



Gallimore Controls Ball And Attentions Of Surrounding Friends And Foes

## With First Postseason Bid Denied, Mooresville Booters Wind Up Third

Mooresville's main opposition was itself in Monday night's varsity soccer season finale.

But the Blue Devils were able to overcome their own bitter disappointment and secure themselves the satisfaction of a winning season with a 3-0 blanking of visiting Salisbury.

That verdict, which allowed the hosts to cap an 8-1 overall season, followed by less than a week the team's most bitter of its four Foothills Athletic Conference defeats, a 2-1 home setback last Wednesday night at Statesville that knocked the locals out of the state postseason picture.

The split week of league play, the final one of the regular season, enables the Devils to finish at the 8-4 mark within the loop, good enough for a third-place finish by itself behind four-time league kingpin South Iredell and runner-up Statesville.

All four of Mooresville's losses in the FASC came to the teams that are now headed for the playoffs, as both the first-place Vikings and second-place Greyhounds edged past the Senior High crew times.

Otherwise within the league, the Devils swept the two-match, home-and-home series with Salisbury, West Iredell, North Iredell, and Wilkes Central to account for their eight wins both overall and within the league.

In the more crucial of the two matches, played last week, Mooresville spotted Statesville a two-goal lead and managed only to cut it in half by game's end to lose all hopes of making its first trip into postseason play.

Statesville, which joins South Iredell as the league's representative in the upcoming state playoffs, clinched a 1-0 lead at the half and built it to 2-0 early in the second period.

Touchee supplied Mooresville's lone goal by slipping home a penalty kick just minutes after Statesville's second goal of the contest.

From that point on, the respective defenses controlled the action.

It was a particularly frustrating outing for the Devils, as they wound up outshooting the Greyhounds, 16-9, and forced the Greyhound goalie to notch eight saves compared to only two for Lovett.

It marked the first time since the season's first game, a 1-0 win over Salisbury, that the Devils were shut out in a league match.

Registering goals for the winners were Walter Borkowsky, James Gallimore and Matt Touchette, the latter doing so with his team-best 17th shot of the campaign.

In goal, Jeff Lovette recorded three saves and notched his second shutout of the season.

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## Young Devils Dumped By Bears, 38-8

Unfortunately, Mooresville's football future isn't now.

And the side effects of that fact were harshly felt during a 38-8 Southern District VII Conference defeat suffered at the hands of playoff-bound Bunker Hill Friday night.

The Blue Devils entered the game without the services of three of its veteran key players, and with a number of freshmen forced to man positions on both offense and defense.

The overall inexperience of the guests coupled with the overwhelming advantage in size enjoyed on the part of the host Bears, combined to spell defeat for Mooresville, which in the process dropped its second straight and fell for the third time in the past four weeks.

As a result, the Devils lost all hopes of fashioning a winning record in the conference, dropping to 2-4 in the circuit with one game remaining.

However, the locals still have a shot at completing a break-even season overall as they take a 4-5 mark into their season finale Friday night.

As for Bunker Hill, the win assured it of joining regular-season champion Newton-Connover and Maiden as the three postseason-bound representatives from the SD-7.

The Bears improved to 6-1 overall, and 5-1 in the league, tying it in both respects with Maiden for the league's second-best marks.

Newton-Connover still commands top billing in the conference with marks of 9-0 and 6-0, respectively.

"Against a team like Bunker Hill," remarked Steve Young, nearing the completion of his fifth season as Mooresville's head coach, "we had to be 100 percent healthy and playing at the top of our game. Well, it didn't work out that way. We were forced to go with some inexperienced players, and they were able to take advantage of that."

And take advantage they did.

The Bears, relying solely on a punishing ground attack, chewed up over 400 total yards, all of it coming via the rush. Of that 427-yard total, 365 of it was collected by the running back tandem of Paul James, with 129, and Austin Roberts, with 126 yards. The Bears, who finished the game with 21 first downs, attempted only five passes all night, the lone completion falling in the hands of Mooresville defensive back sophomore Casey Mott.

Of the five, they were engineered by freshman Nathan White, who was making his first varsity start in place of injured junior Chris Shaw.

Mooresville's offense managed 39 yards on the ground and 30 more through the air, failing to pick up its first first down until midway in the final quarter.

"Considering the situation," stressed Young, "Nathan did a good job for us. We didn't ask him to do the things that we have asked all year of Chris. He's definitely got a bright varsity career ahead of him, but we had to put him on the spot before he was really ready."

In addition to Sherrill, other starters missing Friday's game included senior split end John Alexander, who was limited to only one play before re-injuring a tender ankle, and veteran lineman Chuck Linker.

Underclassmen were called on to replace both. In addition to White, other starting members of the freshman class included running back and return specialist John Pinkston, and lineman Shawn Ramsey.

Bunker Hill made the most of Mooresville's situation early by dominating possession in the first quarter and scoring a touchdown and successful conversion.

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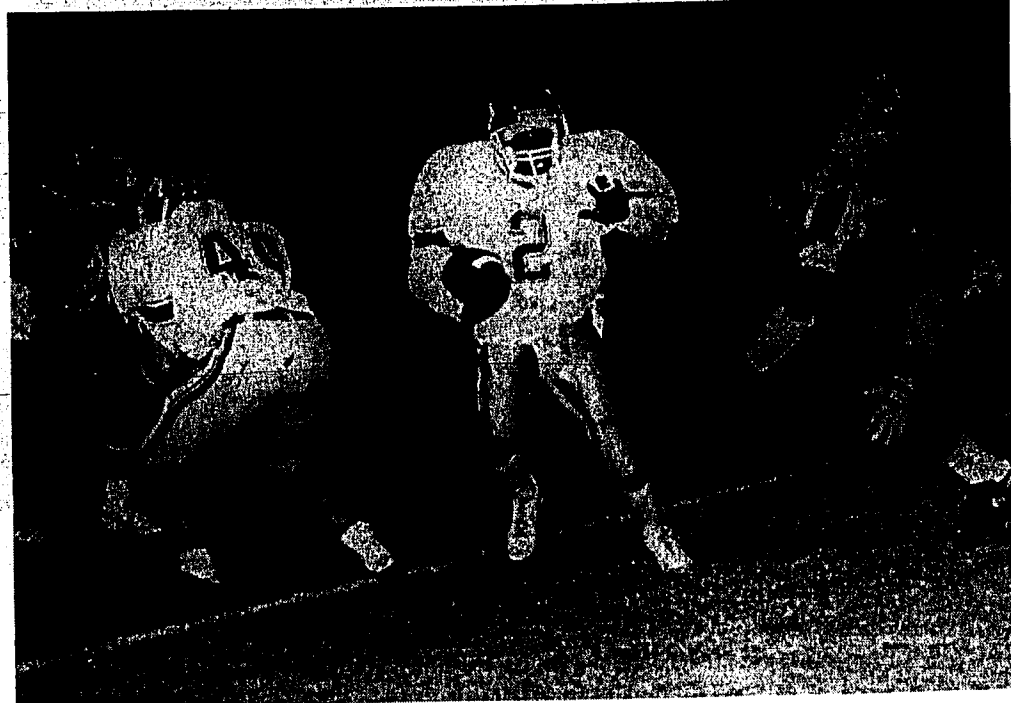
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With Blocking Assistance From Phillips, Harper Cuts Through Gaping Hole

delayed that effort on the ensuing kickoff, as he received the ball at the five, darted left and set sail on a 95-yard return for a touchdown that borders on being one of the longest in school history.

In completing the all-freshman class scoring for Mooresville, quarterback White cut the lead in half by jumping into the end zone on a keeper that accounted for the conversion points.

From there, though, Bunker Hill returned to the team that has made it one of the premier teams in the SD-7 two of the past three seasons, as the Bears retaliated by adding another second period score, on yet another running effort, and then following a scoreless third period, the issue with a couple of six-pointers, and just as many two-point conversions, during the final 12 minutes of play.

"They were just too strong for us," lamented Young. "Their size on the line was too much for us to handle. There may come a day when we'll be able to match up with them, but this wasn't it."

Highlights were few for the victims.

Senior fullback Andy Phillips paced the team in rushing with 28 yards, while Eric Blackwood snared one pass for 15 yards, and Alexander caught one for 11, and Anthony Harper snatched one for four yards.

On defense, in addition to Mott's interception, his third since earning a starting slot in the secondary, Phillips fell on a Bunker Hill fumble.

Tod Alexander, who roams the outfield as a free safety, continued his torrid team-leading tackling pace, as he was in again on a team-leading number to pad his personal average to nearly 17. In addition, he's also pitching in on eight

Among the eight seniors on the 10-member team are a couple of Lady Vikings, both of whom were instrumental in the team's second-place finish in the conference behind league champion Statesville.

South Iredell's Laura Edminston and Cheryl Smith, both completing their high school careers, are among the 10 girls selected to receive all-conference status this year.

In addition to those two from South, and the one from Wilkes Central, three members of the Lady

Greyhounds, and one each from Forbush, North Iredell, North Surry, and West Iredell round out the all-FAC roster.

While Lady Eagle Bumgarner, who lost only two matches all season doubles team, topped the highest honor among the players, Statesville's Wayne Harwell, a former Mooresville Senior High School coach, was selected as the FAC Coach of the Year.

Harwell, a Statesville native and SHS graduate, captures the league's top coaching honor for an unprecedented third straight year.

In addition to South's Edminston and Smith, and Wilkes Central's Bumgarner, other members of the all-FAC tennis team are:

Statesville's Laura McLelland, Kellie Harp, and Danielle Greene; Forbush's Melanie Adams; North Iredell's Heather Boan; West Surry's Sandy Tolbert; and West Iredell's Ann Marie Oliver.

Last year, the duo advanced into the quarter final round of state play, where they were ousted by the eventual state champions in a three-set thriller.

Last week, in the regional semifinals, Mack and Wozny were involved in another nerve tester, one that also went the full three sets before they were eliminated.

However, by making it as far as the semis, the girls earned their third invitation to the state final tournament.

As a doubles team, the two

fashioned an 11-4 record for the season, allowing them to account for one of the few overall highlights during a 2-5 SD-7 season for the Devils.

"On the court," explained Mack as she prepared to board the van and head to Southern Pines Tuesday afternoon, "we pretty much knew what the other can get to. That's because we've been playing together so long. We communicate well, and know where each other will be for every shot."

On the court, Mack and Wozny compliment each other well, each making the most of their solid tennis qualities.

According to Teresa Brewer, the first-year coach of the Lady Devils, Mack's strength is her hustle that enables her to get just about every ball hit, while Wozny's strong point rests in her baseline strokes.

"They have few weaknesses as a team," acknowledged Brewer. "They really play together well. Just how well remains to be seen. The two will crank up play today and will continue to perform until eliminated by a loss."

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tackling assists per outing.

"It's bad to have your safety being your team in tackles," noted Young. "But we're sure glad he's there. He's playing the best football I've seen in quite a while. He's in a position where he chases the ball, and wherever the ball is, he's always right there."

Alexander will be among the seniors playing their final regular-season high school game Friday when Mooresville returns home

after a two-week road trip to entertain Bessemer City in the finale for both teams.

The last two games between the teams have been decided by a total of seven points, with the Yellow Jackets earning their second straight victory in the rain last year.

Game time on the Mooresville Stadium field is set for 8 p.m. Friday.

6-3 overall and 3-2 in all-important circuit play.

The Vikings, whose other two losses were administered by teams ranked among the state's top five 3A teams, must defeat incoming Wilkes

Devilettes Advance To Finals

For the third straight year, the Devils are being represented in the state 1A-2A high school tennis finals.

And for the third straight year, the line two members of Senior High's tennis team are doing the representing.

Senior Mandy Mack and junior Jill Wozny, a dazzling doubles team for the past two seasons, earned their third bid to take part in the state finals after finishing a semifinal finish in last week's regional tournament.

The twosome, representing the only Devilettes to earn all-Southern District VII Conference status for each of the past three seasons, are slated to begin play in the state finals in Southern Pines today (Wednesday) with the hope of making it as far as tomorrow's finals.

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## Loss Puts Vikes In Must-Win Situation

All the combined treats of Halloween couldn't offset the mistreatment South Iredell's football team suffered the night before All Hallows' Eve.

No way.

On a spook-less Friday night in Viking Valley, one that found the hosts playing the rare role of the favorite in their annual match-up against county arch-rival Statesville, it was South Iredell that

dominated the game of a team looking just to salvage a 2-0 season, which is exactly what the Greyhounds did with a surprisingly easy, 35-6 Foothills Athletic Conference win.

"Everything that could go wrong did for us," noted Parker Nicholson, assistant coach to mentor Bill Mayhew who is in charge of the linemen, "and everything that could go right for them did. We had some breaks early, but we couldn't take advantage of them. They made the most of theirs. We thought we were ready to play, but once we stepped out of our locker room, it was like walking in the twilight zone."

Both teams entered the contest knowing that the victor would look up at least a share of second-place in the FAC's final standings and, more importantly, lock their arms on one of the three coveted postseason bids extended to league members.

Upon exiting it, it was Statesville, stung the win to cap a 5-5 season overall, that did the celebrating at South Iredell's expense.

The victory shot the Greyhounds to the 4-2 level in the conference, assuring them of no worse than a pure second place. By virtue of having now won over either of the teams that could wind up tied with them, the Hounds are also guaranteed a first-round playoff bid.

As for the Vikings, who at one time were ranked among the state's top 3A teams by the Associated Press, they are the ones who now find themselves in a must-win situation, Friday's defeat knocked them to

6-3 overall and 3-2 in all-important circuit play.

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Gerald Childress, Greyhound Defender Engage In Ballet For Elusive Ball

Lenster wound up leading the hosts on offense with a game-high, 78-yard rushing effort. Backfield and class mate Ray Gray chipped in with 25 yards. Lenster also caught two of the five Viking completions for 18 yards, second on the team to the 21-yard TD pass Renwick snared.

In what will determine whether or not the Vikings complete play for the 1987 season, South Iredell and Wilkes Central will square off Friday in a game both desperately need.

In short, the winner will prolong its season at least an additional week, and the loser will not.

"We hope that, knowing that," added Nicholson, "the win will give the kids added incentive to play the very best they can. It's not often that a team has something like a playoff spot open to them."

Game time on Viking Valley is set for 8 p.m. Friday.

Statesville's domination on the scoreboard was reflected on the field, where the Hounds rushed for 225 yards, to 110 for the Vikings, and passed for 153, to only 60 for South, and nearly doubled the home team in first downs, 15 to eight.

After a scattershot opening period, Statesville manufactured the first half's only score early in the second quarter.

South Iredell's lone established drive of the first half was thwarted by a fumble at the Statesville 14, the only turnover recorded in the game by either team.

"Neither team really played that well in the first half," noted Nicholson, "but it was like a different Statesville team in the second half."

The guests then took advantage of a late punt play to keep its first drive of the third period alive, one that was climaxed with a 26-yard scoring pass.

Statesville piled on another score in the quarter, it on a short run, and then pushed its advantage to 28-0 on a 33-yard pass connection that came on a fourth down play.

Frustated long enough, the Vikes managed to construct their only scoring march of the game, it covering 61 yards and taking five plays, the biggest of them a 31-yard gallop by junior Omar Lenster. On the fifth, quarterback Mike Hobbs hooked up with Bobby Renwick on a 21-yard TD loss. The Vikes attempt at the two-point conversion was stopped.

Statesville made the most of the remaining five minutes left in the game by producing its fifth touchdown of the night, then holding South Iredell, and finally, running out the clock.

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## Neilson Takes First In Contest

Trouman's C.G. Neilson was the cream of last week's Mooresville Tribune high school and college varsity football Vikings can still earn a slice of it.

The Baby Vikings lost in their bid to secure themselves at least a share of the Foothills Athletic Conference football title after dropping a 20-8 decision to host Statesville Thursday night.

Despite that loss, South's first one in league play, the Baby Vikings can still earn a share of the league's pennant with a win this week.

South Iredell closes out its season by visiting Wilkes Central tomorrow (