

Shin Splinters Recall Steeple Chase Feats

Members of the Mooresville-Lake Norman Shin Splinters had plenty to talk about in their regular monthly dinner meeting Monday night.

They were all able to regale in their accomplishments during participation in the '87 Steeple Chase Road Race held in Spartanburg, S.C. earlier this month.

A number of the Shin Splinters, a



L-R: West, Heinen, Brotherton, Mason, Smith, Gallier

growing running-oriented club, participated in the event, which featured a 10 kilometer race, a five kilometer race, and a one-mile fun run.

And a number of them also performed well, as the club featured one age group winner and a couple of age bracket winners.

Marion Gallier placed first in the

10K event for women age 40-44 to turn in the best overall showing among the club members.

Olivia Young, of Davidson, took second in the 10K for women age 35-40, while Vicki West placed second in the lengthy event for women age 20-24.

Other club members crossing the finish line in the various events included:

In the 10K, Tim Jordan and Debbie Szabo.

And in the 5K, Kay Brotherton and Dr. Mike Heinen.

Heinen wound up as the member's most fortunate winner.

In addition to his completing the 5K race, Heinen's name was the one chosen when selecting a winner of a round trip on American Airlines anywhere in the continental U.S.

The race events began at the sounding of the 4 p.m. bell from the Spartanburg First Baptist Church tower, hence the naming of the event.

Including the Shin Splinters, 577 runners, joggers and walkers took to the streets.

The hilly course was decorated with colorful balloons and was complete with jam boxes playing tunes from "Rocky 1 and 2," "Chariots of Fire," and "The William Tell Overture," the latter also known as the theme song from "The Long Ranger."

Crowds urged the runners all along the route, and a local radio announcer called out each name as the runner crossed the finish line.

Following the presentation of the door prizes, Bob Wieland, a Vietnam War veteran who lost both legs when he stepped on a land mine, shared stories with the participants.

Since his accident, Wieland has walked nearly 3,000 miles on his hands in three years and eight

months. He has also shattered the world record four times in bench press competitions.

He completed both the 1986 and 1987 New York Marathons, as well as the 1987 Los Angeles Marathon.

Other members of the Shin Splinters include Randy Kerr, Bob Becker, Richard Mason, Kathy Scott, Jim Goleg, Don Smith, David Stultz, Ira Stultz, Mark Stultz, Catherine Peel, and Linda and Danny Martin.

The Mooresville-Lake Norman Shin Splinters meet every Monday night at seven o'clock at the Junior High tennis courts to run.

And on every third Monday of the month, which was two days ago, the club meets at the King of Pines for an informal dinner get-together.

And this week, at the dinner, they all had plenty to talk about.

South Sets Basketball Scrimmages

A round ball joins an oval-shaped one as South Iredell's athletic plans this week.

While the school's varsity football team continues its history-making trek in statewide postseason play with a second-round date Friday night, its girls and player-shortened boys varsity basketball teams will get their first taste of game situation play a couple of times within a mere three-day span.

South Iredell entered the week with a pair of control scrimmages on tap for both the Lady Vikings and Vikings.

The two clubs were slated to face counterparts teams from Lincolnton last Tuesday night before closing out their scrimmage-filled week by hosting Salisbury tomorrow (Thursday) evening in the South gym.

As far as Tuesday's scheduled outings were concerned, the boys of veteran coach Gary Sherrill, who remains the only member ever in the school's boys basketball program, were slated to host the Wolves, while third-year coach Andy Torrence's girls were scheduled to visit Lincolnton for their scrimmage season opener.

Tomorrow, both teams will perform their pre-season duties in the gym each calls home, when Salisbury's Lady Hornets and Hornets come calling.

Tomorrow's action is scheduled to heat up beginning with play between the girls teams at 6 p.m., followed by the boys action.

Tomorrow's boys scrimmage indeed promises outstanding play, as Salisbury enters the affair as the reigning state 2A champion and still fields three starters who are garnering major college attention.

South Iredell, a charter member of the Footbal Athletic Conference, features a girls team that lost only two players from last year's competitive team that finished with a break-even, 12-12 mark.

It was the first time in 10 seasons that the Vikings advanced into the second round of sectional play last year before being eliminated.

For the boys, their story wasn't such a happy one, as the Vikings fashioned a 5-18 record for the season and wound up in last place in the FAC.

However, similar to the Lady Vikings, South's boys who team has been hampered by the absence of several football players who were members of the team last year, listed but one senior among their top contributing players last season and a host of those then-youngsters are back in full force this time around.

Both South Iredell teams are slated to clinch their regular-season Dec. 8 against Bandy's.

SD-7 Teams Unleash Firepower

There was no shortage of firepower on the part of playoff-bound Southern District VII Conference varsity football teams Friday night.

On the opening night of statewide North Carolina High School Athletic Association postseason play, the two second-round games, the SD-7 three second-season members turned in the highest and second-highest point totals among 2A teams in earning the right to advance into this week's second round.

Regular-season champion Newton-Conover and runner-up Bunker Hill prolonged their seasons into the 12th week with convincing wins, as the two combined to score 95 points and allow only 15.

Newton-Conover embarrassed visiting North Wilkes, 55-3, while Bunker Hill was only slightly more polite in polishing off host Mitchell County, 54-12.

Maiden, the highly-touted pre-season favorite to reign as the league champion and perhaps secure the state title, saw those hopes dashed, as the Blue Devils suffered their third loss in the last four weeks by bowing to host Salisbury, 26-22.

As a result of Friday's first-round decisions, both Newton-Conover and Bunker Hill, who among them have but a single loss while combining for 21 wins, advance into this week's second round of the 2A playoffs.

N-C's undefeated Red Devils, over the years the most successful gridiron team in the SD-7, attempts to further enhance that record by making their first postseason road trip, one that will wind its way to Mt. Airy.

Mt. Airy, now 9-2, set up the overtime with a 34-14 blanketing of Sylva-Webster last weekend.

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STARMOUNT AT BUNKER HILL
NEWTON-CONOVER AT MT. AIRY

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Chamber Of Commerce Welcomes New Members

Officers of the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce met the welcoming committee for new members during the chamber's monthly board of directors meeting last week. During the meeting, the directors approved memberships for Allstate Insurance Company, Consolidated Directories, Inc., The Dreamland Tree, Main Street Books, Piedmont Nursery, The Rafter's Restaurant, Dr. Thomas Sholar and Dr. Amy Ferguson. Some of the new members attended the meeting and were officially welcomed into the chamber. Chamber officials and new members are, from left, Homer Faulk, executive director of the chamber; Sholar; Thomas and Carolyn Potat of Piedmont Nursery; Sara Haire, past president of the chamber; Nancy Davis, assistant director of the chamber; and Dan Wallace, incoming chamber president.

Thanks Service News Briefs Of Simpson Set In Atwell Community

By MRS. HAL DEATON

—Mr. and Mrs. Thurston Houston spent the weekend in Fayetteville with Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Houston and family.

—Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hummick visited Mrs. Georgia Lee in Salisbury Sunday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sherrill and Miss Allison Sherrill and Miss Paige and Holly Freese all of near Mooresville were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sherrill.

—Sympathy is extended to the Thomas Honeycutt family in the death of his sister, Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, Saturday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Richard Skotarski and daughter, Brook, of Sudlersville, Md., spent from Thursday until Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sherrill.

The Rev. Ardis D. Payne, pastor of Unity Methodist Baptist Church is the Rev. James C. Mooney.

The public is invited to attend the service.

Pastor of West Corinth Baptist Church is the Rev. James C. Mooney.

Hugh Jones now is manager of Wooten Jewelers at 102 North Main St. He succeeds Phyllis Lowe, who has become manager of the Wooten store in Salisbury.

Jones, 32, has been with the Statesville-based, 16-store jewelry-retailing firm a year. He began in sales in the Concord store and moved here in May.

Jones' former job was general manager of T&S Cadillac-Olds in Statesville. He lives on Compton Park Road west of Troutman with his wife, Sheila, and their two children.

A graduate of New Hanger High School in Wilmington, Jones attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville and Appalachian State University, and earned a degree at the University of the State of New York. He served aboard submarines during six years in the Navy.

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

This week will mark the 6th consecutive year our nation has taken time to honor the extraordinary military contributions of America's public schools have made to our nation by celebrating American Education Week. Our theme this year is We the People—give him a chance to see what he can do with them. We all saw what happened. Nothing has improved over the last five years. This year's team had a lot of drive and tremendous ability. I'm tired of the players being blamed for poor execution of plays, being young and not as strong as the other team. I say this is a crock.

The boys were not motivated and were very poorly coached. There seems to be a very bad morale problem between the coaches and the players. I believe there is a lack of respect for the head coach in general. At least it appears that way.

I believe a survey, by an unbiased individual, of players and coaches away from the school setting would show how bad morale really is or isn't. How can a team be expected to play consistently well when the coaching staff can't agree on plays and cooperate with one another?

I wouldn't be surprised if we lost some excellent assistant coaching due to lack of football knowledge and insight on the part of the head coach. How much longer will our football program be allowed to deteriorate? Our boys deserve better than this.

All those who complained at the games this year need to do so in the Tribune and let it be known to the School Superintendent and the School Board. Some members of the School Board don't really want to hear this, but the situation needs to be brought to light.

Elected officials with deaf ears have been replaced in the years and can be again. If we all choose to say nothing, the football situation will remain the same.

It's time for our head football coach to be replaced. Who else feels this way?

Connie Sherrill

Our schools are doing much more than ever before. And I believe we are doing it better. Take a look at the math courses, the science courses that are offered by the typical high school today. Students take calculus in high school now. Once, not so long ago, that was a college course. We have kindergarten now, and we didn't have it 12 years ago. We have special programs for the gifted and for the handicapped. A generation ago we had little or nothing for the handicapped children. Today we put them into a classroom that is as nearly normal as we can make it. We have things that weren't around a generation ago, such as how to operate computerized equipment so you can go to Harlan and get a job. We also teach computer programming and many other things about computers so you can design and build the next generation of computerized cash registers.

Our schools are being watched by public attention. Look at the progress that has been made since the National Commission on Educational Excellence made its report, which was released in 1983. That report, which warned that our schools held the key to whether we would continue as a leading nation, made public education a top priority for the American people. Let me encourage you to keep your interest in your schools. You may not have children in the schools, but your business, your industry, and our whole community is involved in our schools' success or failure. When educators, public leaders, and just plain folks debate the quality of education, then things happen. Many times the debate centers on who is accountable for excellence in education.

The answer is everybody. Teachers are responsible for planning and delivering excellent lessons. Administrators are accountable for providing the best conditions for teaching and learning. The school board is accountable for the policies it sets that affect the operations of the schools. County commissioners are accountable for putting enough local money into the schools to give them the personnel, equipment, and materials they need that the state doesn't provide. Parents are accountable for seeing that their children come to school with a positive attitude, ready to learn, and having had enough discipline training so they won't disrupt learning for others. Everyone is accountable. We must all work together to make our schools work well.

Della Kinney
(Kinney, a Park View kindergarten teacher, is a past president of the Mooresville Unit of the N.C. Association of Educators.)

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