



Strike Force Strikes First In Youth Bowling League

There was no striking down the Strike Force during this past winter youth league bowling season. And because of it, it finished atop the Youth Bowling League's rankings for the just completed season. Members of the striking Strike Force are, from left, Tammy Coren, Jason Reid, John Gillespie, Angela Foris, and Alisha Rogers. The team was recognized for its accomplishments at the winter league's award ceremony recently at Moor Lanes.

Roach Is Gymfest Titleist

Mooreville's Jill Roach was among the two Lake Norman YMCA gymnasts to earn all-around titles at the Blue Ridge YMCA Gymfest Championship late last month.

Roach, competing in the 9-10 year Level Five, secured top honors in her division with a total score of 33.4 points.

She earned her way to the head of the class with first-place finishes in the floor exercise and balance beam, and a third-place showing on the uneven bars.

Roach was joined in the all-around winner's circle by Lake Norman YMCA gymnast-mate Sara Harmon, who swept the 8-and-under Level Five division with first-place medals in the

beam, bars, floor vault to win her all-around blue ribbon.

The Lake Norman YMCA also placed two other competitors in the all-around standings, with Sally Bradford finishing third in the 9-10 Level Five, and Annie Gibson placing fourth in that division.

Sabrina Kufra placed third in the floor, Aimee Puckhaber finished sixth in the vault, and Elizabeth Thornberry wound up sixth on the bars.

In the 11-12 year Level Five competition, Elizabeth Lamb placed third all-around with a score of 30.25. She finished first on the beam, fourth on the bars, fifth in floor and sixth in vault.

Level Six competitor Amy Reid finished sixth in the floor.

Programs On Nature Set For April

With April being the first full month of spring, it may also be the best month of the year to get up close and personal with Mother Nature.

The Duke Power State Park is helping.

It is doing so by offering fun and informative nature programs and activities throughout the current month.

The events get underway this weekend, with a Hurricane Hugo Hike.

Set to take place Sunday, beginning at 2 p.m., this trek will allow observers to see how, even though Hurricane Hugo destroyed hundreds of acres of trees at Duke Power State Park, some of the wildlife living there may be better off now than they were before the storm.

The hike begins at the park office, and those enjoying it are encouraged to wear comfortable hiking shoes.

The following Sunday, a spring wildflower hike will be held.

With spring in the air, and on the ground, a park ranger will take hikers to explore the variety and bounty of wildflowers that are found in the Western Piedmont.

The hike begins at the campground bathhouse at 1:30 p.m.

April 27, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., a youth fishing clinic will be held.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will sponsor a Carolinas Anglers Teach Children How youth fishing clinic at the park.

The CATCH clinic will teach youth, ages 8 to 15, how to fish. The clinic is free and pre-registration is mandatory.

The number of participants is limited, so register early.

Interested participants may register by calling the park office, at 528-6350, before April 19.

Park office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Volunteers are also needed to assist in the clinic presentation. Those interested should contact the park office.



Viking Wrestlers Honored

It was quite a wrestling season for South Iredell's Vikings. And these are three good reasons why. The Vikes finished first in the Foothills Athletic Conference regular season and went on to make noise in the state playoffs in both team and individual postseason play. At the school's winter sports awards ceremony, these are the ones singled out for their contributions. The honorees, and their honors, are, from left, Frankie Walls, coach's award; Gerry Clarke, most improved; and Jody Cauthen, recognized for establishing a single-season record for wins after posting a 40-3 wrestling mark.

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Devils Denied Gold Egg In Tournament

They'll be no golden egg for Mooreville's Blue Devils to find in this year's Kannapolis Easter Tournament.

That matter was assured when Mooreville suffered a loss in its tournament debut Saturday afternoon, falling to South Rowan, 7-4.

However, the Devils continued searching to find what other colored eggs they can, as the tournament extended through the first of this week, and they came up with something for their efforts after evening their tourney record with a 10-6 triumph over North Stanly and former head coach Mark Quinn Monday afternoon.

As a result of the split, Mooreville could still finish fifth in the eight-team affair with a victory late Tuesday.

"We played two different games," revealed Joe Patten, Mooreville's first-year head coach, in summing up his team's first appearances. "We came out and took too many pitches and weren't aggressive at the plate against South Rowan, and it cost us. Against North Stanly, we hit right off the bat, so to speak. That's the way we have to play. We can still have a good tournament showing."

The split decisions presented the Devils with a 5-3 overall record, to go along with their 3-1 Southern District Seven Conference mark, entering their final tournament appearance this week.

Monday afternoon against North Stanly, whose Comets are

now under the direction of former Blue Devil head coach Quinn, Mooreville showed little mercy for their former coach's crew, jumping out to a 6-0 lead before relinquishing their first at-bat in the top of the first.

The Devils added two more runs in the second and a run in the fourth for a 8-0 lead. The lead reached as much as 10-0 in the fifth before North Stanly touched the locals for single runs in the fifth and sixth followed by four runs in the seventh.

Left-hander Deacon Patterson was the starting and winning pitcher, picking up his first victory decision, pitching into the sixth and allowing two runs on three hits with seven strikeouts.

Rod Bowers worked part of the sixth, and Ricky Greene pitched the seventh, surrendering four runs between them on a hit and two walks.

Greene, Nathan White, Decomba Conner, Roy Frye and T.J. Gesswick all lined out a pair of hits apiece, with Frye driving in four runs. Frye and Greene each smacked a double.

Patterson, Conner, Otis Cowan and Steven Owens each accounted for a run batted in.

In the team's tournament debut Saturday afternoon, against fourth-seeded South Rowan, the latter used a four-run fifth inning to overcome Mooreville and post the 7-4 win.

After spotting South Rowan a run in the second, Mooreville ended with two runs in the bottom of the inning. South

knotted the game with a single run in the top of the third.

The Devils moved back in front with a run in the fourth before the Raiders grabbed the lead for good with their four-run fifth.

Senior High scratched for its final run in the last of the sixth.

Bowers went the distance and suffered the loss, his second against no wins. He fanned nine but walked five in allowing the seven runs and six hits.

Mooreville accumulated but five hits in the loss.

Frye unloaded two of them, both singles, while Patterson, Greene, and Cowan each picked up a base hit.

Mooreville looked to escape from the tournament with a winning record in the event when playing in its final holiday bout late Tuesday afternoon.

In a game that would determine fifth place, the Devils were to face second-seeded East Davidson, a fellow 2A class opponent, in a consolation round game.

Following the tournament, Mooreville will be idle until resuming regular season play when returning to SD-7 play by hosting Maiden next Tuesday night.

Give A Cheer For South Iredell's Top Cheerleaders

After two seasons of leading South Iredell followers in cheers for their beloved Vikings, the time came during the school's recent winter sports awards ceremony for selected members of the cheerleading squad to be on the receiving end of some of those cheers. Varsity and junior varsity squad members were recognized for their efforts during the fall and winter seasons. The award winners, and what they won, are, from left: Sodonnice Howell, most improved; Jennifer Deese, coach's award; Tonya Knox, most spirited; and Allison Lowrance, most spirited jayvee cheerleader.

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Open Softball Entry Fee, Deadline Set

This is no April's Fool. This is the final week to register a team for participation in the Mooreville Recreation Department's Men's Open Softball League.

The deadline to enter a team is Friday.

An entry fee of \$350 per team has been established by the sponsoring recreation department. This fee is also due no later than Friday.

Play is open to all men's teams. Following the passing of the entry fee deadline later this week, an organizational meeting of team managers will be held.

Regular-season play is scheduled to begin in early May.

For more information concerning the Men's League, contact Wanda McKenzie, athletic director of the Mooreville Recreation Department.

Softball Leagues Available

Softball anyone?

The Mooreville Recreation Department hopes so.

With plans already underway to conduct a Men's Open Softball League this summer, the recreation department is also planning to conduct adult softball action in a Church, Women's and Co-Rec leagues.

The only requirement yet to be met is the number of team competing in each.

A minimum of six teams is required before a league can be conducted.

Those wishing to engage a team in any of the three leagues are encouraged to contact Wanda McKenzie, athletic director, before the end of this week.

Entry fees, paying deadlines and schedules will all wait, pending the number of entries in each league.

For more information on the adult softball leagues, contact the Mooreville Recreation Department.

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South Swimmers Saluted

Salute! South Iredell High School did just that to the outstanding members of its girls and boys swim teams during the winter sports awards ceremony conducted at the school. Tracy Jacobs, far left, was singled out as the most valuable member of her aquatic club, while Sonya Ferrar was the squad's coach's award winner. Matt Hurlbut was a two-time winner for the guys, winning the MVP and Team Before Self awards.

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