

## Brewers Complete Unbeaten Season As T-Ball Champions

Hail to the champions! That's the highest form of praise earned this season by the Brewers of the boys and girls T-Ball Baseball League after they posted two more wins last week to finish a spotless campaign.

Leading the league, entering the final week of play, the Brewers protected their cushion with their two wins, one of them by scoring the week's highest total of runs, and polished off a 'glistering, 9-0 season.

It made the Brewers outright league champions as last week's play concluded regular-season activity for the T-Ball League.

As it turned out, the Brewers needed all their wins to finish alone in first.

While honoring the circuit's only unbeaten record, it barely bettered that of the second-place finishing Mets, who crafted an 8-1

mark after suffering their first loss of the season last week in a meeting between the then co-leaders.

The Mets, who won their other two games last week, also had to hold on for their lives to place second, inching the efforts of the third-place finishing Athletics.

The A's, who split decisions during the season's final week, wound up at 7-3 to own third-place honors.

The Cubs, who also split contests in their final week, did so to finish at 6-3 and wind up fourth while wrapping up the list of teams that fashioned break-even or better records during the season.

The Astros, Phillies and Yankees kept the rankings close, as all three finished tied for fifth place with identical, 4-5 marks.

The Pirates finished in the following position, at 2-7, followed by the Dodgers, at 1-8, and the Braves, at 0-9.

In final week action, the Brewers celebrated their championship early as they scorched the base paths for a league-high total of 46 runs in a single game. It was one of three 30-plus run scoring efforts produced by league members during a high-scoring final week.

Individually, the Cubs' Bear Bryant and Mets' Joseph Karriker topped all batters as they bashed out three home runs apiece in a single game to share top slugging honors.

The Brewers Chase Sanderfer, Ryan Smith and Nathan Barnes of the Phillies, and Christopher Stuts of the Dodgers all unloaded for two homers each in a single game.

Of them, the Phillies' Smith ended the week with the most homers after he clubbed two dingers each in a pair of games to wind up with four for the week.

Last week's games brought a close to regular-season play in the T-Ball League, which entered to boys and girls born between July 31, 1984 and Aug. 1, 1986.

As a result, the first-place finishing Brewers, with their undefeated record, will be honored with a team trophy from the Mooresville Recreation Department, which conducted play in the youth baseball circuit.

## Seventh Annual Renewal For Lake Norman Golf Classic

The highest compliments that can be paid to an event is longevity and establishment.

Consider the Lake Norman Civic Golf Classic complimented. The attraction co-sponsored by the Cornelius-Lake Norman Lions Club and the Mooresville Civitans returns for its seventh annual renewal this weekend.

The event once again will take the shape of its by-now familiar, two-player, best-ball format.

The tournament, which ends an extended drought on the local golfing front, is set to take place Saturday and Sunday on the manicured Mooresville Municipal Golf Course.

Play will consist of two, 18-hole rounds. Competition will be lighted after opening-round play Saturday, and both days' totals will be used to determine winning teams.

Flights and prizes available in each will be based on the number of teams entered.

The cost of entering is \$55 per player.

The entry fee covers the cost of greens fees and the use of a golf cart for both rounds, as well as refreshments during the Sunday

afternoon awards ceremony.

Teams still interested in participating may register as long as space is available. As of early this week, some 40 teams were signed up, with tournament officials accepting a maximum number of 60 twosomes.

Play will get underway at noon Saturday. All teams will tee off between noon and 2 p.m. both days.

Tea times will be available as of noon Friday.

In addition to the on-going team competition, prizes will be awarded for tee shots landing closest to the pins on the par-three fifth and 12th holes both days.

Everyone entered in the tournament will also be available for prizes distributed during a drawing that will take place prior to the awards presentation Sunday.

Teams still interested in playing should contact the Mooresville golf course or any member of one of the sponsoring civic clubs as soon as possible.

Entries will close tomorrow (Thursday) regardless of the number of teams entered.

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## Mustang Pirates Cruising

The Pirates can cruise the rest of the way in within the boys Mustang Baseball League.

Boosted by three wins last week, the Pirates assured themselves of no worse than a share of first place, and crept to within a single win of capturing the league championship outright, all while protecting and enhancing the circuit's only undefeated record.

With last week's results, the Pirates improved their record to 1-0, becoming the first and so far only team in the seven-member league to reach the double-digit figure in the win column.

In the process, the Pirates put three games between them and their nearest challenger in both the win and loss column, with three games left to complete their regular season.

As a result, the worst the Pirates can do is finish in a first-place tie.

That's the best position possible for the Phillies, who tried to keep pace by winning their only scheduled game last week. The Phils moved to 8-3 and cannot afford another slip in their hunt for the title.

It's a lost hope for the Braves, who lost in their only appearance to fall to 8-4 and out of the title

hunt. Now the Braves have to worry about staying third.

That's so as the Astros are right behind, at 7-4, despite dropping to games in a row last week. That still kept the Astros as the last of the league members playing at or above the .500 mark.

Heading the circuit's second division are both the Athletics and Bandits, each at 5-7. The A's split matters last week, while the Bandits lost twice.

The Yankees doubled their number of previous wins, with a pair, to jump to 4-9 overall, while the Mets are still eighth, at 1-12.

The Pirates topped all teams with their three wins last week, while the Yankees were next with their two.

Individually, pitchers stole some of the limelight, as moundmen for the Pirates and Braves locked in a nine-inning duel that saw the Pirates emerge by a single run.

In that game, the Pirates' Richard Floyd hammered a home run, one of just four tagged around the league.

Others with dingers include the Yankees' Chris Barnette, and both Donnie Minter and Josh Sherrill of the Pirates.

Play in the Mustang League, conducted through the recreation department, takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturdays, with all games being played at Liberty Park.

Mustang League Standings

Pirates	1-0
Phillies	8-3
Braves	8-4
Astros	7-6
Athletics	5-7
Bandits	5-7
Yankees	4-9
Mets	1-12

## Bartlett In State Prep Rodeo Finals

Mooresville will have more than just a passing interest in this week's North Carolina High School Championship Rodeo.

One of its own will be among the participants.

Torri Bartlett, a rising senior at Mooresville Senior High, will be competing in the three-day attraction that gets underway Friday.

The event will be held through Sunday at the Lucky J. Arena in Staley, just west of Siler City.

Bartlett will be representing the school in several events.

The North Carolina Championship High School Rodeo is considered foremost in its class.

The attraction is being sponsored by the Siler City Jaycees and the Lucky J. Rod Company.

Tickets for the event are \$6 per person, with children under eight years of age admitted free. Tickets are good for one day only.

Students from local as well as statewide high schools will participate in various events.

The competitors are in the running for the honor, recognition and prestige of representing North Carolina in the national competition, scheduled to take place in July.

Just when you thought the basketball season had ended, it starts back over.

It does so next week with the first of two scheduled basketball camps to be conducted through the Mooresville Recreation Department this spring and summer.

The recreation department will conduct a youth league camp Monday through Saturday of next week.

The camp will be held in the War Memorial gym.

The camp is for boys and girls between the ages of six and nine. The camp will be held each day from 9 a.m. until noon.

The cost is \$15 per camper, payable by the first day of the camp.

The focus of the camp will be on the basics of the game, such as passing, shooting, and dribbling.

Contests will be held among the competitors, with winners being awarded with prizes.

Pre-registration is required, so those interested should contact the recreation department as soon as possible.

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Larry Sullivan's

# SPORT SIDE

## Dissention In Rec. League Ranks

Touching All The Bases: It's the late innings of yet another successful youth baseball season operated through the Mooresville Recreation Department. However, despite said success, there's dissention among the ranks. It's creating a foul-smelling wind among the dissenters.

As with any program, there are those who will disagree with the way things are being run. Beat a team by 10 runs and there will be fans of the winning team who wanted to win by 15, or 20. The one who coined the phrase "you can't please everybody" certainly knew his subject well.

Unfortunately, there has been little time to enjoy the success on the local recreational baseball fields this spring. Ill attitudes, most of them based on false pretenses, have served to spoil the party for most, if not all, the participants. And it's just not fair.

In its defense, the Mooresville Recreation Department is probably doing the best it can with what it has. It is fielding in the neighborhood of 50 youth teams this season. Say there's an average of around 15 players per team. Primary school math tells you right there you're working with around 750 kids, give or take a few. And logic tells you you're also working with those kids' parents.

There is a lot of volunteerism that is needed to make the local program work. Coaches are volunteers, and most of them are parents. This is great. It's the best way for parents to get directly involved. There's no way you can please all the parents. But give the rec. department its due, it's trying.

Rules for the leagues call for practically every member of every team to see playing time in every game. It's one of the most basic of rules established and often repeated by the program-running department. Games can be won and lost by not following this most basic standard. Teams that don't play all their players by way of giving them all plate appearances and seeing to it that they make a stint at a defensive position can lose contests by mandated forfeits.

This used to be the standard for just the very early leagues, ones that spend the majority of time teaching the kids how to play instead of how to win — which isn't as bad as it might sound. Lately, the rule has filtered into the older age groups. To be honest, I don't know where it stops, if it does at all.

But just the playing requirement alone is not what's at the heart of the current dissention. No, it's a much deeper problem, one that recreation department officials aren't even sure of the roots.

Perhaps it began growing a couple of years ago. For it was then when the rec. dept. required that out-of-town residents who choose to participate in in-town athletic programs pay an extra \$10 in registration fee for that right. As a result, Mooresville residents pay a \$10 fee to participate, while non-residents pay \$20. For that money, both parties receive equal — yes equal — treatment.

That latter part has come under scrutiny, of late. Without pointing fingers or naming names, it seems that the bulk of the current on going controversy, which seemed to erupt early this season and has spouted from time to time since, is coming from the out-of-town majority that makes up the league rosters.

For some reason, and no one seems to know just why, they feel someone is operating against them. For support, they point to the rumor that the recreation department is attempting to phase out out-of-town participation altogether.

Wanda McKenzie, the recreation department's athletic director who has had her fill of these kind of complaints, doesn't know where, or on what grounds, such a ridiculous idea surfaced. "We want everyone who wants to play to

play," stressed a concerned McKenzie, herself a non-resident whose boys play in town leagues. "There's absolutely no truth behind the idea that we won't be letting non-residents participate. That thought has never crossed our mind. We probably get more than half our players from outside the city limits. I just don't know where such things get started."

It perhaps started when the additional registration fee was added to the non-residents' playing cost. But that move made sense then and it does now. The reason is simple. For the most part, the recreation department uses city taxes to run its programs. Non-residents pay no city taxes. Town residents do, so, in effect, those in the latter group include participation fee in their taxes. For an extra \$10, so do county residents.

For both parties, in equal allotments, the fee covers the cost of participating. This includes assignment to a team, the receiving of a T-shirt team jersey all players keep after the season, the assurance of a place to play, the providing of basic playing equipment, the securing of umpires and official scorekeepers, the providing of game and practice balls, and season-long field maintenance.

In short, you can't beat it for the money. But there are those who think they can.

Those in this group have done more than just threaten to pull out of the Mooresville leagues and participate in county-run programs. They have passed around petitions urging others to also flee, citing the erroneous report of the local recreation department trying to run non-residents away as the main reason.

What these disoriented folks don't know is what they're leaving for what they're thinking about joining. No doubt that the Iredell County Recreation Department also runs a quality summer baseball program. But the ICRD will be the first to admit that it can't provide the same services as the town.

As proof, the county requires a \$7 fee per player per team for participation. It also requires that teams be backed by a sponsor. In return, the county will see to it that fields are game-ready and will provide umpires. There are no provided team jerseys, no providing of balls, and no fielding of official game scorekeepers. Teams must be responsible for all added basics.

And while services change, playing requirements at both the county and town levels are the same. All members of all teams must see time in all games, or forfeits will be called. Teams representing certain areas of the county must conduct open sign-ups and all who are eligible to register must be allowed to do so.

In Mooresville, the rec. dept. receives the basic registration fee and takes care of all the added paperwork. For the most part, it's a thankless job. Most of those involved simply want to play and win. There's more than just playing and winning behind the scenes, but few take notice.

Until, that is, things don't go exactly their way. Then they create a ruckus. In the past, those doing the fussing have been a silent minority. But of late, because an increasingly number of participants hail from outside the town limits, it has become a more vocal majority. Regardless, the foundation behind its argument is based on rumor, or the facts are being twisted so as to attempt to support their cause.

Soon, the late innings will be complete and postseason play will get underway. That's when the local leagues will require the upmost in teamwork. It remains to be seen whether the current dissention can be tamed by then. Hopefully, those disturbing the peace will come to their senses and realize just how good they've really got it.

## No Passing Fancy For Blue Devils

Tomorrow (Thursday) will be more than just a passing fancy for Mooresville Senior High's scaled-down spring football team.

It will be real competition in the team's home opener in its second off-season of participating in a growing passing league.

The Blue Devils, who earned their first taste of passing league action earlier this week, play host to three other teams in a round robin affair at the Mooresville Stadium tomorrow night.

Play in the passing league attraction gets underway with two games taking place at opposite ends of the field beginning at 6:30 p.m.

During the course of the evening, all four teams on hand will play the other three.

In addition to Mooresville, other squads present will be Kannapolis, West Charlotte and Charlotte Olympic.

There is no admission fee for viewing the games.

In the passing league, each team consists of a quarterback, running backs and receivers on offense, and linebackers, defensive ends and defensive backs on defense.

Only passing is allowed on offense.

Under the passing league format, teams are restricted on contact defensively. There is no tackling allowed.

Mooresville found through its first year of participating in a passing league last spring that the concept worked well in preparing both the passing offense and passing defense of its overall team play.

As a result, Senior High agreed to take part in another similar league this year.

Tomorrow's gathering here marks the first of two home appearances for the Devils within a week's time.

Next Tuesday night, also at the stadium, Mooresville will entertain Kannapolis, Olympic and Thomasville in a second passing league competition.

The Devils are looking eagerly to the meeting with Thomasville, as it was the latter that eliminated Mooresville in the third round of the state 2A playoffs last fall.

## Juniors To Tee Off In Golf Clinic

Fore!

That may well be the battle cry of the week at Mooresville's Municipal Golf Course next week.

For beginning Monday morning, and continuing through Friday, area juniors between the ages of seven and 18 will be teeing off in the week-long Mooresville Juniors Golf Clinic.

The festivities will take place between 9-11 a.m., Monday through Friday, at the local public course.

David Brown, a Class A golf professional, will be serving as the clinic instructor.

The cost of participating is \$15 per golfer.

The fee covers instruction, range balls, greens fees and lunch on Friday.

The clinic is open to boys and girls, regardless of prior experience in the game.

The week-long event will close with the playing of actual holes in competition on the course Friday.

Those interested in participating should contact the Mooresville Municipal Golf Course and leave a message and telephone number.

Registration will be payable upon arrival for Monday's clinic.

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