

The Prize-Winning Quartet, From Left, Frye, Key, Warren, And Wright

## All-Conference Honors Bring Back Fond Memories Of Volleyball Season

Mooreville's volleyball season just won't go away. And the Devils are glad of it. Just when basketball was threatening to move in and steal the thunder away from their fall-season success, Mooreville Senior High's Lady Devil spikers received welcome word last week that a league-best four of them had received cherished all-conference recognition.

The celebrated quartet is made up of two seniors, Lorie Key and Cindy Warren, and just as many sophomores, in Wendy Frye and Michelle Wright. The announcement was made through head coach Nancy Dilks after she had received the official word from league headquarters last week.

"This speaks highly of these girls," stated Dilks, who guided her Devilettes through their most successful season ever, "and of our improving volleyball program here. I'm very glad for our seniors, Lorie and Cindy showed a lot of leadership during the season. I'm just as happy for the sophomores. I'll have Wendy and Michelle for three more years."

Based on the team's regular and postseason performance, conference-wide honors didn't come as a complete surprise to the Devilettes, even though all four girls were extremely pleased to receive all-league accolades.

Mooreville, in what was perhaps the school's finest volleyball season ever, completed a perfect, 17-0 turn

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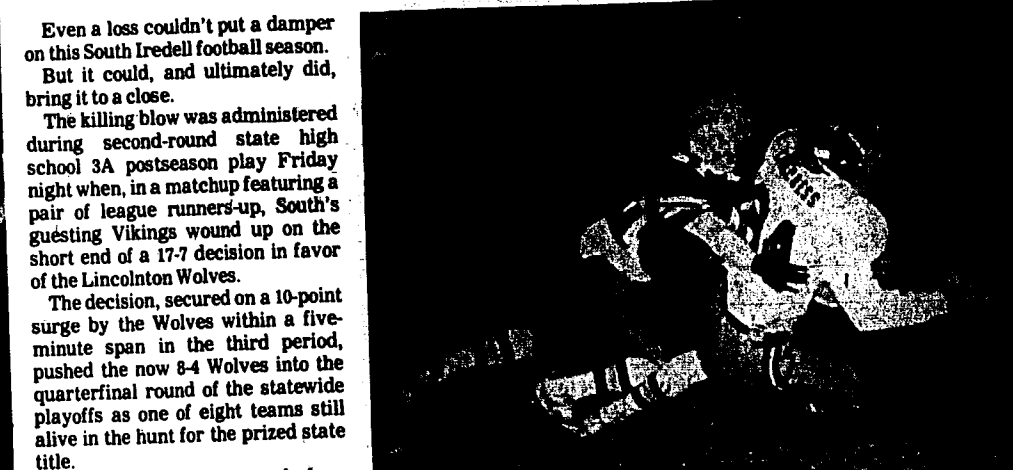
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## Loss Doesn't Dampen Vikes' Season



Childress Pulls A One-Handed Trick On Reception

Friday, too, if we could have taken what was available to us. But they couldn't, and, as a result, the longest football season on record at South Iredell drew to a close on the year's 12th weekend of play.

"Lincolnton has a good, quick football team," added Mayhew, "and they gave us some problems. The game out in the second half and drove the ball right at us for their second touchdown. Then they added a field goal that forced us to score twice. We had to hurry, and that made us do things differently than we are used to. Still, we didn't play that badly, and we hit hard. You never like to lose, but under these circumstances, even a loss can't take away the satisfaction these guys should feel after the season they've had."

As they had done in their post-season opener the previous week, also on the road, South Iredell battled back from an early deficit to force a 17 tie at intermission.

But in the second half, the Wolves, who used to be annual opponents of South Iredell when both competed in the same — and now defunct — Western Piedmont Conference, took advantage of a controversial play to sustain a 76-yard scoring drive midway through the third period. They then used a 41-yard field goal on their last possession to sprint ahead by the final winning margin of 10 points.

On what turned out to be the winning drive, the questionnal call came on a mid-air pass completion during which the ball and receiver were separated before the former hit the ground.

However, the official nearest the play allowed the completion to stand but ruled that it was not a fumble, rewarding the hosts with a crucial first down.

"That was a big play that really hurt us," acknowledged Mayhew. "There's really no way it could have been a completion without being a fumble, too. It couldn't have been one without the other."

But it was, and Lincolnton went to score from there. After holding the Vikes and forcing their scoring on the 41-yard three-pointer, one that forced the Vikes to produce two scores in the game's final 12 minutes.

"That field goal really put the pressure on us," nodded Mayhew. "We knew we couldn't just take our time and tie the score. We had to rush, and that took us out of our game plan."

As a result, South never managed another score of any kind, with its lone scoring effort of the second half being stopped at the Lincolnton 22. After a scoreless first quarter, Lincolnton grabbed the initial lead early in the second period on an 11-yard pass from quarterback Bobby McLaughlin to Scott Ramser.

South Iredell got its offense in gear long enough later in the period to force the intermission tie, with junior signal-caller Mike Hobbs connecting with senior split end Gerald Childress on a fourth-down toss covering 24 yards. Toby Woods' point-after-kickotted matters at 7-7.

Lincolnton then seized control of the affair in the deciding third period, during which it limited South to less than 20 total yards while amassing over 100 of its own, and remained in control through the remainder of the issue.

The contest matched a pair of teams in unfamiliar surroundings, as neither had previously advanced beyond second-round postseason play.

This week's third-round game against West Caldwell marks the farther Lincolnton has ever progressed.

South Iredell, behind game-high rushing yards from Lenster's 56 yards, won the rushing battle, 140 yards to 120 for the Wolves, but was out-gained passing, 167 yards to 80.

With his final night's effort, rushing total 1,119 yards, becoming one of the few 1,000-yard rushers in South Iredell history.

On defense, the Vikes forced three turnovers, with defensive backs Bobby Benwick and Jeff Blackwell each plucking an interception, and linebacker Chaucery Harris pouncing on a Lincolnton fumble.

In addition to Lenster, 14 other players among South's starting 22 are eligible to return next season, with the biggest question mark coming within an offensive line that was practically rebuilt.

"We've got winning in our blood here now," assured Mayhew, referring to his team's return in by this year's junior varsity team. "These kids know what it feels like to play for a winner. Hopefully, that feeling will carry over into next season."

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## Devils Banking On Pride To Maintain Tradition

(One in a series)

Pride. It's become the backbone of boys basketball at Mooreville Senior High.

For the past two seasons, the Blue Devils have packed more than enough talent to compliment that pride, resulting in an impressive list of accomplishments that include consecutive Southern District VII Conference regular-season championships, an SD-7 tournament title, a WSIC Holiday Classic title, back-to-back, 20-win seasons, and advancement into statewide postseason play that last year reached sectional play.

But with three starters gone off last year's team that, with a 23-3 overall record, broke the school mark set by the previous season's squad for the most wins in a single season, it's that pride that is being expected to carry the load a little more on its own during the 1987-88 campaign.

"Compared to last year," offered Al Jones, the Mooreville head coach responsible for leading the Devils to 43 wins against only nine losses over the past two seasons, "we're going to be a little down this season. Anything you lose the kind of players we lost, you're going to pay for it. Last year, the guys had played together for three years, and they had the right chemistry from the first day of practice. This year, it's going to take some time for us to develop that kind of relationship on the court. We definitely have the potential, but it may be a while before we can fully realize it."

Gone off of last year's team are

all-conference players Billy Ray Williams, Lionel Carlton, and Wesley Turner, the formers finishing one-two in the county's scoring department and the latter leading the team in rebounding.

Three others are also gone from last year's team.

On the positive side, however, is the return of a half dozen players who were all directly involved, during some point in the season, in last year's success.

"All six players we have back this year," revealed Jones, "were in the starting line up at some time last season, so they have some playing experience."

But with the bulk of last year's on-court leadership needing to be replaced, it may be the pride factor that sets the determining pace.

"I really haven't said anything to them about that so far in practice," acknowledged Jones. "They know what has come to be expected of boys basketball here. Every team we face gives us their best shot because of the success we've had over the past couple of seasons. There should be some pride involved in being a member of this team. We have developed a sort of tradition here, and we don't want it to end now."

And that kind of tradition hasn't been present just at the high school varsity level.

Some members of this year's team were instrumental in leading Junior High's Red Imps through an undefeated season two years ago.

There are also a number of players who have been promoted from the junior varsity team that

## Jones Stresses A Crucial Point During A Practice Scrimmage Time Out

has also enjoyed winning seasons the past two years.

"Winning breeds winning," assured Jones.

And this could be a year that tests that adage.

According to predictions released over the weekend, Mooreville is expected to finish behind favored Malden and Bandys in its quest for a perhaps unprecedented third straight conference crown.

"We play in a very talented league," confirmed Jones. "Some of our toughest competition in the state will come from within our own conference."

Mooreville joined Bandys and Cherryville in advancing to sectional play last year. After the Blue Devils were ousted in the first-round following an upset to Southwest Guilford, Bandys was defeated in the second round, Cherryville, a third-place regular season finisher, moved into the Western 2A regionals before the freshmen were eliminated.

"Although some of the faces may be new this year, Mooreville's style of play that has propelled it through the past two stellar years will remain the same."

"We'll once again favor the up-tempo style of play," confirmed Jones. "We'll continue to press the ball, and run with it when we can. In one game last year, we scored nearly 20 points in about three minutes, so it's a style of play we feel comfortable with. That means we'll really go after teams defensively. Because of our new players, it may take them a while to realize what I want from them. After they realize how well it works, though, I feel like they'll adjust to it very well."

Jones received his first look at his team's attempts towards putting those adjustments to work in a game

situation when the Blue Devils hosted West Rowan in a controlled scrimmaging last week.

"Overall," announced Jones, preparing to embark on his 11th season at the Mooreville helm, "I was pleased with our scrimmaging. We improved with each quarter, and that's something you like to see. We looked good in some areas, and not so good in others. That's always the case this early in the season."

Jones will find out this (Wednesday) afternoon if his team remains solid in those same promising areas as well as has managed to improve those areas of weakness when Mooreville entertains its second scrimmage opponent of the pre-season in North Iredell's Raiders.

The scrimmage will include play by both jv and junior varsity teams, with action slated to get underway in the Senior High gym around 4 p.m.

"We'll find out a lot more about ourselves in our second scrimmage," noted Jones. "In the first

one, you more or less find out where you need the most work. In the second one, you see if you've corrected those problems."

Today's scrimmage will close out the pre-season portion of the campaign for the Blue Devils, who will then be idle prior to cranking up regular-season play Dec. 8 against visiting Statesville.

"We play a tough non-conference schedule," revealed Jones, adding that the likes of Kings Mountain and East Lincoln join the Greyhounds on the non-league slate, "so that should get us ready for the conference."

All three of Senior High's non-conference opponents hail from the 3A ranks.

Mooreville's boys will also be in the field to attempt to defend their title in the all-Iredell County Holiday Classic just after Christmas.

"We've had a couple of very good seasons," added Jones, "and in the process we have developed some pride in our program here. These guys realize that without being told."

## South Opens Basketball Season

With visions of the school's most successful football season still dancing in mind, South Iredell's athletic attention abruptly shifts gears this week.

That's the case as the varsity basketball Vikings and Vikesettes suit up and prepare to take care of season-opening business this (Wednesday) evening.

South Iredell, which was eliminated from its first-ever appearance in the state 2A high school football playoffs in this past weekend's second round of action, cuts the ribbon on a brand new cage campaign this Thanksgiving Eve by traveling to East Lincoln.

It will mark the first regular-season game of the year for both teams.

Sandy Torrence returns for her third season as the head coach of the Lady Vikings, who are predicted to be among the tops teams in the Footbal Athletic Conference in the County Holiday Classic.

Curry Sherrill, the only head boys basketball coach ever at the school, returns for his 21st season.

While Torrence has had all the girls eligible for play almost since the practice season officially began, Sherrill has not been so fortunate.

A number of the football team members, who just last week concluded their extended season with a defeat at Lincolnton, also double as valuable basketball players, and they have been with the team only since Monday.

Today's game at East Lincoln is the only one scheduled by the two teams within the next week, as South will make its home debut in its next encounter by entertaining Central Cabarrus the following Tuesday.

Both teams will enjoy a eight-game, non-conference schedule, which doesn't include participation once again the annual WSIC Iredell County Holiday Classic.

The post-Christmas attraction this year will take place Dec. 28-30, once again with Statesville serving as the host team.

The event includes all five Iredell County schools, with all but Mooreville competing in the same FAC. The Blue Devils are members of the Southern District VII Conference.

Even though the tournament features teams from the same conference, note of those games will count in the league standings.

In addition to East Lincoln and Central Cabarrus twice, as well as at least one game guaranteed by each in the county tournament, South Iredell will also square off against non-league foes Bandys and West Rowan in a home-and-home series apiece prior to kicking off the FAC campaign Jan. 8 at Statesville.

Other teams in the FAC include West Iredell, North Iredell, Wilkes County, North Surry, and Forsyth.

Wilkes County, if the defending boys' regular season champion, while North Iredell's girls enter the season aiming to defend their crown. All of the double-header varsity action this season, which features

girls play first followed by the boys, begins at 6:30 p.m., with Tuesday and Friday serving as the regular weekly playing nights.

The complete South Iredell High School varsity basketball season, with home games in all 'capes, follows:

Nov. 23	at East Lincoln
Dec. 1	at Central Cabarrus
Dec. 4	at Wilkes County
Dec. 8	at West Iredell
Dec. 11	at Forsyth
Dec. 15	at East Lincoln
Dec. 18	at Bandys
Dec. 20	at West Iredell
Dec. 23	at Wilkes County
Jan. 8	at West Iredell
Jan. 12	at Forsyth
Jan. 15	at Wilkes County
Jan. 19	at West Iredell
Jan. 22	at North Surry
Feb. 2	at Statesville
Feb. 5	at Forsyth
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