

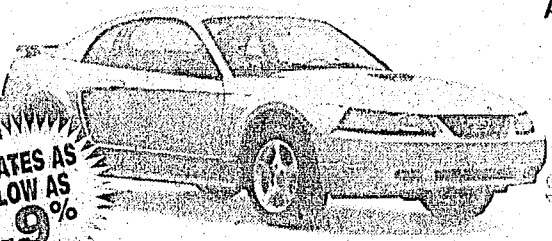
# GOD BLESS AMERICA

# Mooreville

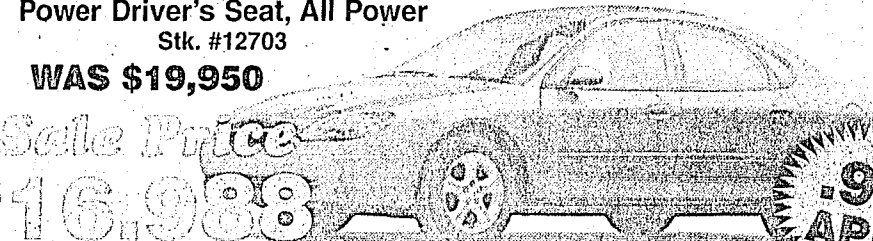
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## THE Tribune

Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Section B

### Sports have their place in time of crisis

Never before have our sports been more unnecessary. Never before have we needed our sports so much.

In the blink of a tearful eye on an unforgettable Sept. 11, 2001, a date that could be abbreviated by the logical numbers 9-11, our world as we have come to know and love it took a direct hit. It was well below the belt, as dirty and rotten and despicable as any this country of ours has ever been dealt on our mainland soil. It has dropped many of us to our knees, others of us lower than that. The repercussions of such attacks of outright hatred will be felt for years, if not a full generation, to come.

Within an instant, everything that we took for granted immediately became cherished. Everything else became immaterial. Our first thoughts were then and continue now to be over the safety of our loved ones, friends and all of those directly and indirectly affected by the acts of terrorism. No one will know for sure if or even when our lives will ever resemble anything close to what we used to consider normal. Our everyday life's routine has changed forever.

#### SPORT SIDE



with Larry Sullivan

And that's exactly what those mad minds in charge of the attacks wanted. They've accomplished that main mission.

With our life lines tightened, we let other matters on a far less important agenda slide by the wayside. Sports, by their very nature scheduled activities that serve to supposedly take our minds off the problems caused by every day procedures, were one of the first things to be ditched. And rightly so. On the day of the bombings, scheduled games at all levels were completed, deleted. Our minds were elsewhere. We didn't care. It may be a long time before any of us ever care about pennant races, home run chases, favorite college and professional football games, or regular rounds of golf again. But perhaps we should.

The one thing these terrorists wanted to show was just how much they could disrupt an American way of life that, because is based so much on freedom of choice, has become a detested manner by those envious of our ways. They figure if they can't live our way, the least they can do is keep us from doing it. Granted, they made their point. We simply can't wait for us to offer our counterpart.

In the meantime, arguments exist over just how much our everyday life should be affected. They completely shut down our airways for reasons more logical than just plain fear. But that won't keep Americans from moving on.

On the area high school athletic front, we set aside one day's worth of events to recognize the feelings that have attacked the entire country. From middle school programs up through the high school ranks, regular schedules weren't returned until two days after the hit. At the college and professional fronts, they made choices to postpone the continuation of their respective seasons for a longer periods of time, primarily due to the travel involved.

Who won what game where has become less and less a priority, but still, we need the outlets for obvious reasons. There was no better solution for all our concerns than having this past weekend's high school football game as a pressure release valve. Nothing will ever happen on any game field that will take our minds and hearts off what took place in New York and Washington, D.C. For a couple of hours, though, we can at least deal with the concerns in a more self-satisfying manner.

Sports are in no way something that we must have to survive. However, in their own special way, they help us cope with matters such as those that have hit us over the past week. Hopefully local schedules will continue to be played out on a regular basis. College and pro agendas will follow shortly.

### Devils taken to class

Class dismissed. Mooreville, at 2-0 and with a fourth-place rank an early-season bully among the state's 3A class entries, was itself bullied by a similarly undefeated and lower-ranked but albeit higher-classification bruiser in host Davie County, 31-13 Friday night.

The loss was the Blue Devils' first this season in three starts and only their third defeat in their last 18 games dating back through a 13-2 last season that saw them reach the state West finals brought to a close in early December.

The defeat also enabled a strong Davie County squad, ranked eighth but at 4-0 now expected to advance in this week's 4A class poll, to avenge last year's loss and square the recent four-game series between the intra-classification opponents at two wins apiece.

Heading into the game, one around which emotions were stirred with pre-game ceremonies offering tribute and heart-felt condolences to a nation affected by terrorist bombings in New York and Washington, D.C. earlier in the week, the matching of respective strengths was expected to be a key between clubs combining for



With little running room available most of the night, halfback Dunn tries to distance himself on run

a 5-0 record and featuring one of the state's top head-to-head confrontations between top-10-ranked teams.

One of the Blue Devils' main strengths, that of maintaining possession of the ball under its touted wishbone attack, deserted them, leading to three turnovers all contributing to allow the host War Eagles to swoop down and construct a 17-0 lead in the opening 12 minutes of play.

"We got into a hole like this before," noted Mike Carter, Mooreville's 13th-season head coach, referring to a 14-0 deficit in the opening game at Forestview, "but we weren't playing a team the caliber of Davie County. We didn't

play that well, for whatever reason. We made mistakes. They played exceptionally well. Put them together, and you get a score like we got."

Davie County, inspired by constant broadcasting of a screaming eagle's irritating call over the field's public address system, scored each of the three times it touched the ball, twice on touchdowns and once on a 37-yard field goal, that built the 17-0 first quarter bulge.

Mooreville kicked in towards the deficit with two turnovers that set up War Eagles scores.

The Devils managed to cut into the deficit in the first phases of the second quarter, getting their

only score of the opening half on senior halfback Chris Winford's one-yard dive, nearly hurdling a defender to get into the end zone. Kicker Doug Haneline planted the point-after kick, pulling the guests to within 17-7.

The hosts used a flea-flicker pass to set up their final score of the half and build a 24-7 advantage.

Mooreville's second and ultimately final score came following a scoreless third period by both parties. Reverting to a passing attack to stage a comeback, the guests completed a mostly aerial drive on senior quarterback

See BLUE DEVILS, page 2B

### Carpenter earns spot on ASU softball team

As desires go, perhaps no other player on Appalachian State University's softball team has more than Mooreville's Erin Carpenter.

She proved it during her early arrival at the Boone campus during this her first semester of college life, earning a roster spot as a walk-on member of the Lady Mountaineers program.

After taking part in open tryouts, Carpenter, a four-year high school varsity veteran, showed she as the ability to extend her career in the game of fastpitch softball into the college level.

She was informed of her achievement earlier this month by ASU softball coach Willie Rucker.

A freshman at ASU following her graduation this past spring from South Iredell High School, Carpenter is an exercise science major.

She played four years for the South Iredell Lady Vikings softball team. She also played volleyball and basketball at the school.

She has been active in the game of softball since her third grade year, starting playing when game was then primarily slow pitch and making the transition to fastpitch along the way. She is also a member of the Carolina Comets tournament team.



### Alexander, USC first back in sky

Before Mooreville's Corey Alexander and his No. 18 University of South Carolina football team takes the field at Mississippi State tomorrow (Thursday) night to bring major college football back to a troubled country, the Gamecocks first must take one important step.

It will be up.

"I guess we will be the first school to get on an airplane," noted Lou Holtz, USC's head coach.

Late today, Alexander, coach Holtz and the rest of the 'Cocks will ride to Eagle Aviation near Columbia's Metropolitan Airport and get on a 727 charter that seats about 170 passengers and crew.

They expect to land, without incident, in Columbia, Miss., about 20 minutes from the Bulldogs' campus, for their nationally-televised game on ESPN.

South Carolina, like most major colleges, makes such trips about four or five times a season without a hint of trouble or concern. But after last week's terrorist attacks that toppled the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon, little about U.S. air travel is routine.

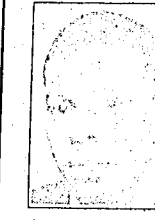
If Holtz is worried, he's not showing it.

"They've never left anybody up there yet," Holtz noted. "They're going to come down."

The veteran coach's bravado comes from surviving several close calls in a 40-year career crossing the nation as the head coach of a number of major college teams.

He has been on a plane when landing gear wouldn't come down and the runway had to be covered in foam. He's been on a plane when the door flew open after takeoff. He has been on a plane when the rudder broke and forced an emergency landing.

Holtz's last brush came in December of 1999 while waiting at Lady's Island airport near Beaufort to continue a Gamecock recruiting trip. As he waited on the ground, the university's plane crashed



Alexander

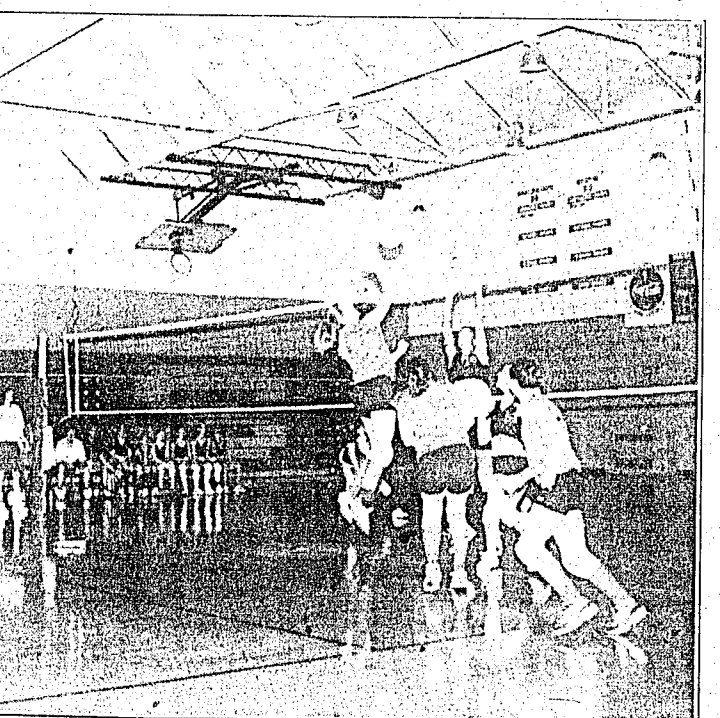
### With win, Devilettes weather delay

Mooreville's volleyball team spent most of last week hurrying up and waiting.

It eventually proved worth the extra wait for the Lady Devils, who managed to get in one of their scheduled matches and used the three-game sweeping past visiting Kannapolis A.L. Brown Thursday afternoon to extend a season-high winning streak overall and also remain unbeaten during the early stages of first-year North Piedmont Conference play.

With the sweep over the athletic Lady Wonders by scores of 15-6, 15-6 and 15-9 under the best-of-five game format, the Devilettes of veteran head coach Nancy Dilks improved to the 4-3 level for the season that includes a 2-0 NPC mark. Three of the four wins, and both within conference play, have come in succession.

"We had a lot to deal with last week," lamented Dilks, referring to the early-week terrorist attacks that put all of the school's athletic events on the back burner as part of a nationwide mourning tribute. "We're glad we finally got to play Kannapolis was an athletic team, and we had to make some adjustments. The



Megan Bentley rises above the crowd to hammer back a return

girls came through to make the big plays."

Mooreville relied heavily on the play at the net of senior team captain Crystal Furmanik, who cleared the table with a team-

high number of kills during the match. For her efforts, Furmanik, nominated for the honor for a second time this season.

See DEVILETTES, page 2B

See COREY, page 2B