

Good News For Vikings, Baseball Season In Over

And now, the good news. South Iredell has completed its 1991 baseball season, and not an out of line.

With a single and shortlived, two-game winning streak within the Foothills Athletic Conference being the only thing keeping the season from being a total loss, the Vikings concluded their campaign last week in fitting fashion, winding up on the short end of three decisions within a five-day span.

The spree ended at home Friday night when and where visiting West Iredell prolonged its own playoff hopes at the home team's expense, jumping to a 3-0 lead in the first inning, enjoying a 5-0 bulge after two innings and finishing at 10-6 victors.

Earlier in the week, in back-to-back meetings with Wilkes Central, familiarity brewed contempt for the Vikings, who opened the stand by suffering a 15-2 loss at the hands of the Eagles and turned right around the following evening and dropped a 4-1 verdict to the same WC squad.

Combined, the defeats leaves the Vikings with a 2-8 league record to go along with a disappointing, 6-14 overall showing as their season drew to a close.

At home Friday to entertain West Iredell, whose Warriors had held the Vikings hitless and scoreless in their earlier-season meeting, the hosts fared better at the plate — collecting four hits — and at the plate — registering the six runs — but it was all again to no avail.

The Warriors, battling for the FAC's third and final postseason berth, scored three runs in the first inning and added two more in the second for a quick, 5-0 lead.

The Vikings got on track to string three runs in the bottom of the second, capitalizing on a couple of errors and two passed balls.

The Vikes narrowed the gap to 5-4 with a run in the third before West jumped back in front with a

pair of runs in the fourth. South stayed close with a run in the bottom of the fourth inning.

After the guests tallied their final three runs in the opening half of the seventh inning, the home team netted its last score in the last of the same stanza.

Mark Apgar started and suffered the pitching loss for the hosts. Ryan Douglas and Matt McConnell each took a stint on the mound. Combined, the threesome surrendered 11 hits while walking and striking out two.

At the plate, Tracy Shinn collected two of the Vikings' four hits, one of them a double, and he drove home two runs, while Mike Cummings and Randy Mayberry each picked up a base hit.

Wednesday night, the Vikings were involved in yet another contest featuring a team in pursuit of a playoff bid.

Wilkes Central limited the hosts to five hits and a single run to post a 4-1 win that secured the Eagles of the FAC's number-two postseason position.

South Iredell netted its only run in the home half of the sixth inning, trailing 4-0 at the time.

Shinn and Cummings each picked up two hits to top the Vikings offense.

At Wilkes Central the previous evening, it was hard to tell it was the same two teams, as the Eagles piled up the 15-2 shellacking.

South, scoring both its runs in the top of the fifth, was held to just four hits, with McConnell, Brian Wagner, Alex Sprinkle and Brian Shaw each collecting a base hit.

Apgar, Vincent Ketchie and McConnell shared pitching time, with Apgar being handed the defeat.

The three defeats in a week's time serve to wind up South Iredell's baseball season, causing their Vikings to miss out on the state 3A playoffs for the first time in three years.



Larry Sullivan's

SPORT SIDE

Help State Champs Take Flight

Touching All The Bases: Help!

That's the current game plan strategy being employed by the Troutman-based North Carolina state Amateur Athletic Union's girls basketball 16 and under age division queens. The Carolina Flight, boasting of some of the state's best undercollegiate on-court talent — and proving it by winning the coveted state championship in relatively flowing fashion last month — will represent the Tar Heel state in this summer's national tournament.

They will, that is, if they can meet the financial requirements. The coaches, players, their parents and any others directly or indirectly associated with the squad are currently in the fundraising mood. Any and all desiring to help with any amount of contribution are greatly appreciated.

Without hardly breaking a sweat, the Flight, which fields a share of local talent made up of players age 16 and under, took off at last month's state tournament, winning six games without hardly being tested. It was quite show for a team predicted to be so dominating. There are those involved who feel the Flight has a legitimate chance of winning the national title this summer. The team fields several players who, in past AAU experiences, have participated on national championship units.

The Flight, coached by the husband-and-wife team of Rick and Ann Chappell, conducts its practice sessions at South Iredell High School. The coaches and players are currently on hiatus from practice, instead using their time on the fundraising trail. The national attraction is tabled for the latter part of next month, and practice is scheduled to resume either late this month or early in June.

Meanwhile, the team members are beating bushes for financial assistance. The Flight is a most successful product of the state's 11-year-old AAU basketball program. It is one that has steadily grown since its 1981 birth. Junior Olympics basketball provides a high level of competition and contributes to the development of young players while allowing the college scouts the opportunity to evaluate abilities. The AAU way is the way to go these days. There isn't an AAU event that takes place without the knowledge and presence of collegiate talent scouts.

Junior Olympics is a program of the AAU of the United States, and is conducted by the authority of the U.S. Olympic Committee, as an Olympic developmental program. The AAU/USA is a national organization of which the North Carolina AAU is an affiliate.

The NCAA is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. Its sole purpose is to promote and sponsor competition held in the spring and summer of each year, following the completion of the high school season. The state champions, for both boys and girls in a host of age divisions, then advance on to national competition.

But there's a catch. Being a non-profit organization, each team qualifying for the nationals is responsible for covering its own expenses. It's a shame to be eligible and then not go because of financial limitations. With the Flight as a rare exception, most players have the chance to make it the nationals once in a career. A team like the Flight, with the potential to bring home the national gold, deserves the chance to compete.

That's where we come in. Members of the team are currently circulating petitions asking for donations. Every penny will help. These girls not only represent North Carolina in general, but, by being headquartered nearby, this part specifically. That's all the more reason to lend a hand.

The Carolina Flight, the reigning 16 and under age division's national champion, is scheduled to compete in

the national championships June 28-July 6, in Johnson City, Tenn. It will cost each of the dozen team members around \$700 each to cover the cost of the week-long venture. All donations are tax deductible. If interested, contact the Chappells or any Carolina Flight player. This time, it's more than just the thought that counts.

Camping Under An Infield Fly: Speaking of the AAU, Mooresville's Rochelle Gaston, a member of last winter's girls varsity Devillete basketball team, spent her first year of competition in the level playing for the Newton Flames, also a first-year team.

Gaston, one of the few Mooresville girls players to take advantage of the AAU experience this spring, wound up as the leading scorer, with just at 13 points per outing, for the Flames. The effort helped the Flames make some noise in the past state tournament. Seeded last among the entries, Newton defeated two higher-seeded teams before falling in the third round.

And, this past weekend, Mooresville served as a proving hotbed for a host of boys AAU teams. The girls determined their age division state champions last month, and this month, the crownings take place for the fellows. For the second time in two years, Mooresville provided a place to rehearse.

Two full days of near around-the-clock action unfolded on the Mooresville Junior High campus over the weekend. For many in the field, it was their final tune-ups prior to engaging in statewide state championship play. Mooresville has just recently cranked up its own AAU teams, and a host of them competed in the hometown event.

Teams, like the players, have to start somewhere. Mooresville seems suitable to both.

Pivoting On A Double Play: This year's Crappiethon is over. The final castings in search of the three-month-long affair's high dollar fish took place through midnight last night.

As the end neared, the tournament's largest prizes, Tangle Free Tom and Country Mile Cal, were still on the loose. If he remains uncaught, it will be only the first time in three years that Tangle Free, the event's most recognized outlaw, has eluded his posse.

Nearing the tournament deadline, five of the \$1,000 tagged crappie, and another prize worth a \$6,000 reward, have been netted. Pole Snatcher, sponsored by B & M Pole Company, paid off his six grand value to Randall Anderson, of Lincolnton.

Among those netting the one grand fish was Mooresville's Mark White, who nabbed Kodak's Weekend Willie. Others in the group included Frankie Filet, sponsored by American Angler Quickcut and caught by Lincolnton's Curtis Setzer, Big Buck, provided by Piedmont Bait & Tackle and nabbed by Grey Huffstetler of Crouse, Triangle Food Mart's Fishy Mike, netted by Lincolnton's Ken Sherrill, and Shapely Cheryl, caught by Alfred Jarvis of Statesville.

In all, tagged crappie worth in excess of \$401,000 were set free in Lake Norman. The tournament kicked off back in mid March. It remains the longest-running, and largest big dollar tournament on the lake.

Driving Through The Fairway: Mooresville is capping its most successful golf season in years this week by participating in the North Carolina High School state finals. It marks the first time since 1986 that Senior High qualified as a team for the state championship.

The Devils did so after finishing first in the regular season within the Southern District Seven Conference, and then by placing second in the following week's regional tournament.

And the best news of all is, that of the team's top players, only one is a senior. Yes sir, golf is back at Mooresville!

SISA Squads End Spring, Prepare For Postseason

The South Iredell Soccer Association ended one phase of its spring season and prepared for another last weekend.

Two Share Softball's Top Spot

You lose, you move. That's the way it goes during the early stages of the Men's Open Softball League.

And so far, only two haven't lost.

They are Magic Rentals and Universal Maintenance, the league's lone undefeated teams through two full weeks of play.

As a result, they're the ones who share the circuit's top spot heading into this week's play.

Both Universal Maintenance and Magic Rentals take the same, 3-0 records into games this week. Bill's Greenfield Market has gathered in the most wins to date, with four, but has endured a single defeat to hold down the second-best league mark.

Meanwhile, first-week leader Brinton's Bombers now shared the third-best mark with Randy Marion Chevrolet.

The Hurricanes check in next in line, with a 2-1 record, followed by both Burlington and Lakeside Cable, which at 1-1 each wrap up the list of teams playing at or better than the break-even mark.

Rounding out the standings finds Mooresville Ford next, at 1-2, followed by NGK Ceramics, at 0-2, MCCA, at 0-3, and both the Brew Dogs and Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, both at 0-4.

Universal's Ed Isenhour took it upon himself to lead the home run charge last week, as he twice doubled up on dingers to finish with four for the week. Isenhour nailed two homers each in each of his team's two wins last week.

The Hurricanes' Freddy Clenserson matched the feat once to finish with honorable-mention honors.

Others with a single homer last week included Mooresville Ford's Mark Torrence, Hurricanes Bryan Corpening and Freddy Sifford, Magic Rentals' Alan Nichols and Scott Robbins, Randy Marion's Rick Graham and Tony Hager, Lakeside's Billy Brown, and Universal Maintenance's Mitch Phillips.

Games within the Men's Softball League are conducted through the Mooresville Recreation Department, take place Monday through Thursday evenings, with all games being played on the field behind Woods School.

Men's Softball League Standings

Magic Rentals 3-0
Universal Maintenance 3-0
Greenfield Market 4-1
Brinton's Bombers 3-1
Randy Marion Chevrolet 3-1
Hurricanes 2-1
Burlington 1-1
Lakeside Cable 1-1
Mooresville Ford 1-2
NGK Ceramics 0-2
MCCA 0-3
Brew Dogs 0-4
LNRM 0-4

In final regular-season weekend action Saturday, the SISA carded at least one win in each of its four age divisions of play while tuning up for this weekend's countywide postseason tournament.

The SISA, a branch of the Iredell County Recreation Department's youth soccer program, will join teams from throughout the county in a postseason attraction on the Davidson College campus this weekend.

In preparation, teams in the Under-8, Under-10, Under-12 and Under-14 age divisions were all in action last weekend.

In U-8, the Brawley Steamers were the division's most convincing winners, posting a 3-0 win at the expense of sister-squad, the Brawley Express.

Brian Charnock tallied twice for the winners, while Nathan Dykes added the third, all in support of the duo defensive work of David Lackey and Marshall Hitchcock, who combined on the shutout in the net.

Also in U-8, the Brawley Broncos and Chargers were in unreported action.

In U-10, the Brawley Cougars inched past the East Turbos, 1-0,

behind the match's only goal from Dave Teal. Nicholas Shumaker and Josh Graves shared time in the winning net.

The Brawley Panthers and Brawley Tigers battled to a 1-1 draw, with Walt Hitchcock scoring for the Panthers, off an assist by Rob Voegel, while Greg Krueger and Jacob Terrell each worked a half as keepers.

The Brawley Wildcats were also engaged in play. The Brawley Rowdies eased past Celeste, 3-1.

Brad Barger, Jonathan Baker and Adam Hilton all scratched for the winners, in support of Brager's and Web Brannon's performance in protecting the Wildcat goal.

The Brawley Turbos shutout the Brawley Stars, 5-0, as Joshua Childers and Josh Graham each slapped home a pair of goals, and Jason Loece tallied the fifth. Ryan Burton added an assist, while Kalen Redden went the distance to post the shutout in the net.

The Brawley Sting also defeated the East Kicks.

And in U-14 play, the Brawley Blast had one at the expense of Central, rolling to a 7-2 win.

Two goals each were notched

by Jeff Robinson and Chip Tremblay, while one apiece was booted home by Shea Alexander, Matt Stewart and Brent Thompson. Stewart, Luke Ray, Tremblay and Matthew Burns all shared time as goalies.

The Brawley Bullets and Brawley Strikers were also in action.

SISA teams will return to play this weekend when joining the rest of the county's recreational level squad in postseason play. The countywide attraction will be held on the Davidson College soccer complex.

All teams in the field will be assured of a minimum of two games as each division will use the event to officially designate its spring season champions.

Play will get underway early Saturday morning and continue throughout the day. Some additional matches could be continued on Sunday afternoon.

Also, with his first-place showing during the league meet, Moore is considered a member of the all-TCC track and field squad.

For the Lady Imps, the news wasn't quite as bright, but shining nonetheless.

The Impettes only first-place showing came in the discus throw, won by Brooke Satterfield. She did so with a heave of 82-7½, good enough for first but short of a new league standard.

For the Imps, they added a third-place finish in the 110 hurdles, thanks to Pervis Johnson, and the discus, courtesy of Scott Blackburn, to go along with a fourth place finish in the high jump, thanks to Wesley Linker, and two fifths — one in the high jump and another in the 1,600-meter run — both on the heels of Patrick Stutts.

As a result, Stutts finished the second as the league's second leading scorer, with 43 points, while Johnson finished with 42 points.

For the Lady Imps, they followed Satterfield's first-place effort in the discus with fourths in the high jump and 400-meter relay.

Kara Faulise turned in the fourth-place effort in the high jump, while the team of Melissa Mork, Faulise, Ametra Carr and Taeh Ward combined to finish fourth in the relay race.

Of the eight players who helped the Lady Imps of head coach Kathy Helmen collect points at the conference meet, half of them are seventh graders eligible to return next spring.

Participation in the TCC meet brought a close to Junior High's track and field season.

Brewers Saviors In Softball

Thank you, Brewers.

That's what the Mooresville members are saying after the opening week of the Iredell County Junior Softball League.

For thanks to the Mooresville Brewers, it wasn't a total loss for the local teams.

The Brewers were the only one of three area teams to pocket a win last week to emerge as a local savior.

The Brewers edged past Troutman Voelke, 5-4.

Otherwise, it was a lost weekend for Mooresville teams.

The Mooresville Mets dropped a 10-4 decision to East I, despite a home run from Robln Moore.

And the Mooresville Cubs were ripped by the Troutman Galaxy, 31-4, to overshadow the home run slapped by Latisha McLaughlin.

The Mooresville teams compete in the countywide recreational girls softball league being conducted through the Iredell County Recreation Department.

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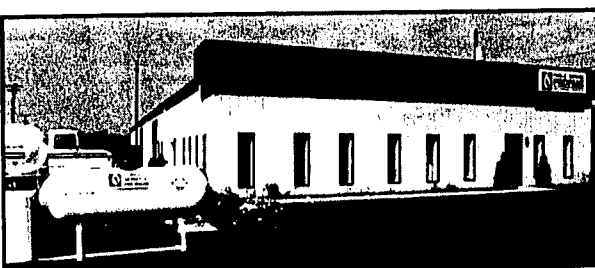
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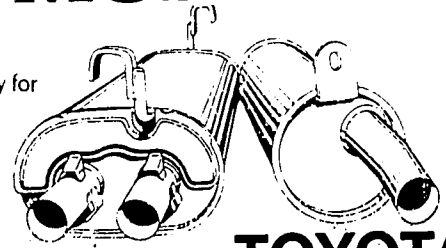
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