

On The Game-Winning Play, TD-Bound Lenster Breaks Free From Crowd

South Overcomes Fear Of 13s To Cop First Postseason Victory Ever

South Iredell survived a triskaidekaphobia nightmare Friday night and turned it into the sweetest of dreams come true.

Looking at a 13-0 halftime deficit on this month's Friday 13th, causing even the most slightly affected triskaidekaphobian — one who suffers from the fear of the most oddest of numbers — to become somewhat weak kneed, the quaking Vikings struck with black cat quick efficiency for two touchdowns in the second half and more importantly drilled home both point-after-kicks to mesmerize favored Central Cabarrus, 14-13, in a first-round state 3A playoff bout.

That allowed South Iredell, which needed a clutch victory in its regular-season finale the previous week just to earn its first-ever invitation into postseason play, to join 13 other teams in its classification statewide in advancing into this week's second-round of the six-staged chase for a coveted state crown.

"Even though we were down by 13 points," offered Bill Mayhew, who in his 21st season as the Vikings head coach now fields a career, 1-0 playoff record, "we didn't panic. We still felt confident. We knew we needed something big, and we got it. Our defense buckled down in the second half and gave our offense a chance to win it. Luckily, we made the most of that chance."

And because they did, the victors upped their ledger for the season to the 3-3 mark, allowing this year's crew to tie the school record for the most wins in a single season set way back by the 1969 team's 8-1-1 mark.

The decision also enabled the Vikings to avenge one of their three losses, as, in an earlier regular-season meeting with the eventual South Piedmont Conference champions, Central Cabarrus prevailed in a defensive-dominated, 6-2 tackling derby.

As for the hosts, who also answered the Viking nickname, if they entered Friday's game without a fear of 13s, they may well have it now.

The hosts, who headed into the game as much as a touchdown favorite, scored all of their points in a three-minute span at the close of the first quarter and the start of the second and then watched as the guests rallied in the second half to complete their comeback.

As a result, Central Cabarrus, who suffered from the fear of the second and then watched as the guests rallied in the second half to complete their comeback.

But Lenster, this time with an unwavering sense of determination, was there to pull the plug on the early celebration.

Facing a 13-down-and-13 situation from their own 43, the Vikings called on a play used only once before this season. It had been successful then, as it was good for 50 yards against North Iredell, and the South coaching staff trusted the hitch-and-pitch would be just as effective this time, too.

And it was. Quarterback Mike Hobbs took a snap from center and tossed a strike to split end Bobby Renwick, who also backed off the scrimmage line. Renwick, in a move that caught the defenders only slightly off guard then laterated to a darting Lenster.

Doing much of the work on his own, the 155-pounder managed not only to dodge two waves of Central Cabarrus tacklers but also perform a lightning act along the left sidelines before he broke free and set sail on the joyous 57-yard romp to the end zone.

"I'm sure they weren't expecting anything like that," admitted Mayhew, who rewarded his prized game-breaker by handing him the game ball following the win. "We had run that play only one time before all season. We knew we needed something that might surprise Omar into the secondary. Once he gets there, he's tough to catch. He got there twice all night, and he scored both times."

And just like that, the home crowd quieted, and it stayed that way through Woods' seemingly-routine PAT kick that provided the guests with the precarious lead.

But the drama was far from over. On the ensuing kickoff, Natrone Means, Central Cabarrus' answer to Lenster, nearly broke free before being tackled near midfield.

The South Iredell defense then turned in its biggest play of the night, tackling Means less than a yard short of a first down on a fourth-down screen pass play.

It wound up being a bitter case of Friday's 13th Fever for the host Vikings to succumb to, as they won all the major statistical battles, rushing for 68 yards to South's 43, passing for 64 to the guests' 66, and picking up 11 first downs to only four for South. The home team also forced more turnovers, snaring three interceptions while losing one along with a couple of fumbles.

Central grabbed the lead with a time-eating drive in the first quarter, and the hosts then capitalized on their first interception to set up their second score less than two minutes into the second period. It was that second PAT that missed its mark.

For South, Lenster gobbled up one of those fumble recoveries, while Jon Miller pocketed the other, and Jeff Cauthen picked off the Central pass.

The victory in South's first ever postseason appearance sets up another re-match, of sorts, as they will now accept a second-round date this week against a Lincolnton team that used to square off against the Vikings annually when both competed in the Western Piedmont Conference.

Lincolnton was also an upset winner Friday, using an off-brand play with a flea-flicker that jolted host Northwest Cabarrus, 7-4.

The winner of this week's South Iredell-Lincolnton game, which features an 8 p.m. starting time Friday on the Wolves' home field, will meet the victor of the West Caldwell-North Iredell game also set for Friday.

Senior Toby Woods, whose foot would come to play such a vital role in the game, supplied the seventh point with a perfect crossbar shot.

Throughout the remainder of the third period, and through most of the fourth, both teams exchanged stiff defensive stands, with neither mounting much of a scoring drive.

Because of that, the CC faithful began sensing, and voicing, a victory as the clock edged toward the three-minute mark.

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Postseason Pairing Possibilities

A number of possibilities surround their postseason picture as South Iredell's Vikings head into this weekend's second round play as one of the 16 3A teams still alive in the state playoffs.

Of course, all of those depend on a Viking win, which may seem more likely this week than the last.

This past Friday night, South Iredell visited a Central Cabarrus club that sported a once-beaten record and already boasted of an earlier win over the Foothills Athletic Conference co-runners-up.

But that fact daunted the Vikes not in the least, as they bottled back from a 1-0 halftime deficit and eked out a 14-13 upset victory.

As a result, South, now 8-3 and tying a school record for the most wins in a season, now advances into the second round, where it will meet up with Lincolnton, at 7-4 overall the outright second-place finisher in the Big Six Conference whose Wolves bow advanced with an upset one-point win, by a 7-4 count over Northwest Cabarrus.

The Vikings need a win to advance into the third round, which will find the Vikings still alive for the elusive 3A state title.

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The winner of the South Iredell-Lincolnton game will face the victor of another game featuring a Big Six and FAC member, the one pitting BSC champion West Caldwell against FAC kingpin North Iredell.

Should South win and North Iredell continue its undefeated season by knocking off the host Warriors, then the Vikings would make their second trip this season to face the Raiders the following week.

North beat South in the regular season, 14-0.

If South wins and West Caldwell topples North, then the former would earn the right to host its first ever playoff game the following week, that being the case as this is the school's first time ever appearing in football postseason play.

South Iredell and West Caldwell have never previously met on the football field.

South Iredell, as much as a touchdown underdog, enters this week's showdown at Lincolnton in a game rated practically even.

The Vikings and Wolverines are extremely knowledgeable of one another, as the two competed in the same Western Piedmont Conference for eight seasons, and the clubs also engaged in a pre-season scrimmage game prior to regular-season last August.

Game time is set for 8 p.m. on the Lincolnton High School football field.

The Red Imps entered this the first week of the Bi-County Conference wrestling season with a pair of league bouts on tap, and both of them are tabbed to take place at home.

Junior High actually christened its season yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon by entertaining the Bulldogs of Statesville.

This (Wednesday) afternoon, the Imps turn right around and roll out their red-colored mats once again, this time to welcome in West Lincoln.

Both affairs feature 4 p.m. starting times, the regular starting time for BCC matches.

In addition to Mooresville, Statesville, and West Lincoln, East Lincoln and Lincolnton are also members of the BCC.

The Red Imps enter the season once again under the guidance of head coach Barclay Marsh.

All of the team's home matches will take place in the Mooresville Junior High gym.

This year marks Mooresville's third as a member of the BCC.

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The Mooresville Tribune and Mecklenburg Gazette will appear a day earlier than usual next week so that papers can be in our reader's hands before Thanksgiving. There will be no mail delivery service on Thanksgiving Day.

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Vikings, Blue Devils Earn All-County Status

For some, selection to the Statesville Record & Landmark's all-Iredell County high school football team further cements an already sugary season.

For others, the honor helps sweeten what was otherwise a bitter

Aaron To Attend Card Show Sun.

The appearance of career home run leader and Hall-of-Famer Hank Aaron will highlight this weekend's two-day baseball card show in Charlotte.

The card show is being organized by Ben Fisher, a 15-year-old junior at South Mecklenburg High School.

The show, which will run both Saturday and Sunday, will take place at the Holiday Inn Woodlawn in Charlotte.

Saturday's hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., while Sunday the show will take place from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Fisher, a card aficionado for the past six years, has convinced Aaron, who with 755 hit more home runs in his career than any other professional baseball player, to attend only Sunday's session.

Aaron, making a rare appearance in Charlotte and who will be close to Mooresville as he will perhaps ever come, will be on hand for photographs and to sign autographs.

It is the first such wide-scale baseball show being hosted by Fisher, who is also handling the majority of the publicity for his initial baseball card show.

The South Mecklenburg student began collecting cards as a hobby while still a pre-teen, and his interest has grown to such wide lengths that he is now able to attract such a drawing card as Aaron to his first display show.

In addition to Aaron, card collectors and collectors from throughout the Carolinas are expected to attend the show.

Some of the rarities of baseball cards will be shown, and attending collectors will be free to possibly exchange and purchase new cards for their personal collections.

To get the show from home take 57 south to exit 64. Take a left, and the Holiday Inn will be on the right. There will also be a small admission charge.

North Iredell also enjoyed another individual honor. Charles Love, a long-time head coach, was singled out as Iredell's top mentor.

Across the county, North Iredell, understandably, paves the way by fielding nine players on the combined teams. Two Raiders, fullback-linebacker Redmond and run-

ningback-safety Michael Keaton, were named to both units.

Statesville and South Iredell are both new in line with five all-county performers each, followed by West Iredell with three, and Mooresville with two.

On offense for the Vikings, Lenster, as a junior one of the few underclassmen to earn county-wide attention, tied in the vote-getting for a runningback slot with North's Keaton. As a result, both are named to the team.

Three Vikings head the list of all-county defensive players. Woods, at defensive end, returns to the spot at which he was honored last year. Teammates Harris, at defensive tackle, and Winford, at safety, are first-timers joining Woods on the defensive unit.

Childrens, a long-legged senior, is assigned to the team for a first time as its punter.

For the Blue Devils, Alexander became the first Blue Devil to earn a repeat performance on the team. He does so by serving as one of the three defensive safeties, as he tied in the vote with South's Winford.

One of my goals heading into the season was to make a repeat appearance on the all-county team," acknowledged Alexander. "It doesn't make up for the season we had, and I'd trade it in for a winning year. Still, it's nice to know that I'm considered one of the best players in the county."

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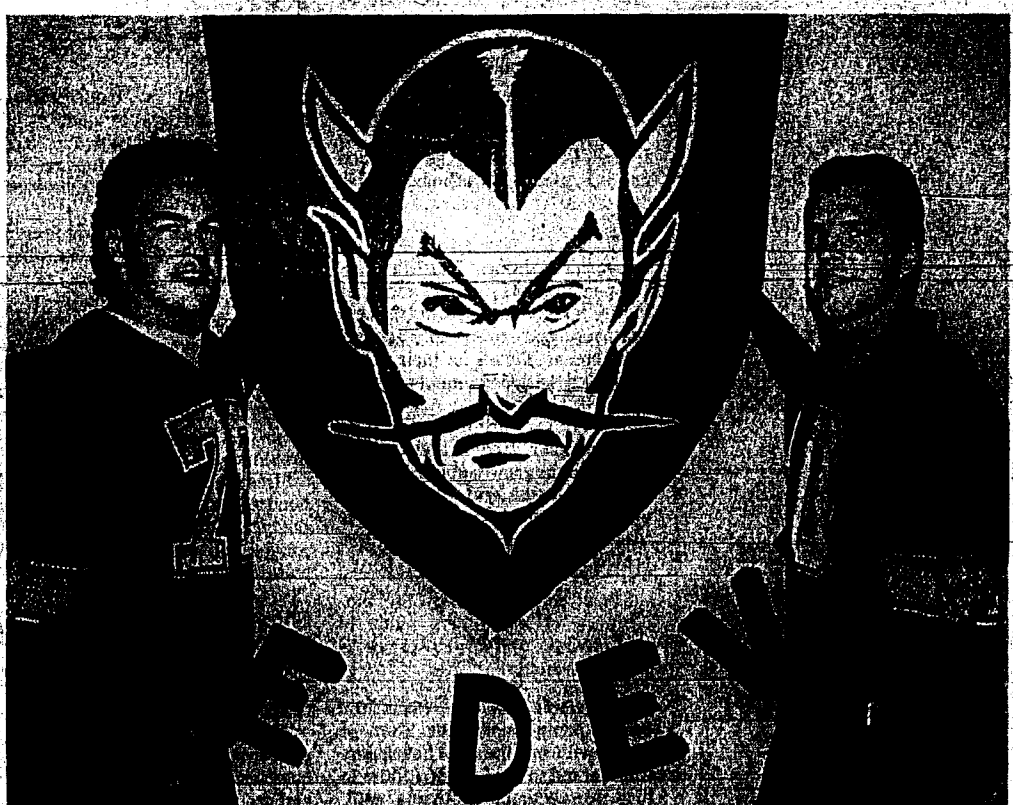
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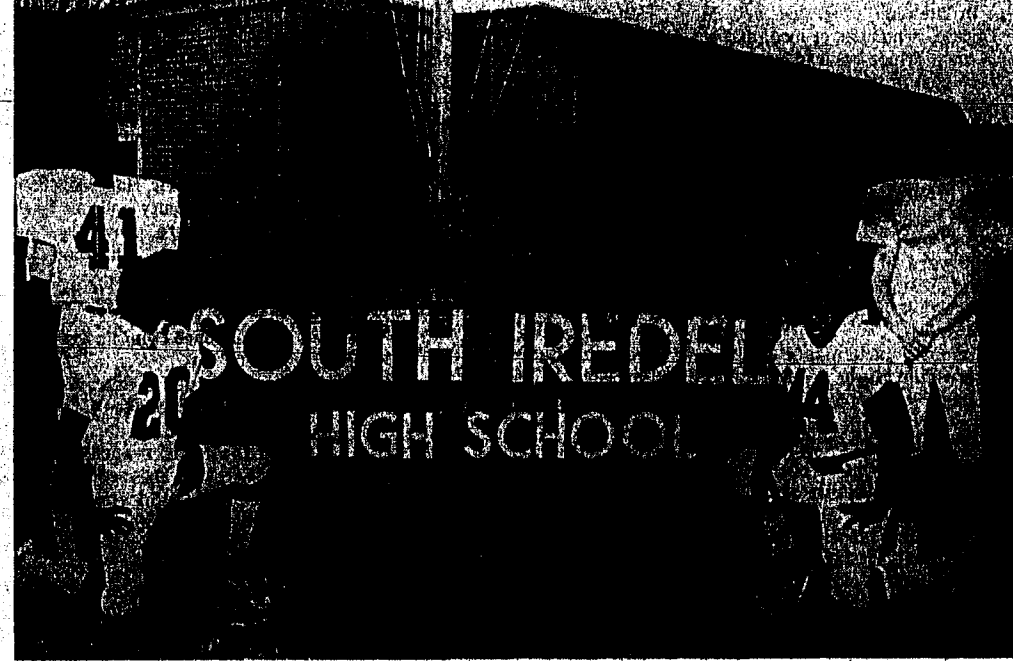
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Mooresville's First-Timer Wilson, Left, And Repeater Alexander



From Left, South Iredell's Winford, Lenster, Harris, And Childress

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'75 Rowdies Finish With Fling

It was anything but a dreary fall season for the 1975 Iredell Select Soccer Association Rowdies.

The '75's brought a close to their outstanding season with a pair of wins over the past two weekends, including one of them in convincing fashion.

That one came just this past Saturday, when the Rowdies blasted the High Point '76's, 7-0 with a five-goal barrage in the second half.

The victory followed by a week the team's next-to-last win of the season, a 2-1 inching-past Park Sharon recorded the previous Saturday.

This past weekend, the locals started their run 10 minutes into the match on a goal by Steve Craft.

The team's second goal of the first half was matched by Will Board, with an assist being provided by Will Kimbrough.

Building on that 2-0 lead built at the half, the eventual winners played

five more net-finders in the second, with Rob Hancock booting a pair, Hernandez adding his second, and Nicky Boat and Marcus Saunders each kicking home a goal.

In the net, Hancock was credited with the save, while duties there were shared with Jason McCaslin.

Stellar defensive play was cited on the part of Wally Yang, Sammy Bowman, Saunders, and Craft.

In the team's 2-1 win over Park Sharon, Beard punched in the first goal, while Jason Dykes slapped home what turned out to be the match winner.

This time, Kimbrough was awarded the win following his performance in the Rowdie goal.

Other pitching in defensively included Sanders, Bowman, Sirron Houpe, Yang, and Eric Lee.

Play in the two matches brings the regular-season portion of the fall campaign to a close for the '75 Select Rowdies.

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