Junior High's Most Athletic Seventh Graders

Though they've just begun their two-year tour of duty as student-athletes at Mooresville Junior High, these seventh-graders have already made their marks in respective fields of specialty. They have done do by winning various seventh-grade team awards, as presented during the school's annual all-sports award ceremony last week. The winners, and what they won, are, front row from left, Jeremy Smith, most valuable offensive player in football; Michael Park, MVP in basketball, most improved in baseball and coach's award in football; Josh Hopkinson, MVP in football and coach's award in basketball, and Favian Vanderburg, best defensive player in football. Second row, from left: Sherlonna Garnder, most improved in basketball; Yashica Sanders, MVP in basketball, and Melissa Mork, girls track. Third row, from left: Kara Faulise, girls track; Jodi Hopkins, girls track; Taeh Ward, most outstanding runner in track and most outstanding cheerleader; and Mandy Cozart, most spirited cheerleader.

Awards Ceremony At Junior High Brings Close To Year In Sports

At Mooresville Junior High, its year in sports is all over now, including the shouting.

That final step took place the middle of last week in the form of the school's annual all-sports awards ceremony,.

The informal event took place in the Junior High cafeteria last Tuesday evening.

Then and there, all members of all sports teams at the school, including squads at both the seventh and eighth grade levels as well as those that combine students from both classes, were recognized during the nearly two-hour loong attraction.

Special team awards were presented to selected deserving student-athletes by the various head coaches.

Dr. C.C. Bankhead, Mooresville Junior High principal, took care of opening remarks, while Al Jones, Junior High's athletic director, served as the master of ceremonies.

All coaches of all teams took turns at the podium, each identifying their team members and presenting deserving members of each with special team awards.

Junior High completed another tour of duty within the Tri-County Conference, competing in the middle school conference that also features schools from Rowan and Cabarrus counties in all of its sports except soccer and tennis.

Seventh and eighth grade teams are fielded separately in football, basketball and cheerleading, while athletes from both grades compete on the school's softball, soccer, wrestling, tennis, track and field and baseball teams.

Of its TCC entries, the school's best showing during the 1990-91 year emerged in boys play at the seventh-grade basketball level.

There, the Red Imps posted a regular-season first place finish to account for the school's only regular-season championship enjoyed throughout the school year.

The school's seventh-grade football team posted a second-place finish in the season and won its tournament playoff game to account for the school's second-best effort within the TCC.

Outside the conference, the school's soccer team again turned in a stellar performance to win its indepedent class conference title.

In addition, its tennis team, in only its third season, enjoyed a winning record for the first time in school history.

Individually, the school enjoyed its best success in the spring track season, where it featured top conference performances among both the boys and girls teams.

It was also in the track and field category where a new school record was established, as Wesley Linker, a member of the boys track squad, set a new standard at the school in the high jump.

All the team and individual performances were rehashed during last week's awards ceremony, which consisted of light refreshments for a near record crowd.

The ceremony continued a tradition of recalling the entire year's worth of feats during a single gathering that began at the school several years ago.

However, it may be the last.

Upon adjourning, Junior High athletic officials were discussing the idea of staging smaller-scaled but similar ceremonies at the close of each of the three sports seasons — fall, winter and spring — beginning next school year.

Eighth-Graders Graduate With Athletic Honors At Jr. High

These members of Mooresville Junior High's graduating class — otherwise known as eighth-graders — pulled down some impressive athletic honors during the school's annual all-sports awards ceremony last week. They did so by winning team awards as presented by the various head coaches. The award winners, and what each won, are, front row from left, Jennifer Hallman, most outstanding cheerleader; T.J. Jones, most improved wrestler; Ryan Whittington, best defender in football, most valuable in basketball and co-MVP in baseball; Scott hager, MVP in football and co-MVP in baseball; Peter Scire, best offense in football and coach's award in baseball; Jamie Pope, co-MVP in tennis; Wesley Roach, MVP in soccer and co-MVP in tennis; and Jason Freeman, coach's award in tennis. Second row, from left: Ryan Byers, most improved in baseball; Heath Hipp, MVP in wrestling; Scott Blackburn, coach's award in wrestling; Shannon Whetstine, most outstanding in softball; Brooke Satterfield, MVP in track and MVP in basketball; Tracy Delantonas, coach's award in basketball; and Ametra Carr, most improved in basketball. Third row, from left: Greg Edwards, coach's award in baseball; Morrison Brandon, most improved in basketball and coach's award in football; Edward Torrence, most improved in basketball; Napoleon Lowery, coach's award in basketball; Patrick Stutts, coach's award in soccer and track; Wesley Linker, MVP in track for field events; Nathan Moore, most improved in soccer and MVP in track for running events; Kyna Reid, coach's award in track; and Michelle Brady, girls track.

Jr. High's Top Coach

Student-athletes weren't the only ones showcased during last week's all-sports awards ceremony at Mooresville Junior High. Ron Patterson, left, also collected a portion of the limelight upon being named as the recipient of the school's 1990-1991 Coach of the Year, an award the school has offered for the past several years. Patterson served as a football assistant coach and as the head coach of the school's boys track team during this past athletic year. He has also coached girls basketball at the school. Al Jones, Junior High's athletic director, presents this year's award to Patterson.

Eastman Earns FAC Honors

South Iredell has senior Ian Eastman to thank for saving its face on the Foothillls Athletic Conference's tennis courts this spring.

For Eastman is the lone Viking representative on the all-FAC tennis squad announced late last week.

Eastman, a third-season team member, joins nine other players from around the league to comprise the 10-player team, whose membership was released last week from the office of Bob Boyles, the 3A league's athletic commissioner.

Eastman, who manned the number one singles position for the Vikings this past season, is one of eight seniors named to the team.

One junior and a sophomore complete the team listing.

Statesville, the regular-season champion, dominated top individual honors, as team member Jonathan Beddingfield, a senior, and Greyhound coach Roger Bost received top player and mentor honors, respectively.

Statesville also dominated the all-FAC squad, placing a league-best three players on the team.

Other players, in addition to South's Eastman, hail from West Iredell, North Surry, Wilkes Central and North Iredell, schools that also wrap up the list of league members.

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With All-Conference Selections, Blue Devils Snap Out Of Slump

There are those who claim that Mooresville backed into the state high school 2A baseball playoffs earlier this spring.

And, after the Devils lost five of their last seven games, that may be true.

But there's no denying the fact that the selected Blue Devils did anything short of earning their places among the Southern District Seven Conference's all-league nominees.

Despite a slumping finish to the regular season, the Devils still fashioned a second-place finish in the final league standings and advanced into the opening round of the state playoffs.

But all indications that the slump was over were solidified late last week, with the official announcement of this year's all-SD7 baseball team.

Based on votes casts and accumulated by the league's head coaches, Mooresville wound up fielding four players on this year's elite squad.

Two players hail from the current graduating class, with the other two were picked from among the team's underclass players.

Headlining the cast of all-conference players from the Devils Den is pitcher-infielder Roy Frye, who made the league's list on the merits of his performance as the former.

Frye, a senior, was taged with just two league losses while leading the staff in wins and innings and finishing among the league leaders in both departments. It is the second time Frye has been named to the all-legaue team.

It's also the second time around for outfielder Nathan White, also a senior. White, who played left and centerfield for the Devils, finished the regular season among the league's leaders in hits and batting as well as runs batted in.

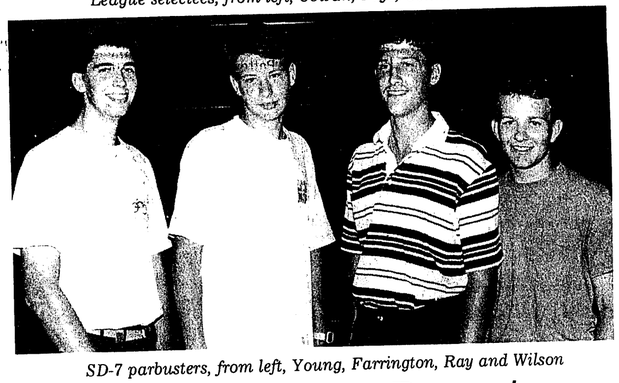
Also among the league's top hitters at the time of a season-ending injury was underclass player Decomba Conner, also an outfielder.

Despite missing the last two weeks of the season with a broken hand, Conner had made his presence felt leaguewide to the point where he earned all-conference attention. He still finished as Moresville's top hitter for average and shared the team lead in home runs.

Rounding out the Dells cotnribution to the all-league team is infielder Otis Cowan, also an underclassman. Cowan came on strong in the season's late stages with both his bat and glove to help the Devils meet playoff requirements.

By having four players named to the all-conference team, they represent one of the largest groups of players from Mooresville to be so honored.

League selectees, from left, Cowan, Frye, Conner and White



SD-7 parbusters, from left, Young, Farrington, Ray and Wilson

Mooresville Harvests Reward For Spring Season's Top Crop

Mooresville Senior High harvested its top crop this past spring season on the golf course.

So it's only fitting that the Blue Devils gained the most from that sport.

And they did, placing a league-best four players among those eligible to receive all-conference status.

Based on their total number of strokes, the top 12 players on the Southern District Seven Conference's final leader board earn all-league honors.

When all putts had been sunk on the league's last hole, four Mooresville players, hailing from three different classes, finished among those top 12.

With four, it is more players than any other SD-7 member fielded.

That's fitting the team's performance.

Entering the final 18-hole round of the second day of the league's tournament, Mooresville trailed then frontrunning Bunker Hill by five strokes.

The Devils made up that difference by a single stroke to earn the school its only spring season conference championship.

Mooresville went on to finish second in the state Midwest Regionals, qualifying it as a team to participate in the two-day, 36-hole state championships.

There, Senior High fashioned a seventh-place finish statewide in the finals held in Chapel Hill.

Those primarily responsible for the showing were recognized with all-conference status.

Among the players receiving leaguewide attention are senior David Wilson, sophomores Jason Young and Matt Ray, and freshman Butch Farrington.

Of them, Young finished the highest on the league final leader board, followed, in order, by Farrington, Ray and Wilson.

All but Wilson are eligible to return to help lead Mooresville's defense of its league championship next spring.

To pad the school's dominate showing in the sport, Preston Harris, Mooresville's head coach, was also selected as the SD-7's top mentor after leading the Devils to the league championship.

Mooresville's four all-conference selections were singled out for their accomplishments during the school's annual all-sports award banquet held last Wednesday evening.

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Belated Basketball Honors For Mooresville Cagers

The most recent high school basekttball season may be long gone, but such is not the case with the accomplishments of this Mooresville Senior High School foursome. Lost in the suffle of activity upon the conclusion of the prep cage season three months ago was the fact that these four, two each off Mooresville's varsity girls and boys basketball team, all earned themselves a place on the all-Southern District Seven Conference's boys and girls squads. Representing the present as well as the future of both teams, two of the ones selected are seniors, while the other two are underclassmen. Seniors making the all-conference rosters are Nathan White, far left, and Tonya Cowan, third from left, while the underclass players include Rochelle Gaston, second from left, and Oscar Witherspoon. All four also emerged as team award winners following last week's annual all-sports banquet.