

Remembering Confederate veterans

Young Graham Cooper marks another Confederate gravestone at Mooresville's Willow Valley Cemetery, part of the search for graves of former Confederate soldiers being undertaken by the United Daughters of the Confederacy/Battle of Bentonville Chapter 818. UDC officials are seeking information about other possible Confederate graves. If you can help, call Kay Jones at 704-663-0390.

NOTICE MEDICAL PRACTICE CLOSING

Dr. J. David Alford, M.D.

After 22 years of service to the Mooresville Community, Dr. Alford is retiring. To make arrangements to pick up your medical records notify us in writing at

Dr. J. David Alford, M.D.
400 E. Statesville Ave., Suite 200
Mooresville, NC 28115
or call
704-663-4065

Please respond by September 21

Hiring may rise in new year

Media General News Service

The loss of manufacturing jobs that has helped fuel the nation's rising unemployment rate should begin to stabilize at the end of the year, and new hiring could pick up in 2002, the National Association of Manufacturers said Thursday.

"Recent data has been somewhat favorable and suggests that we are nearing a turning point," President Jerry Jasinowski said as the association released its annual report.

Manufacturing, once the driving force of the American economy, has been the hardest hit in the economic slowdown. Faced with slumping demand and excess stocks of unsold goods, manufacturers have cut 837,000 jobs in the past 12 months and production has fallen 4.8 percent.

The number of laid-off workers drawing unemployment benefits hit a nine-year peak last week, and economists say they think that the nation's unemployment could creep up from July's 4.5 percent.

Since 1980, manufacturing has been hit with five downturns that have lasted on average 10 months, with output falling an average of 9 percent and employment declining 7.5 percent or 1.5 million, the report said.

The latest manufacturing recession has been caused by several things. In the first half of 2000,

the economy grew by 4 percent and manufacturing expanded at an annual rate of more than 7 percent. Expecting continued growth, manufacturers' inventory investment also increased steadily. But the combined effects of high real interest rates and energy prices forced businesses to cut back in the second half of the year, leaving many manufacturers with an "inventory overhang," the report said.

"This situation was exacerbated by an overvalued dollar that, along with slowing growth overseas, reduced sales opportunities for U.S. firms and all but eliminated pricing power for most manufacturers," the study said.

But encouraging signs of recovery include lower inventories, no change in industrial production in July after nine straight months of decline, lower energy prices and strong consumer spending. Also, the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates seven times, and President Bush's tax cut is estimated to add \$58 billion to demand in the second half of the year and \$80 billion in 2002.

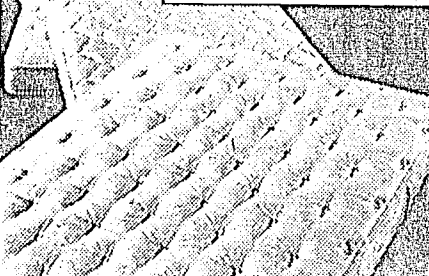
In a separate study released last week, the Employment Policy Foundation said that despite slower growth and layoffs, job availability is high, compensation is growing and job quality is improving. The study, "Building America's Workforce for the 21st Century," was financed by a grant from the GE Fund.

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THE MOORESVILLE Tribune

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Section B

Never fear, Sports Talk is back on line

Greetings!
Aha, you thought I forgot, didn't you? What's that? Oh, you were hoping I forgot. I get it. Okay, so I missed a month. So file suit. On second thought, after what all we talked about last week, please don't. In this day and age, who knows but that you might win. I'd like to see that settlement.

Enough, already, of the small talk. Let's get on with the really little stuff. What better time than now, with most of us still taking time off related to this past Labor Day holiday weekend, for a real brain break with another edition of, that's right, *Larry's SportsTalk*, the printed-word, call-in sports talk show that gives the reader freedom to speak his or her mind. Careful, though, or you might not have anything left.

You got that right. I know it. This is Earl from East Iredell. I'm mad as you-know-what and don't know whether to poop or go blind. Guess I'll close one eye and let a little air out. I see where we have increased our number of area fall ball baseball teams at ages groups across the board. That's great. But what kind of impression are we leaving? During the opening weekend of play late last month, the fields our local teams played on were anything but properly prepared. In short, they were an eye sore. Aren't these teams worth looking after too? Visiting teams had to notice. I was embarrassed for our teams. Can anything be done to assure it won't happen again?

Yes, and you, Earl, have done it. All it takes is for items like this to be noticed and something about for similar situations to be avoided. I heard that our local fields for these games had to have a little work done on them by coaches and volunteers from our teams in order to make them more playable almost right up to game time. Weather is always a factor, but these fields should be prepared properly. This is particularly the case as many teams are visiting from areas outside our own recreational-league coverage areas. Granted, we don't have the best of facilities, but we can take care of those we do have.

I agree. Good.

Not so fast. This is Wilbur from West Wilson. I realize you're not an advice columnist, thank goodness, because who knows what kind of advice you would give. But I'm at a loss. I play golf in a regular foursome each week. We're all good friends off the course, too. Here's my dilemma. One member of the group constantly aids his cause through various different methods. Sometimes, he even hedges on his score. We all know it, but nobody ever says anything about it. Should we?

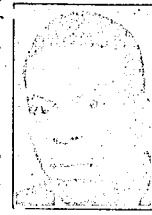
Golf is a game built on integrity, Willie. Some players have it. Most don't. I know. I play with some just like you. Of those I've talked to about the problem you brought up, some said something should be said at least on a friendly basis. Others said that if you treasure your friendship, keep your mouth shut. Personally, I feel too many of us let little things like this slip, thus leading to larger trouble during major area events. Let your conscience be your guide. You have to live with yourself, your buddy doesn't.

Well said. This is Carl from Cabarrus. I don't know about you, but I'm awfully excited about our opening home high school football game this week. How about you? It seems like every other sport this fall had already played before football finally came along. How do you plan to spend your Friday?

You really don't want to know, Carlos. Besides, the wife says if I mention my golf trip to her one more time, I can't go. You're right, football was the last sport this fall to get its season started. Our opening leg of the year is now complete. Just let me know how everything comes out early next week.

Alexander contributes to USC win

Okay, so the University of South Carolina's football team might have still won its regular-season opener last weekend without the aid of Mooresville's Corey Alexander.



Alexander

With him, though, the Gamecocks definitely did, using the former two-time, all-conference and repeating player of the year performer's efforts to contribute to the nation's number 21-ranked team's 32-13

roughing of visiting Boise State.

South Carolina used the win to post a win in its season opener for the fifth time in the past six seasons. It follows a break-out year for both Alexander, also an all-state selection his senior high school year, and the Gamecocks, who broke the nation's longest Division I losing streak with an 8-4 season that was rewarded with a bowl game appearance.

As for Alexander, now positioned as a slot back, he was able to play more than just a passing role in the opening win Saturday.

As a runner, he gathered in 15 yards on a pair of carries to add to the home team's yardage total. He was also on the receiving end of a pair of passes that, when adding runs after the receptions, covered an additional 75 yards, giving him 90 total yards. His receiving yards, boosted by a single catch-and-run covering 66 yards, helped pad South Carolina's 220 yards gained through the air.

The Gamecocks jumped on top, 13-0, in the first quarter and posted a 19-7 advantage at the half in front of yet another sell-out audience of

83,019 packing the campus' Williams-Brice Stadium. The game's only third-quarter touchdown coupled with a pair of final-period field goals closed out South Carolina's scoring.

Alexander, a sports and entertainment management major, remains the all-time, single-season and career rushing leader at Mooresville, his stand-out performance coming during his senior season in 1997.

That year, he ran for what still stands as a school-record 335 yards

See ALEXANDER, page 2B

Devils unruly

Defeat Jags for 2nd time

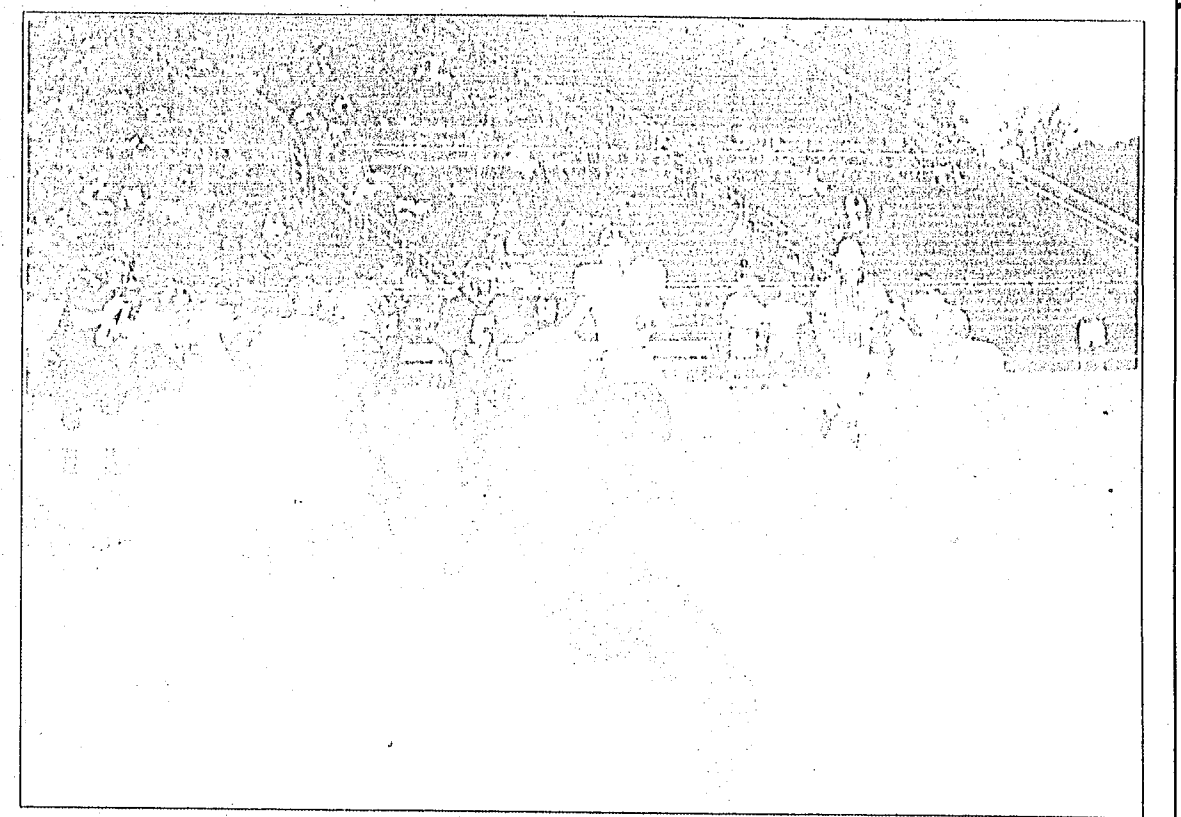
Scratch Mooresville off Forestview's varsity football party list.

For the second time in nine months, the Blue Devils spoiled a gala gridiron affair on the part of the Jaguars, the former overcoming first-game jitters and a two-touchdown deficit in the game's opening quarter with a 30-point barrage fueled by a 22-point third quarter that carried the guests to a 37-20 triumph in the regular-season debut for both teams Friday night.

The outcome was eerily similar, as least as far as the host Jags were concerned, to the teams' last meeting -- and first ever between the two -- that took place in the opening round of last year's 3A class playoffs. Then, too, the then-hosting Blue Devils bounced back from a touchdown deficit in the first period to construct as much as a 23-point lead before settling with a 35-19 decision.

As a result, Mooresville, 1-0, has both ended Forestview's last season, the school's second ever advancing into postseason play in just this its fourth year of existence, and started its current one by delivering the Jaguars, 0-1, a loss.

As for the Devils, the win in the endowment contest that involved only the schools' varsity teams is their 14th in their last 16 games



Cutting back across the grain, Winford spots an opening and takes aim at filling it during a carry

dating back to last year's 13-2 season that set the school record for wins in a single season while earning them the right to advance as far as the state West finals last November.

Initially, it was Forestview, a south Gaston County school playing host to Mooresville for the first time ever, that appeared to be riding off of its previous year's success. The Jaguars limited their guests to just three offensive

plays and used a pair of turnovers -- a pass interception and a fumble recovery on a kick-off return -- to march out to that 14-0 lead at the close of the first quarter.

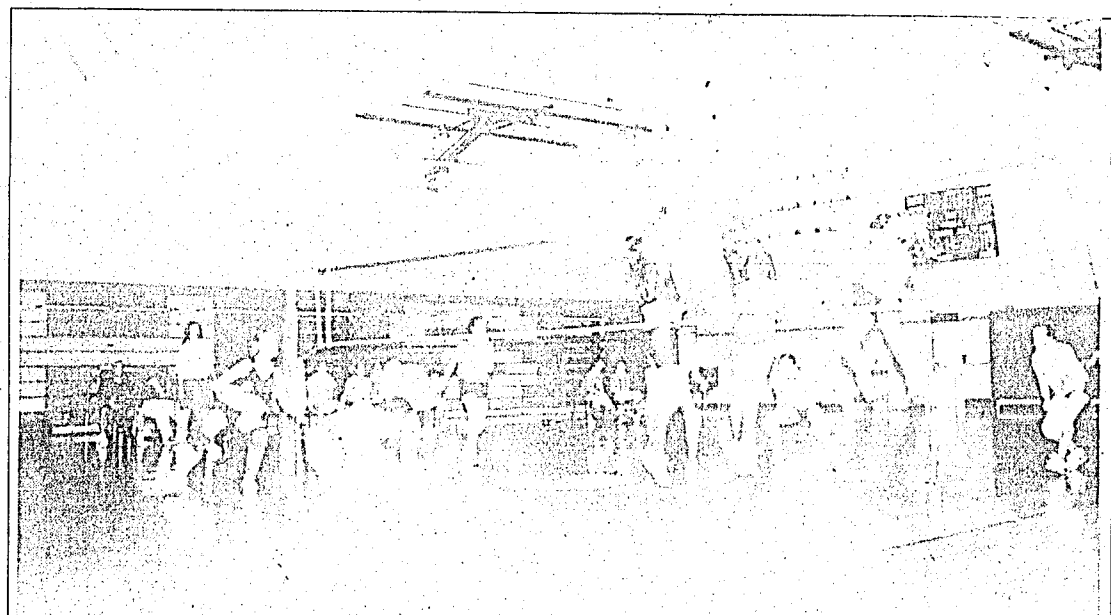
"We didn't panic," noted Mike Carter, using the win to make a success of his 13th season-opener as the Devils' head coach. "We knew that it was because of a couple of mistakes on our part. The key was that we were able to

maintain our composure after being down by two touchdowns so early."

The Blue Devils managed to steady themselves after that shaky start, polishing off a late second quarter drive by stunning the Jags defense with a three-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Patrick Marsh, making his first varsity start after seeing

See BLUE DEVILS, page 2B

Just in the nick of time



Supporting her role as go-to player, Furmaniuk tomahawks a spike past defenders to score point

Improving Devilettes pad first win streak

Mooresville's varsity volleyball team has picked the perfect time to show just how much it has improved.

Heading into the post Labor Day segment of the season that will feature no more steps outside first-year North Piedmont Conference play, the Lady Devils used a near sweep past final non-league guest Davie County in their last outing before the summer's final holiday to post their first winning streak of the still young but fast-aging campaign.

Mooresville, opening an extended two-match homestand that will sandwich an extended Labor Day break, dropped only the third game of a best-of-five series with the Lady Eagles to complete the season's first unbeaten week. The Devilettes of veteran

head coach Nancy Dilks, now in her 26th season, prevailed in the only meeting this season against the larger-class 4A foes by scores of 15-5, 15-1, 11-15 and 15-5.

"We are definitely improving," assured Dilks. "The girls have been working very hard. The one thing most of them lacked coming into the season was court experience. We're getting that, and it's showing. We couldn't have picked a better time than now to get a little confidence going."

The favorable verdict was Mooresville's second straight and second within a three-day span. It followed an earlier-week road conquest of Northwest Cabarrus, also in four games, that also accounted

See DEVILETTES, page 2B

SAL taps Parnell as best GM

Don't go getting Mooresville's Todd Parnell wrong. The vice-president and general manager of the minor league baseball Kannapolis Intimidators welcomes personal attention. However, he would rather it be because of what his team accomplishes.

For the second time in three years, Parnell has been selected as the General Manager of the Year within his single-A team's South Atlantic League. The presentation, made official late last week, is based more on what Parnell has done during the most recent season. "He is an outstanding young baseball executive," praised John Moss, long-time president of the baseball-rich SAL, in making the announcement. "We are proud to have him in the South Atlantic league."

Parnell, who arrived to fill the dual roles for what was then the Piedmont Boll Weevils in 1997, was selected by his peers. One of them, David Hass, GM of the near-by Hickory Crawdads, noted it was a credit to Parnell how he handled adversity throughout the season. "He had a lot to deal with,"

See PARNELL, page 2B