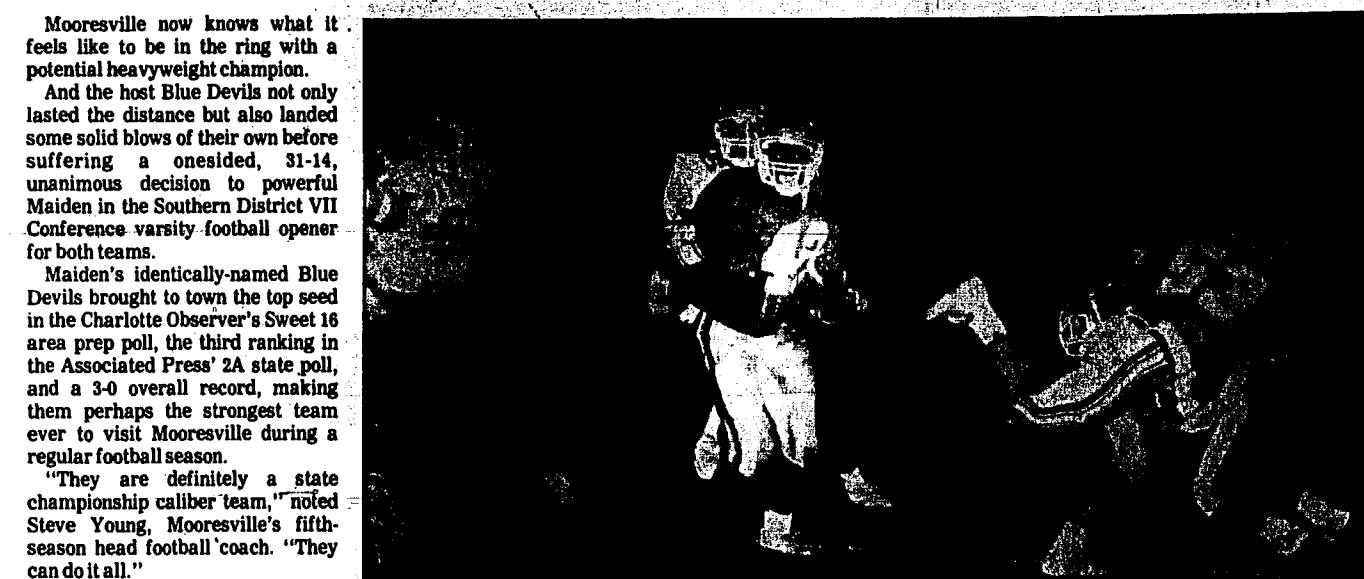
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Heavyweight Maiden KO's Mooreville



Mooreville now knows what it feels like to be in the ring with a potential heavyweight champion.

And the host Blue Devils not only lasted the distance but also landed some solid blows of their own before suffering a one-sided, 31-14, unanimous decision to powerful Maiden in the Southern District VII Conference varsity football opener for both teams.

Maiden's identically-named Blue Devils brought to town the top seed in the Charlotte Observer's Sweet 16 area prep poll, the third ranking in the Associated Press' 2A state poll, and a 3-0 overall record, making them perhaps the strongest team ever to visit Mooreville during a regular football season.

"They are definitely a state championship caliber team," noted Steve Young, Mooreville's fifth season head football coach. "They can do it all."

And the hosts, coming off a victory at West Rowan that pushed their record to 3-0, failed to run for cover against their highly-favored guests, playing them on even terms through one quarter and looking at but a two-point deficit at the half.

But the second half told the story of Maiden's talented lot this season, as the guests took on one touchdown and a two-point conversion in the third period and then kicked the winning 37-yard field goal to take a 14-0 lead with 1:40 left in the final 12 minutes of play.

As a result, Maiden, the predicted winner of this season's SDV-RRC football title, improved to 4-0 overall, and 1-0 in league play, while the hosts the Devils back to 3-0, at 2-2, and off to an 0-1 beginning in the conference.

Maiden's potent ground attack was in full force Friday, as the guests rushed for gain at 300 yards, compared to just under 50 for the hosts. Most of Maiden's 16 first downs were picked up on the ground, while Mooreville was held to two firsts. Through the air, Mooreville championed that attack, picking up 89 yards to 71 for the visitors.

The winners were paced in the game by Robbie Holloway, who rushed for 153 yards, and Derrick Ikard, who picked up 101 more. Together, those two accounted for four touchdowns and a pair of conversion runs.

As for the hosts, their attack was spearheaded by senior wide receiver John Alexander, who cradled six passes for 71 yards and a touchdown. Freshman tailback John Pinkston called on due to an injury to regular starter Tommy Blakeney, topped the output on the ground with his 51 yards.

Also as a result of Blakeney's injury, the "battle" of two "run-and-shoot" teams was a bit of a surprise. As noted by WBTV Sundrop Player of the Week never materialized.

Maiden's Holloway, who scored Friday on a run of 72 yards and passed for another covering 30 yards, received the Charlotte television station's coveted award during the first week of the season, while Mooreville's Blakeney was its third weekly winner.

Following that scoreless first period, Maiden scored twice on consecutive possessions, the first time on a 30-yard field goal and the second on a surprise 35-yard pass from one of only three Maiden threw all game, from Holloway to Cary Shook.

Looking at the 9-0 deficit, Mooreville pulled to within a two-run home on its final possession of the first half when senior fullback Andy Phillips bawled over from one yard out. The drive covered 89 yards in four plays, the biggest of them a 37-yard pass play between quarterback Chris Sherrill and Alexander. Frank Matthews' point after kick capped the first half scoring.

Mooreville's defense, which did the same flash the 7-3 marks, a half-notch better in the standings than both F&B Well Drilling and Ritches Foam, each standing at 6-3 prior to this week's action.

The Rowdies, who were the ones responsible for handing previously unbeaten Reddens its last loss last week in the season's largest upset, complete the list of teams playing at the 500 level, doing so exactly at that mark with a 5-0 record.

Heading up the list of second division members is Ben Ryan Corp., at 4-4, followed by Laney's Fish Camp, at 4-4.

Two clubs have manufactured but three wins each, as both Brinton's Surgical Center, at 3-2, and Specialty Wood Working, at 3-3, share that accomplishment.

Still, the league's cellar with a 1-1 record is showing remains Piedmont Wood Homes.

A couple of forfeits marred last week's play, as both Wades, who did by using illegal players, and Laney's turned in non-playing wins for respective opponents Corner Store and F&B Well Drilling.

Players around the league avoid some heavy bats on the Moor Park field, as they combined to swat 15 home runs. All of them were of the inside-the-park variety, as only three league members have managed to club shots beyond the 15-foot high green monster field that at its shortest distance is 310 feet from home plate.

Those bashing homers last week included Custom's Bruce Overcash, George Harper and Shirley Tuch, Laney's Phil Reid, F&B's Scott Robbins, Fleetwood's Paul Leach, Ritchie's Melvin White, the Rowdies' Larry Beaver, Specialty's Jeff Honeycutt and Mark Mohsholder, Ben Ryan's Jerry Holt, Ricky Smith, and Terry Long, and Brinton's Glenn Ferrell and Laney Sloan.

The Men's Open League, sponsored through the Mooreville Recreation Department, plays its games on Monday through Thursday nights, with all of the action being staged on the Moor Park playing field.

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Viking Offense Stars In FAC Win

South Ireddell's offense emerged from the supporting role it had been reduced to playing during the first three weeks of the high school football season and stole the show Friday night.

In keying the Vikings' successful venture into Foothills Athletic Conference play, the Viking offense compiled over 400 total yards and accounted for more points in one game than it had in the previous three combined with a 34-13 rambing past the host Greyhounds of North Surry.

The victory pushed South Ireddell's overall record to 3-1 and, more importantly, enabled the Vikes to jump off to a quick start in their third season of FAC affiliation.

As for North Surry, the Greyhounds slipped below .500, at 2-3 overall, with the 0-1 beginning to their FAC season.

"The offense played well," unhesitatingly noted Mayhew, South Ireddell's veteran head coach. "It was perhaps the best overall offensive showing we've had in quite some while. We had a game plan, and it worked so well."

And for good reason.

South's offense, boosted by the return of all but one of its starting backfield players from last season but basically rebuilt on the line with only one returning starter there, clicked on all cylinders right from the start Friday, racking up a season-high 409 total yards and registering at least one touchdown in each of the four quarters.

"We came out smoking," noted Mayhew of his team's first score that came less than two minutes into the game. "We were able to do just about anything we wanted to do on offense. It takes a lot of pressure off if you when that happens."

Despite the preciseness of its offensive machinery, the South Ireddell defense was handed quite a task in trying to stymie a Greyhound attack spearheaded by quarterback Elder Holder, a big-time college prospect being heavily recruited by a like of North Carolina, North

Carolina's State, Clemson and Virginia.

"You just can't bottle him up," Mayhew shrugged. "He can hurt you in so many ways. I really didn't feel comfortable until we scored that last touchdown in the fourth quarter. I felt like then he wouldn't have enough time to bring his team all the way back. He's a true college prospect."

Judging by their performance in game, the Vikings appeared to have some legitimate prospects of their own.

Junior tailback Omar Lester overcame a finger injury suffered in pre-game warm ups to account for 128 yards on 16 carries and three touchdowns. It was the second time in four games that Lester, a starter last year as a sophomore, broke the 100-yard rushing barrier.

Class and backfield mate Mike Hobbs, at quarterback, enjoyed his finest varsity game ever, as he hit on five of 16 passes for 180 yards and a trio of touchdowns. Hobbs' TD passes covered 61, 42, and 37 yards.

And wide receiver T.J. Davidson, a defensive sparkplug in South's earlier win over West Rowan, this time turned to offense and snared a pair of passes, both of them going for scores, covering 108 yards.

Overall, it was the kind of offensive explosion that has been expected all season by the Vikes, and it's one that makes them one of the favorites to contend for the FAC crown.

"We're delighted with our showing," summed up Mayhew. "This is how we should do it every game. Hopefully, this is a sign of things to come."

South provided a hint as to what laid ahead in the game when it scored the game's first points less than two minutes into the opener period.

It came on the game's fourth play, when Hobbs connected with Davidson for the 42-yard scoring pass play. Toby Woods provided the point after kick, giving the guests the 7-0 lead with 1:40 gone off the clock.

South Ireddell will be looking to avoid a possible letdown when it returns home this weekend to entertain the underdog Falcons of Forbush, who bring to Viking Valley a 1-3 overall record and an 0-3 FAC mark following a 31-0 loss suffered to unbeaten North Ireddell last week.

Game time on the South Ireddell High School field is set for 8 p.m.

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Bakers Aim For 3rd-Generation Status

For two generations, the Baker name has been closely associated with stock car racing.

And it's been a successful one. Showcase of talent, from successful, it could become only the second one extended into three generations in the long and distinguished history of stock car racing.

Buck Baker started it back when racing was "little more than backyard and dirt track" potting, together with "meat, paint and money at stake."

His son, Buddy, proceeded him at the wheel and shot into the limelight during an era when sport of car racing itself jumped from one time to the next, Saturday night tracks into the bright, sunlit days of Sunday afternoon, courtesy of corporate sponsorship and tens of thousands of dollars in prize money.

And now it's time for a third set of Bakers, Buddy's sons Bryan and Brandon, to get their shots at NASCAR Winston Cup competition.

Bryan, at 26, the oldest of the two, first dipped his toes into the fast lane just short this past weekend on the half-mile track in Martinsville, Va., for the running of the Goody's 500.

The Baker-owned Oldsmobile earned a provisional start in the last of the 31st starts, and the entry was piloted by old pro Buddy. Bryan was denied relief driver status because of his lack of driving experience.

The car's relatively new 200-horsepower engine trouble and was knocked from the competition after 30 laps.

Last weekend was the first of two races that will feature attempts by the general public to break into the competitive scene.

This weekend, in North Wilkesboro, 22-year-old Brandon will attempt to earn his first start ever in a Winston Cup race by qualifying for a spot in the Holly Farms 400.

"These are some exciting times around here," quipped Buddy Baker from his racing headquarters in the back of the family garage.

"It's a thrill, for me, to see my sons go after something like this. Racing has been in the blood of my family for so long, and we'd like to keep that relationship going strong."

It was the elder Baker's initial plan to serve, primarily on the pit wheel, a race and the one pointing up.

And even though stage one of that strategy failed in Martinsville, there's still stage two to look forward to this weekend.

By then, passing the qualifying grade on the short track in Martinsville prevented him, temporarily at least, from showcasing his driving talent.

"Buckling is what I want to do," he demanded Thursday morning from inside one of the two new metal buildings that now house the Baker-Schiff Racing Team headquarters. "I'm ready to get on with my career."

'77 Rowdies

Keep On Winning

Except for the names of the opponents, time has stood for the 1977 Reddell Rowdies.

This past weekend, the Rowdies moved past two more select teams to run their record for the season to an unblemished 5-0.

The 77's topped the 78 Asheville Force, 5-1, and then did away with 76 Chapel Hill-Durham, 2-1, for their fourth and fifth straight wins.

In the first match, Asheville scored first five minutes into the game, but it was a goal that tended to wake up the visit Rowdies.

Center halfback Wally Yang started the locals' scoring with a long outside-in pass to the right wing.

Right wing Will Beard then added the second goal off an assist provided by Matt Knorr.

Center forward Jason Dykes scored next after Beard's shot was rejected by the opposing goalie.

Left wing Albert Hernandez ended the first half scoring with a goal set up by a pass from halfback Nicky Best.

Defensive gem Sirron Houpe moved to the center forward position and scored the only goal of the second half off an assist provided by Beard.

Marcus Sanders was also cited for outstanding defensive play.

In the outing against Chapel Hill-Durham, the first half ended in a scoreless draw.

In the second half, Hernandez got the Rowdies on the board early with a goal on an assist from Beard.

Midway through the period, halfback Brian Thompson, launched a towering shot from 30 yards out, which took one bounce over the goalie's head and into the Chapel Hill-Durham net.

CHD ended the game with a goal just seconds before the final whistle to thwart the shutout.

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