

## Whew! South Survives Soccer Scare

Whew! That's the collective sigh of relief you hear originating from the South Iredell varsity soccer camp following their first-round victory in the 1A-2A-3A state playoffs Monday night.

Matched up against a Monroe Parkwood team that featured perhaps the top player in the state and entered Viking Valley with a previous regular-season win over last year's state champion Charlotte Catholic squad, the host Vikings squandered a 3-1 lead built in the second half and were forced into not one but two overtime periods before escaping by a narrow, 4-3 count.

The victory upheld South's record for the season to the 15-1-1 showing, a mark that includes a 10-1-1 showing within the Foothills Athletic Soccer Conference that awarded it second

straight outright possession of the league championship. It's a proud record the three-time FASC kingpins will take into tomorrow's (Thursday's) second-round contest at Charlotte Catholic, whose Cougars advanced with a 2-0 win over Belmont South Point.

That also sets the stage for a rematch of last year's second-round bout, as the CC Cougars eliminated the Vikings in that match that took place at South Iredell last November.

Charlotte Catholic, the regular-season champion of the Rocky River 2A Conference that also features Parkwood as a member, used that win to propel it into the state finals, which it eventually won to serve as North Carolina High School Athletic Association champions.

In the delayed first-round bout Monday, postponed from the

previous Thursday because of a tie in the RRC that forced a secret vote on the part of that league's head coaches to determine which of the three teams that finished behind Charlotte Catholic in the final standings would join the Cougars in postseason play, the hosts enjoyed a 2-0 advantage at the half and looked at a 3-1 cushion midway the second period.

But Parkwood's Rebels took advantage of some uncharacteristically sluggish play on the part of the Vikings to register consecutive goals during the remainder of regulation play, which ended in a 3-3 tie, to force the overtime periods.

Neither team solved the other's defensive strategy in the first extra period, and the second appeared headed for the same destiny before South Iredell broke free to advance beyond first round play for the se-

cond straight year. With the Rebels understandably paying extra attention to South Iredell's career goal-scoring leader Scott Cervonka, who during the season passed the 100-goal barrier and tacked on a pair of scores during regulation play, Christian Eastman faked a pass in his teammate's direction and took on the Rebel goalie himself.

Eastman beat the Parkwood keeper with a slap shot into the left corner of the well-protected net, and it was that score that stood up to account for the difference in the drama-filled match.

South Iredell broke the scoring ice midway the first period on the first of Cervonka's two goals.

Tri-captain Chris McKee then kicked home the only other goal of the first half, and behind the goal-tending of tri-captain Jackie Wallace, the Vikings protected their 2-0 lead at intermission.

Parkwood sliced the lead in half with its first goal in the second half, after which the hosts retaliated in the form of Cervonka's second goal of the match and 100th of his brilliant career.

Comfortable with the two-goal lead, the Vikings, who have suffered only one league loss in the past two years combined and are making their third straight appearance in postseason play, let down their third straight appearance in postseason play, and allowed the Rebels to tie the score.

From there, Eastman's net-finding boot from 10 yards out pushed them into tomorrow night's second round affair.

In addition to the goal scorers, Steve Smith and Jeff Young were each credited with an assist, while Wallace sucked up a dozen saves in the net.

The South Iredell-Charlotte Catholic match carries a 7:30 p.m. starting time on the Cougars home field.



Smith Seeks Foot Control Of Ball As Players Converge From All Sides

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## It's Official! South Iredell Again Rules As Soccer Kings

Bob Boyles, at far right, the Foothills Athletic Conference's commissioner, can write it down in his book of dates. Come the end of the regular soccer season, he can count on a trip to South Iredell to acknowledge the varsity Vikings as league champions. Boyles, a Mooresville resident, makes what has become his annual appearance at the Barium Springs school to present coach Greg Crowley, second from right, and Viking tri-captains, from left, Chris Meredith, Chris McKee, and Jackie Wallace, with the coveted plaque officially recognizing them as the 1987 champions. It will go beside the one the Vikings won both last year, when they once again finished first alone in the league, and the year before, when they shared the conference crown. South, which has failed to finish worse than second since it began fielding a soccer program, crafted a 10-1-1 showing within the circuit this year, and it has suffered but a single league loss over the past two seasons combined. The Vikings made their third straight appearance in the state playoffs Monday, and they advanced into tomorrow's (Thursday's) second round by escaping from visiting Monroe Parkwood, 4-3, in double-overtime.

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Hopkinson, Bootlegging Right, Puts Some Room Between Himself, Pursuit

## What A Week As Pee Wees, Midgets Win Three Of Four All-Star Games

What a week! And it was, indeed, a five-day period worth putting an exclamation point after as far as Mooresville's Pee Wee and Midget football players are concerned.

For, between Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon of last week, Mooresville picked up three wins against a single loss while taking part in a couple of all-star games that served to officially cap the town's first year as members of the Southland Football League.

Mooresville played the role of the host for the Saturday attraction, during which play on the field took a back seat to the reason the games were being played.

The day was billed as Benefit Saturday, with proceeds realized from the two contests going to the Jim Peavy medical fund.

Peavy, as well as several other members of his family, were injured in a car accident recently, and the father of a Southland League cheerleader was the most seriously hurt.

According to Bob Ramsey, chairman of the Mooresville youth football commission, in excess of \$1,000 was raised Saturday.

Although the fund-raising took top billing Saturday, Mooresville did salvage a split of the two games, with the Midgets hammering out a 28-6 win the second game after the Pee Wees had suffered a 14-6 setback in the opener.

Early in the week, the two Mooresville teams, formed by combining players of the two teams at each level the town fielded during regular-season play, Mooresville was the guest of a homecoming, celebrating East Lincoln.

And it was those guests who provided a rude appreciation for the invitation, as the Pee Wees opened the action with a 14-0 win, which was followed by another shutout, this by a 22-0 count, on the part of the Midgets.

In the Midgets home victory Saturday, they pulled away from a 6-4 halftime tie with 20 second-half points to seal the win and carry their second victory of the week.

Boger City's Steelers pulled first to take the early lead, but it then missed on the conversion.

Undaunted by the deficit, the hosts, made up of players representing the Civilians and Bulldogs, struck right back, with Daron Patterson doing the damage on a quarterback draw play. Alas, Mooresville's attempt to corner the lead at intermission was thwarted,

as was its conversion attempt. The second half belonged equally to the home team in general, and Patterson specifically.

The lanky back put the locals ahead to stay with an end-around sweep early in the second half. That TD was followed by a conversion run on the part of Damon McKee.

Patterson then produced his third scoring effort of the afternoon, this time on a quarterback sneak that, after the conversion attempt failed, kicked the advantage to 20-6.

"While Lightning," by his coaches and teammates, struck as quickly as that label for the locals to account for their final score, as he intercepted a Boger City pass and hauled it 40 yards for the fourth and final six-pointer.

In the Pee Wee game Saturday, which preceded the Midget affair, Mooresville, featuring players from the Trazers, Terminators and Burlington Mavericks, clung to a two-point lead until the final play of the game, when the guests tallied their second touchdown and added the conversion to account for the 14-8 win.

Mooresville scored first on a sweep around the right side, with quarterback Joshua Hopkinson salvaging a split of the two games, with the Midgets hammering out a 28-6 win the second game after the Pee Wees had suffered a 14-6 setback in the opener.

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## Vikings Dance Into Postseason History

They were dancing in the South Iredell High School bleachers Friday night.

And on the sidelines.

And finally, on the field as well.

The celebratory two-step was the order of the history-making night, as the host Vikings had just jittersburged their way past the Eagles of Wilkes Central, 10-7, to lock up a share of second-place within the Foothills Athletic Conference and, in the process, secure the school's first-ever high school varsity football postseason berth.

"It's great," beamed Bill Mayhew, a veteran of 25 seasons, the past 21 as the only head school coach the school has ever had, but speaking for the first time as a playoff-bound mentor. "We went out and did just what we had to do. It feels good to still be playing football in the second week of November."

Entering the season finale for both teams, two of the three available playoff marbles offered to FAC teams had been gobbled up, with league-champion North Iredell claiming the shooter and the home-field advantage it accompanies, and Statesville garnering the second.

That left the Vikings and Eagles to tangle in a winner-take-all duel, with the victor earning the right to prolong the season at least one more week and the loser being forced to wait until next September for its next football game.

And it was the big-play Vikings, particularly on defense, who earned the former privilege and dodged the latter, using a couple of defensive gems that indirectly led to enough points to secure the triumph.

As a result, the Vikings are guaranteed at least an 11th game for the first time in their two-decade-plus history, as they take a 7-3 record overall, and a 4-2 showing within the FAC, into this week's playoff debut.

peak at the :48 mark of the fourth quarter when Bobby Renwick, who had already picked the Wilkes Central offense once earlier, this time provided the needle that popped the guests' bubble for good.

Renwick, only a sophomore, scooped up a wayward Eagle pitchback on a misguided hook-and-lateral play in stride and waited untended 17 yards into the Wilkes Central endzone for a touchdown that increased the advantage beyond the Eagles reach.

Renwick was untouched, that is, by the Eagles, as he was virtually swamped by his Vikings teammates, all of whom knew just how big a play the 10-0 mark at intermission had performed.

"We felt good with our 10-0 lead," assured Mayhew. "We hadn't allowed, then anything offensively. Then we had that one bad play and they were right back in the game."

The game's final minutes when the issue was finally sealed for all practical purposes.

Breaking a scoreless tie with a 10-point second quarter, South Iredell appeared happy with that position through the third period as well before the only defensive lapse on its part allowed the Eagles to suddenly pull to within a tying field goal with seven minutes still left to play.

From that point, the game's intensity increased, and it reached its

Guard Mark Overcash Gets Call On Rare Run

There have been times in the past," revealed Mayhew, who has been throughout it and should know, "when we've finished with good enough seasons to make the playoffs, but we've always been left out because of draws or votes. This time, we decided our fate on the field, and that's the best way to do it. We were glad to be in that kind of a situation."

And they were glad still of the results, even though it wasn't until the game's final minute when the issue was finally sealed for all practical purposes.

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