With A Win In Finale, Devils Streak Out Of Easter Tourney

Mooresville wound up exiting the annual Kannapolis Easter Baseball Tournament the same way it entered it.

On a winning streak.

After having what had been a three-game victorious spree squelched in their tournament debut over the weekend, the Blue Devils moved to within a win of matching it by staging a game-long comeback and then snapping a seventh-inning tie to outlast East Davidson late Tuesday evening, 7-6.

It was the battle for fifth-place in the eight-team tournament, as both squads had been handed earlier defeats that knocked each into the consolation bracket.

For Mooresville, it managed to bounce back from a first-game loss to eventual finalist South Rowan by bouncing past North Stanly and former heac coach Mark Quinn in the second round that accounted for its first tournament win.

East Davidson, also a member of the 2A ranks, had entered the tournament as the number two seed before suffering an opening defeat.

The contest, like all tournament games, unfolded on the A.L. Brown High School field late Tuesday, with the winner assured of being one of the four teams to exit the attraction on the heels of a win.

Blue Devils first-year head coach Joe Pinyan wanted his team to face a challenge in making its final holiday appearance before resuming regular-season play this week, but pehaps not quite to the extreme that one materialized early in the fifth-place deciding tilt.

After Mooresville, behind pitching ace senior Roy Frye, had grabbed the early lead with a run in the top of the first, East Davidson took advantage of a single base hit to tally five runs in its first at-bat.

It took Mooresville, currently in the thick of its early Southern District Seven Conference chase, two innings to cook up its second lead of the game, taking a 6-5 edge after three complete frames of play.

East managed to tie the game in the fourth before Senior High scratched for the eventual game-winning run in the top of the seventh.

After one out in the seventh, Decomba Conner scorched a shot into the gap in left center that resulted in a triple.

Frye, who earlier plated his team's first run, then followed with a shot to deep left for a double that easily scored Conner from third.

Frye, unbeaten on the year, stayed that way by sitting down the East batters in the seventh to carve up his fourth win against no defeats.

Frye, a righthander, finished the game by allowing the five runs on four hits with eight strike outs, a couple of walks and a hit batsman.

Mooresville scored the game's opening run in the top of the first when Daron Patterson led off with a single, stole second and scored on Frye's fielder's choice grounder.

Then came the downpour of East Davidson runs in the bottom half of the opening frame. East collected but one hit while taking advantage of a couple of errors, a walk and a hit batter to tally five runs.

Mooresville began its comeback in the second inning, as Otis Cowan doubled in the gap, took third on a passed ball and then raced home on T.J. Goswick's sacrifice fly.

The Blue Devils, who entered the tournament seeded fourth, regained the lead with a four-run third inning.

Nathan White began the rally with a double and moved to third on Conner's single. Two errors off a grounder hit by Frye scored the two runners and moved Frye to second. He moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on a Ricky Greene sacrifice fly.

Two errors put runners on first and third, and, with Sean Templeton caught in a rundown, Goswick stole home to account for the fourth and final run of the inning.

East touched Frye for a single unearned run in the bottom of the fourth to knot the game at six.

It stayed that way until Mooresville's game-winning rally in the seventh.

The winners finished the game with six hits, paced by the two from Conner, including his first triple of the season. White, Cowan and Frye all based doubles, and Patterson added his game-opening single.

The victory pushed Mooresville's record for the season to the 6-3 mark and kept intact its 3-1 SD-7 record that allowed the Devils to enter the East break mired in a logjam in second-place in the league standings.

The Devils entered this week with a full slate of three games on tap, two of them tabled to take place against conference foes.

Senior High was to open its play for the week by hosting current co-second-place positioner Maiden Tuesday night before venturing outside the league for a non-conference game at North Stanly tomorrow (Thursday).

Senior High returns to SD-7 play Friday when returning home to entertain West Lincoln.

All three games this week feature 7:30 starting times.

Prior to scoring winning run, Conner stirs up a little dust sliding into third

On Post-Easter Weekend, SISA Squads Roll A Seven

South Iredell Soccer Association squads rolled a lucky seven in county-wide youth recreational play during their first weekend back in action following the Easter break.

Of the matches played Saturday involving SISA squads, seven of them turned in winning performances for the Brawley Middle School-based organization.

Three teams in U-8, and two each in U-10 and U-14, all secured wins during a full schedule of play within the Iredell County Recreation Department's youth soccer program.

SISA teams are engaging in new age classifications this spring, with the "U" in each standing for under a certain age group. For example, games in U-8 are involving play among players aged eight and under.

In that division, SISA squads picked up three wins in four reported results.

Paving the way among the winners were the Brawley Steamers, who posted a 1-0 win over Central. Preston Davis scored the match's lone goal, off a feed by David Lackey. Lackey also shared time in the victorious net with Marshall Hitchcock and Nathan Dykes.

The Brawley Broncos added a win for the division, while the Brawley Express was defeated.

In U-10, two more SISA teams emerged victorious.

The duo was captained by the performance turned in by the Brawley Cougars, who hammered past Cool Springs, 6-0.

Nicholas Rhoton registered a hat trick of three goals, while teammates Mark Degan, Josh Graves and Stuart Cullinan all added a goal apiece. In the net, Luke Ford and Nicholas Shuemaker combined on the shutout.

The Brawley Panthers were nearly as sharp, whipping Harmony 6-1, behind a Michael Cook hat trick and single scatches each by Kaleb Walker, Clayton Boan, and Sammy Jepko. Jepko, Seth Graham and Derek Hager all shared time defending the winners' net.

The Brawley Wildcats dropped a 4-2 decision to the East Iredell Turbos, despite single goals apiece from Luke Patterson and Ben Payne.

In U-12, SISA teams battled to a pair of ties and a defeat.

One of the ties was a 2-2 bout involving the Brawley Rowdies against the Troutman Kickers.

Samuel Hyatt tallied both goals for the Rowdies, with Jason Harwell and Brad Barger sharing time as keepers.

The Brawley Turbos also batted the East Flyers to a tie.

The Brawley Stars emerged on the short end of a 4-3 score against Cool Springs, despite a pair of goals from Katie Stroud and a single net-finding kick from Wesley Tucker. Jonathan Terrell and Travis Smith each worked in the net for the Stars.

In U-14, a battle between fellow SISA squads highlighted the agenda.

In it, the Brawley Strikers defeated the Blast, 4-1, as Jimmy Morris scored twice for the winners, and teammates Nick Charcut and Robby Kufta each scratched once. Josh Kruger went the distance in the net to glove the win.

The Brawley Bullets also turned in a winning effort, downing the East Flyers.

SISA teams are headquartered at Brawley School, where they also play their regular season home games.

Four more weekends of activity will comprise the regular season before SISA teams engage in postseason play in an open tournament to take place on the Davidson College campus.

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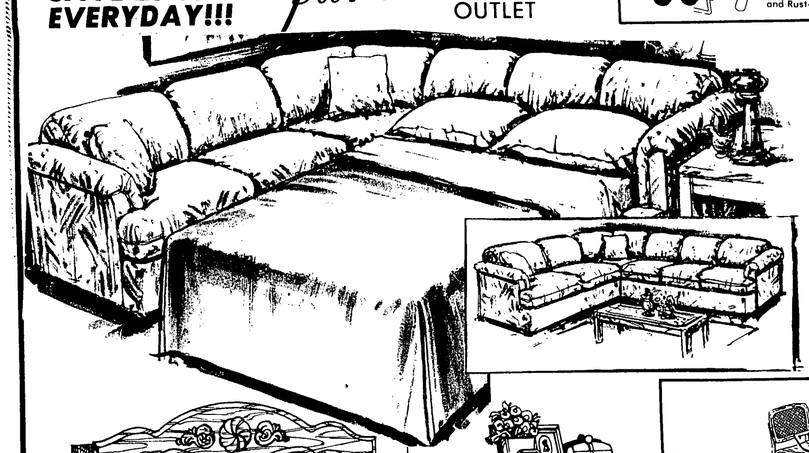

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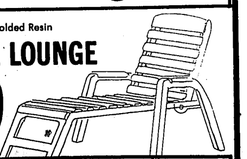

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Yep, It's Spring! Dogwood Bass Tournament Makes Season Official

Fishermen are so fickle.

On a picture-perfect example of a spring Saturday, complete with a rolling early-morning fog that gave way to brightly-lit sunshine in a cloudless sky forwarding temperatures into the year-high 80's, anglers participating in the annual Lake Norman Shrine Club's Dogwood Bass Tournament were disappointed.

They wanted a heavy layer of clouds, perhaps even a few raindrops, and much lower temperatures, all which provide better fishing conditions.

Alas, it was Mother Nature that got the best of them Saturday.

But those in the 130-strong field found a way to cope, some of them making it a healthy payday in the process.

The fishing began in the lifting fog around 7 a.m. Saturday, when the gun sounded starting the day-long event from Midway Marina, serving once again as tournament headquarters.

Anglers registered for the attraction separately and were then teamed with partners in a blind draw.

Anglers then weighed in their fish on an individual basis.

Participants were allowed to weigh in as many as eight fish, providing all in the catch were of legal keeper size.

Fishermen were ranked based on the total weight of their weighed-in fish.

All fishermen were required to report to the weigh-in station, at Midway, by 4 p.m. Anytime during tournament hours, though, anglers were free to weigh in their catches.

Though the weather may have proved not to be the best for fishing conditions, Newton's Doug Spencer found it more than delightful.

Spencer, who caught the limit of eight keeper-sized fish, wound up topping the field with a haul of 14 pounds, 14 ounces, to collect the $1,500 top prize.

Spencer easily captured top honors, beating the field by more than two full pounds.

On a day dominated by the 'D's, in general, and Dougs specifically, Doug Dover finished as the tournament's runner-up after racking up a pile of fish weighing in at 12 pounds, three ounces.

For his effort, Dover received $750.

Third-place, worth $500, went to David Anderson, while Jeff Hager placed fourth to pocket $250, the last cash prize available.

Larry Farmer, with a batch weighing in at just under six pounds, placed fifth and received a $100 gift certificate.

In the big fish competition, Jim Witherspoon hauled a single bass tipping the scales at five pounds, 2 ounces, to the weigh-in station to win the $625 pot.

All anglers finishing below fifth place were awarded with their pick of a table full of prizes donated by friends of the Lake Norman Shrine Club, which once again served as the primary beneficator.

The tournament, being promoted by Skoal Bandit promotions, was sponsored this spring by McKee Insulating.

Among special attractions at the tournament was an on-site visit by WTDR, 99.6 FM, a country music radio station. Disc jockeys from the station were on hand to introduce some of the winning anglers.

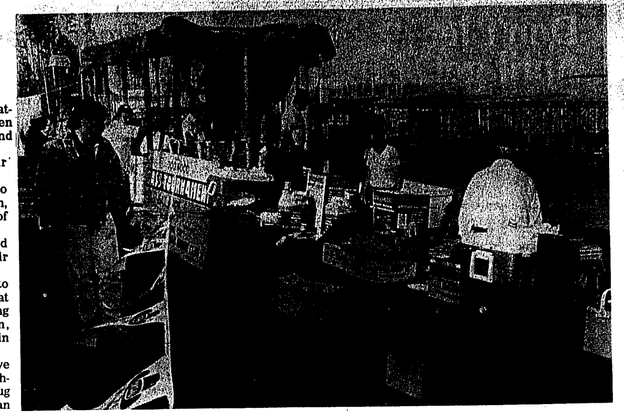

Table full of donated prizes up for grabs among those finishing out of the money

Top angler Spencer, center, runner-up Dover, left, and third-place Anderson

Vikettes Look To End Skid

So far, South Iredell has struck out in softball.

Through three games this season, including their Foothills Athletic Conference opener, the Vikettes are still looking for their first win.

The Lady Vikings endured their third straight loss, and in the process were denied a successful FAC debut, in a 6-3 loss handed down by West Iredell late last week.

The Thursday evening decision accounted for the Vikettes first taste of league competition.

The defeat lowered their record to the 0-3 level overall, and to the 0-1 mark in the league.

It was a bitter league-opening loss, as the hostesses carried a 3-0 lead into the sixth inning before surrendering a grand slam home run that put the visiting Lady Warriors ahead to stay.

The hostesses had tallied a run in the first inning, added a run in the second, and scratched for their third run in the third to take a 3-0 lead.

West chopped into the lead with all its damage in the sixth, bunching six hits, one of them the grand slam.

Erin Broome and Angie Hill each paired hits for the victims, and Laura and Amy Moss, and Tania Stewart each added a base hit.

South Iredell entered this week with another two league games on tap, both of them tabled to take place at home.

After entertaining Statesville earlier in the week, the Vikettes of head coach Sandy Torrence stay on their familiar field for a third straight time to entertain North Surry Friday afternoon.

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