Mooresville Meets Its Needs In Hunt For Baseball Playoff

Mooresville may not have got what it wanted, but it got what it needed to keep its postseason hopes alive in the Southern District Seven Conference's next-to-the-last week of regular-season baseball play.

Seeking a sweep that would have all but locked up one of the three available playoff berths to the Blue Devils, they instead settled for winning two out of three to head into the season's final regulation week tied for second place in the SD-7 standings.

The top three regular-season finishers merit playoff invitations.

Mooresville slipped back into that tie for second place upon the completion of a suspended game against Maiden at home Monday night, picking up the action in a 2-2 tie entering the second inning only to aid its demise with nine errors in a 9-7 defeat.

The previous Friday afternoon, this time at Maiden, Mooresville broke the second-place tie existing between the two teams with an 11-5 victory.

And earlier last week, back at home, the Devils earned themselves that share of the runner-up spot after evening the seasons series slate with Bessemer City in a 7-1 triumph.

The two wins in three ties within the six-day span leaves the Blue Devils with a 12-9 overall record, and a more crucial, 9-5 mark against SD-7 opposition, with two games remaining.

Mooresville headed into its final stand of the season sharing second-place with Maiden, both at 9-5.

Each needed to win its last two games, and hope for a defeat or two by the other in order to lock up the number two playoff berth. Cherryville has already clinched the regular-season championship and the league's number one playoff spot.

Mooresville hoped to put itself in superior position with a second straight win over Maiden Monday, picking up the action from a game rained out earlier in the season.

After both teams had scored two runs in the first inning of the previous game, rain suspended play.

Play resumed Monday in the top of the second, and Maiden responded with three runs. Mooresville did the same in the bottom of the inning to re-tie the game at 5-5.

After a scoreless third inning, the guests rallied for four runs in the fourth. The best the hosts could do was come up with half the number in the last of the fourth.

Pitching ruled the remainder of play, with neither team scoring again, leaving Maiden at 9-7 winners and with a split of the season series.

Lefthander Rod Bowers suffered the pitching loss for the hosts, with relief help from Daron Patterson.

At the plate, the Devils wound up with eight hits, topped by three safeties apiece from Nathan White and Premayne Patterson. One of White's was good for two bases. Daron Patterson and Roy Frye each added a base knock.

At Maiden Friday afternoon, in a regularly-scheduled bout between the two dens of Devils, it was Mooresville's that secured the upper hand, jumping on top with four runs in the first and rolling to the 11-5 decision.

The issue was aided by six Maiden errors.

After the guests tallied four runs in their first at-bat, they added two more in the second inning for a 6-0 bulge.

The home team cut the lead in half with two runs in the third and a single scratch in the fourth before the locals staged a four-run uprising in the fifth frame.

The home team added single runs in the fifth and sixth before Mooresville ended the scoring with a run in the top of the seventh.

Frye benefitted from the offensive display to collect the pitching win, improving his record to 8-2. He allowed the five runs on six hits with seven strikeouts.

White captained the offense with his three hits, while Frye aided his cause by picking up a pair of safeties, as did shortstop T.J. Goswick. Bowers and Rickey Greene each slapped out a hit.

At home to host Bessemer City Tuesday night, and looking to avenge an earlier loss to the Yellow Jackets, the Blue Devils got it, backing the three-hit hurling of Frye to lower a 7-1 boom on the guests.

Frye, in picking up his sixth win against a league opponent, allowed the three hits and the single run — it coming in the first — while fanning seven.

After spotting BC the intial lead, the hosts bounced back with two runs in the home half of the first inning, doing so on run-scoring hits by Greene and Otis Cowan.

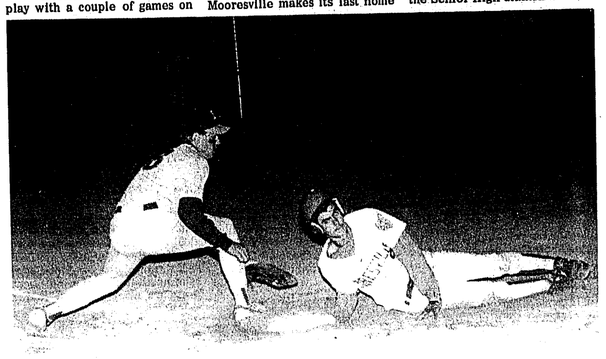
Mooresville built its lead to the final margin with a five-run rally in the fifth, the big blow being a two-run double by first baseman Brad Cozart.

It was one of two hits by Cozart, Mooresville's top hitter, while Greene, Cowan, Frye and Daron Patterson all added a base hit each.

Mooresville headed into its final stretch of regular-season play with a couple of games on tap, including its final home appearance of the season.

After traveling to face West Lincoln Tuesday, and looking to sweep the series from the Rebels, Mooresville makes its last home outing a big one when hosting regular-season champion Cherryville tomorrow (Thursday) night.

Game time is set for 7:30 p.m. on the Senior High diamond.



Though safe, Goswick can't bear to watch late tag on thwarted pick-off tag

Pee-Wee A's Earn All A's

The Pee-Wee Baseball League Athletics are earning all A's so far this season.

That's so as the Atheltics exited the second week of Pee-Wee League action with the league's only unbeaten record.

The A's do so with a 2-0 mark, better than any of the remaining nine squads.

The Cardinals are next in line at 3-1, followed by the Phillies, Yankees and Bandits, all at 2-1.

The Pirates wind up the break-even or better list with a 1-1 record.

The Braves, Mets and Cubs all stand at 1-2 entering this week's play, followed by the Astros, at 0-3.

Again, for the second week, players smacked home runs with ease.

Among those leading the hit parade were the Cardinals Justin Horton, who pounded out a pair of home runs in a single game twice.

Others who accomplished the feat once included the Yankees Brian Huey, Chad Byers of the Bandits, Brandon Winford and Jeremiah Astrach of the Cardinals, and Jason Swing of the Braves.

Play in the Pee Wee League is conducted through the Mooresville Recreation Department.

Games are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, with all the action taking place at Edgemoor Park.

Players in the league are those boys and girls born between Aug. 1, 1982, and July 31, 1984.

Pee-Wee League Standings

Athletics	2-0
Cardinals	3-1
Phillies	2-1
Yankees	2-1
Bandits	2-1
Pirates	1-1
Braves	1-2
Mets	1-2
Cubs	1-2
Astros	0-3

Blue Devils Netters 4th In SD-7

Mooresville wrapped up its tennis season last week with participation in the Southern District Seven Conference tournament.

The Blue Devils were shutout in advancing players into the tourney finals and wound up fourth in points.

Host and undefeated regular-season champion Newton-Conover captured the postseason title as well, with Bandys finishing second. Bunker Hill placed third.

Play in the annual two-day conference tournament brought a close to Mooresville's net season.

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Red Imps Even The Score With TCC's Frontrunners

First, Mooresville Junior High's baseball team got mad.

Then, the Red Imps got even.

After opening their season with three straight wins, the Imps ran up against the top squads in the Tri-County Conference and paid for it with back-to-back defeats that opened what turned into a four-game midseason losing skid.

Last week, Junior High evened the score.

Facing both frontrunners Erwin and North Rowan in regular-season rematches within a five-day span, Mooresville spanked them both back with wins that at the time knocked each from the TCC's top perch.

At North Rowan Monday, the guests battled back from a 3-0 deficit after three innings to double up the hosts, 6-3, and knock them back into a first-place tie.

The previous Thursday afternoon, and at home, the Imps again battled from behind, this time scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth to edge Erwin, 3-2, and drop the Eagles from first place.

"We've got reason to crow a little bit," offered Rick Spielman, the Imps excited head coach. "We've beaten both teams that were in first place and that had beaten us earlier. This is a good time for us. It certainly makes the season a lot sweeter."

At North Rowan Monday, the Imps entered play looking to extend their season-long winning streak to five games. Things looked doubtful with the hosts holding a 3-0 lead after scoring twice in the second and adding a run in the third.

But the guests accepted the challenge and began fighting from behind with a run in the fourth, They added two more in the fifth to tie the game at three.

Mooresville then ran its string of answered runs to six with three runs in the top of the seventh and shut down the home team in the last of the inning to preserve the win, running the win streak to five and squaring the season series.

Michael Park, who has emerged as the team's workhorse on the mound, collected the pitching win, allowing the three hits on six hits with half a dozen strikeouts.

Park also added a pair of base hits to his cause, while Peter Scire and Jeremy Smith each clubbed a double. Scott Hager and Ryan Byers contributed a base hit apiece, and Brian Martin keyed the defense with his glovework at third base.

At home to host then first-place Erwin Thursday afternoon, it took a sixth-inning rally to overcome a game-long deficit and secure for the Imps what coach Spielman called his club's "best game of the season."

Erwin netted a run in the top of the first and added a second in the fourth for a 2-0 lead that stood entering the sixth.

There, catcher Ryan Whittington's double started a rally that produced all three runs, the third scoring on a fielder's choice grounder by Martin.

Park, the complete-game winner, then held the Eagles at bay in the seventh to notch the win. He did so by allowing the two runs on six hits while fanning five.

Smith topped the winners with three hits, including a pair of doubles, while Cam McGillicuddy added two singles. Whittington chimed in with his timely double.

Junior High used the two wins to improve to 8-4 for the season and within the TCC with two more games on tap, one of them marking the squad's final home appearance of the season.

That takes place tomorrow (Thursday) when the Imps look to even the score against visiting Kannapolis.

Game time on the Moor Park field is set for 4 p.m.

Mooresville then concludes its season the following Monday when visitng West Rowan.

Pirates Eye Mustangs

Ay, matie, the Pirates are still creams of the crop within the boys Mustang Baseball League.

The Pirates, who got the jump on the league with a pair of first-week wins, duplicated the feat last week and entered the third week of play with the circuit's only undefeated record.

The Pirates continue to protect the league's top treasure in the standings with a perfect, 4-0 record.

The best any other team has performed to date is the 3-1 tune played to by the Phillies, who occupy second.

As for the Athletics and Bandits, split weeks of play by both teams continued their break-even ways, both heading into this week's play with identical 2-2 ledgers.

Rounding out the standings finds the Braves, Astros, and Yankees all at 1-2, while the Mets continue searching for their initial win following an 0-3 start.

Both the Pirates and Phillies each gloved a pair of wins last week to top team showings.

Individually, a total of eight home runs were belted by league players, two of them coming off the same player's bat in the same game.

The Braves' Clark Benfield busted a pair of roundtrippers to lead the week's power display.

The Yankees Andrew Crisco and Chris Liner, Astros Joshn McAllister and Asher Stevenson, Brave Scott Brotherton, and the Bandits' Travis Adams all joined in on the fun with a dinger each.

The Astros Stevenson joined John Varvaro of the Athletics in slapping out a week-best three hits in a single game.

Play in the boys Mustang League, conducted through the Mooresville Recreation Department, takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings, with all games taking place at Liberty Park.

Players in the league are those boys born between Aug. 1, 1980 and July 31, 1982.

Mustang League Standings

Pirates	4-0
Phillies	3-1
Athletics	2-2
Bandits	2-2
Braves	1-2
Astros	1-2
Yankees	1-2
Mets	0-3

Vikettes, Vikings In State Finals

Thanks to individual performances, South Iredell has extended the track and field seasons of its girls and boys teams into this week's North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 3A state meet.

That's so as members of both the Vikettes and Vikings met required standards of placing fourth or better in several events during last week's regional meet in Salisbury.

Joining a host of schools for the postseason attraction last Friday at East Rowan High School, South Iredell fielded one member of its Lady Vikings squad, and several members of it Vikings unit, to qualify for this week's prep finale.

For the Lady Vikes, Christie Hicks fashioned a third-place finish in the 3,200-meter run to make the field. Hicks, who won the event within the Foothills Athletic Conference, finished 11 seconds behind the race champion but still earned the right to advance into the state meet.

In her other field of specialty, Hicks finished out of the running the 1,600 run.

Still, she emerged as the only member of the Vikette squad to make it to the state meet.

For the boys, they, too featured a single individual effort worthy of a state placement, but also added a couple of team showings earning the same fate.,

Mike Norris finished in a third-place tie in the high jump to make the field there for the upcoming state event.

And South's 1,600 and 3,200-meter mile relay teams, which finished second and fourth, respectively, will also both advance.

South Iredell's track players will move on to this week's state meet, scheduled to take place Friday in Chapel Hill on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

Vikings Defeated In Tennis

South Iredell's appearance in the state's dual-team playoffs was a short one.

The Vikings, second-place finishers in the Foothills Athletic Conference's regular season, and winners of the league's final playoff berth, failed to make it past Monday's opening round.

The Vikes paid a visit to Big Six Conference champion Fred T. Foard and paid the price, suffering a 7-2 loss to the host Tigers.

As a result, South Iredell ended its postseason life in the single-elimination tournament.

The Vikes picked up their only points in singles play, winning two matches while losing four and then being swept in all three doubles.

Selected members of the Vikings will now move on into the individual portion of the state tennis playoffs, set to get underway later this week.

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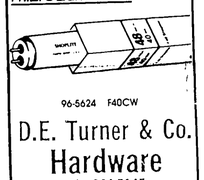

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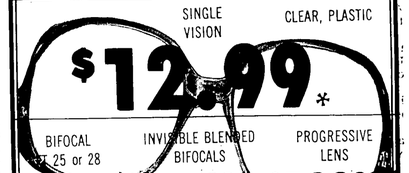

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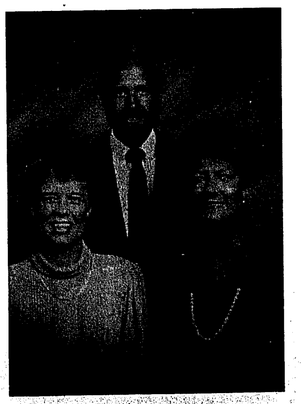

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