

Dropping Three Of Four Games, Moors Head In Wrong Direction

Mooreville's Moors traveled in the wrong direction last week. Playing four Southern Division of Area III contests within a five-day span, Gresham-Baker Post 66 suffered three American Legion baseball defeats, including the first two in succession, to take a below break-even record into this week's stretch run of regular-season play.

The Moors of veteran head

coach Whitey Meadows opened their week with back-to-back defeats first at home to league-leading Mocksville-Dave, by a 13-2 count, and then to second-division member Lexington, 13-10, before ending the drought with a homefield, 4-3 inching past Concord Friday night.

The slump continued, however, Saturday night, when league newcomer and homestanding States-

ville outslugged their guests for a 14-11 triumph, for what was the home team's first SD-Area III win of the campaign.

The Moors were scheduled to visit to Stanly County Sunday night, but that contest was rained out and scheduled to be made up at a later date.

As a result of last week's one-for-four showing, Mooreville, defending regular-season and

tournament champions of the SD-Area III, carried a 4-5 league record, and a 6-6-1 overall mark, into this week's action.

In addition, as a result of last week's performance, Mooreville salvaged a split of its season series against Concord, Lexington and Statesville, while dropping the opening end of its two-game, home-and-home stand with unbeaten Mocksville-Dave.

In Statesville Saturday night, and looking to sweep both ends of the season series with the league's newest member, Mooreville took an 8-4 lead into the bottom of the sixth before all heck broke loose.

For it was then when the home team erupted for eight runs to take a lead it would never relinquish.

Statesville had struck first with two runs in the third before Mooreville knotted the game with a pair of runs in the top of the fourth.

Post 66 grabbed a 5-2 edge with three runs in the fifth before Statesville pulled to within a run with two scores in the last of the inning.

The guests tacked on three more runs in the sixth for that 8-4 cushion only to watch as Statesville ran wild to score eight times in the last of the sixth.

Mooreville fought back with single runs in the seventh, eighth, and ninth frames, a comeback attempt offset by Statesville's scoring of two runs in the seventh that accounted for the final spread.

Moore pitcher Roy Frye earned

the starting nod and suffered the loss, pitching six innings and allowing 12 runs on 14 hits with one strikeout. Ryan Douglas hurled the last two innings, surrendering the last two runs on a hit and a walk.

Frye boosted his own case at the plate with a three-hit evening, including the clubbing of his second home run of the season, a three-run job in the top of the fifth. He also added a double and a single and drove home four runs.

Decomba Conner drilled a double and a single, while Tim Shinn and Toby Tomlin clubbed a double apiece, the latter finishing the game with three runs batted in. Bryan Wagner also contributed a base hit.

At home to face Concord Friday night, Post 66 squared the series against Post 51, riding the complete-game pitching effort of righthander Tomlin in the

Proceding in squaring his mound mark at 1.1, went the distance — all nine innings — and gave up the three runs on half a dozen hits while also notching six strikeouts.

In support, the Moors built a 4-0 lead after five innings — scoring once in the third and three times in the fifth — and then weathered Concord's comeback that featured a run in the sixth and two in the eighth.

Conner, celebrating his return to the regular lineup after an extended absence while nursing a

broken hand suffered near the end of the past high school season, ran his plate performance, slugging for nine with three base hits in his first three appearances to top the winners offensively.

Conner blasted a home run in the fifth and finished with three runs batted in before finally being retired in his last at-bat of the night.

Mike Cummings collected two hits, one of them a solo home run in the fifth, while Frye and Kexley each pitched in with a single.

At Lexington Wednesday night, Post 66's shot at the seventh inning for the season was off target, as Lexington constructed a 13-3 bulge after six innings and never allowed the Moors to catch up.

Mooreville tried, though, scoring four times in the seventh, once in the eighth, and two more times in the ninth to creep within three runs by game's end.

Post 66 had scored two runs in the fourth and one in the fifth for its other runs.

Lefthander Rod Bowers was the starting and losing pitcher, allowing eight runs and suffering from seven errors behind him defensively. Matt McConnell and Jason Harkey each served time on the hill.

At the plate, Conner pieced together a perfect five-for-five effort, with a pair of doubles and three singles, in what was his first full game since the injury. At the time, it gave Conner six hits in six appearances since returning to the line up.

Frye picked up three base hits, while Cummings, with a double, and Tomlin, who smacked his team-best third home run, each collected two hits. Ezra Cowan, Jon Walker, Kexley, Bill McLaughlin, Shinn and Bowers all added a base hit, with Shinn's being a double.

Mooreville opened its string of games by hosting Mocksville-Dave Tuesday night and catching an up-close glimpse of why the latter leads the league with an unbeaten mark.

Mocksville-Dave scored at least a run in five different innings, and tallied 10 runs in a two-inning span, to rough up the hosts by the 13-2 score.

Frye was the starter and losing, with relief help coming from Shinn and Douglas.

Mocksville never trailed, scoring once in the first, adding a run in the third, and notching a third in the third before piling up a 7-0 lead by scratching for four runs in the sixth.

After Post 66 ended the shutout bid with a pair of runs in the last of the sixth, the guests took offense and netted their final six runs in the top half of the seventh.

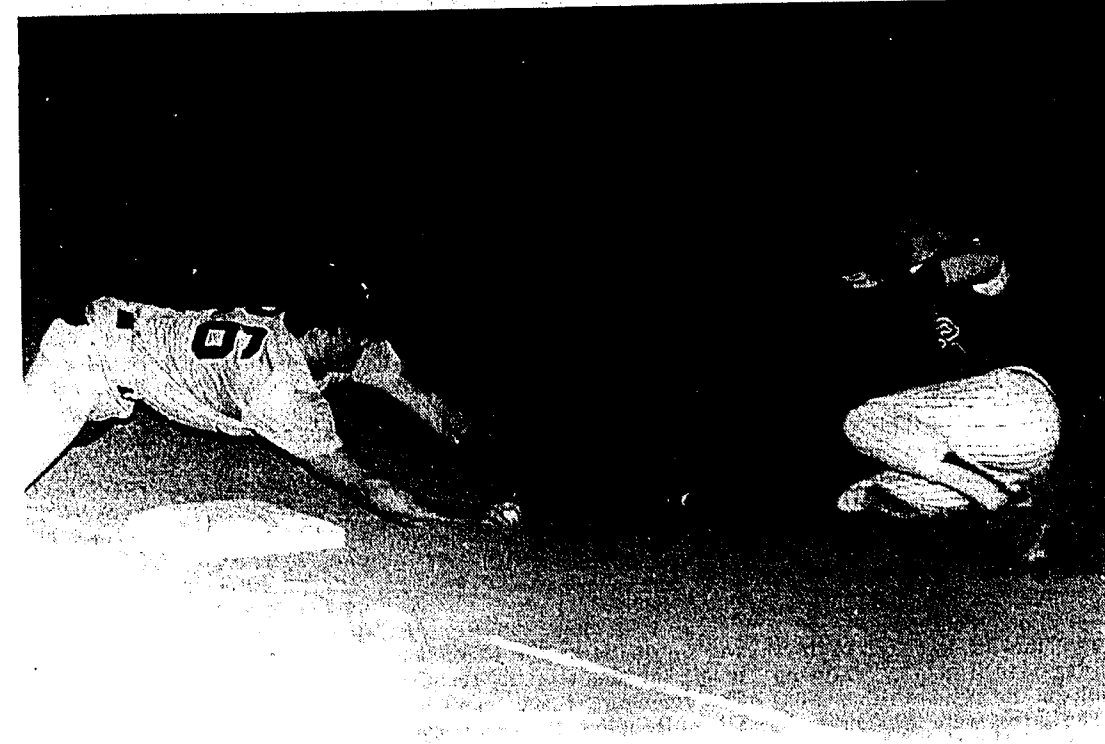
Tomlin clubbed a pair of hits to top the hosts, while Cowan, Cummings, Kexley, Conner and Donnell Poole all picked up a base hit apiece.

Faced with a losing record against the league, Mooreville entered a stretch of its season this week that featured the playing of five of its remaining seven games on consecutive nights.

The Moors opened the streak by hosting second-place Rowan County Tuesday night, and they continue it by staying at home to entertain Kannapolis tonight (Wednesday).

Tomorrow (Thursday) evening, Post 66 completes its season twin-bill with K-Town by returning the favor with a visit before staying on the road to complete the season series with homestanding North Wilkesboro on Friday.

Saturday, the Moors return home to entertain Stanly County. All games feature 7:45 p.m. starting times, and all of the Moors home games take place on the Mooreville Senior High School field.



Tomlin looks dead, but winds up sliding around tag to reach third safely

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Magic Time For Open's Magic Rentals

It's magic time for Magic Rentals of the Men's Open Softball League.

That's so after Magic Rentals closed out the regular-season portion of its season with a trio of victories last week, triumphs that secured the current front-runners of no worse than a share of the championship.

With last week's wins, Magic Rentals wound up its season with an 11-1 mark, guaranteeing it at least a share of the top honors.

All Magic Rentals can do now as the league wraps up play this week is sit back and see if it will finish first by itself or share league bragging rights.

That's still a possibility after second-place Randy Marion Chevrolet gloved a single win in as many appearances as shoot to 10-1 for the year. Randy Marion entered this week's play with another game on tap, needing to win it to forge a two-way tie at the top.

Brinton's Bombers became the second of three league members to wind up its season last week, going out on a winning note to finish the season at 9-3 and as

sure of sole possession of third place. Greenfield Market also emerged a winner in its only scheduled appearance and, as a result, advanced into a two-way tie for fourth with former league frontrunner Universal Maintenance.

Universal went the other route, falling twice without a win, to slip out of the title hunt and fall to the 7-4 mark.

Mooreville Ford was also dealt a pair of losses to slip dangerously close to the break-even mark for the year. Mooreville Ford took a 6-5 mark into this week's finales.

Burlington gobbled up two wins against a single defeat to tie the Hurricanes, who slumped with three defeats, for top honors among the second division members, both harboring identical, 5-6 marks entering this week's play.

Lakeside Cable enjoyed a two-game winning streak for the week to creep up in the standings, finishing its season on a winning note to wind up at 5-7 overall.

MCCA was dealt a defeat in its

Bandits End With Bang

The Bandits went out not with a whimper but a bang.

The Bandits celebrated their whipping of fellow Midget Softball League competition in undefeated fashion last week by ringing up four wins to complete a sparkling 9-0 campaign.

The Bandits, who shared or owned outright the league lead all season, put all doubters to rest in compiling a perfect season and standing unchallenged atop the four-team field.

So far in front of the pack were the regular-season champions, who swept all three three-game series from the circuit's other members, that they wound up with the circuit's only winning record overall.

With all league members engaged in four games apiece during a busy final week of regular season play, the Bandits triumphed in all of theirs to emerge from the week with the loop's only winning mark.

The Orioles, despite a last place finish overall, saved their best for last by splitting final week decisions and ending the season on a break-even note.

As for the Cubs and Cardinals, they each managed but a single win in the four tries to end with the same, 1-3 showings for the final week.

As a result, the Cubs placed second overall, at 4-5, while the Cardinals wound up third, at 3-6. The O's ended a season of winlessness with their only two victories to wind up a 2-7 overall.

League players used last week to polish their individual accomplishments, some in eye-opening style.

The Bandits Emily Seamon banged out a league-best four hits in a single game to top efforts there, but not without some pressure.

That was so as the Cardinals Jili Roach and Brian Mayhew, Bandits Sam Atkins and Kristi Seamon, and Cub Kathy Church all clubbed as many as three hits in a single game.

Of them, Roach was the week's hottest swinger, as he cracked out three-hit productions three times for a rare softball hat trick.

Meanwhile, the Bandits' Tonya Cole accounted for all the week's power, as she connected for single homers in two of her team's three games to finish the season with two roundtrippers.

Last week's play brought a close to the regular-season portion of the girls Midget Softball League, but selected members of the league will extend their season by being named to serve as all-stars that will represent Mooreville in upcoming postseason play.

Play in the league is conducted through the Mooreville Recreation Department, and all games took place at Liberty Park.

Midget Softball League Final Standings

Bandits	9-0
Cubs	4-5
Cardinals	3-6
Orioles	2-7

Rope Course Challenge Rescheduled

The Mooreville Recreation Department's ropes course challenge trip originally scheduled for later this week has been postponed until a later date.

TI Farmer, activities director at the rec. dept., called off Thursday's trip and said the outing will be rescheduled later this summer.

The recreation department had set aside tomorrow as a day of adventure with a trip to the Iredell County Ropes Challenge Course.

The course takes place on the ground and 40 feet in the air. The ropes course combines fun with the building of confidence and self-esteem among its participants.

Pre-registration is required. Those interested in taking part in the planned outing need to contact Farmer during regular office hours at the recreation department.

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