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THE Tribune

MOORESVILLE Wednesday, July 25, 2001 Section B

Sports Talk is back, fresh off vacation rest

Greetings! Miss me? Yea, right. Me, you? Don't ask. I said don't ask. Okay, since you asked. Nope. See? I said don't ask. Ain't it great what a little rest and relaxation can do for a body, spirit and mind. I just hope my mind catches up with the rest of myself sometime soon.

Speaking of those with missing minds, what better time than now, seeing as how we're nearing the end of the month anyway for a refreshed edition of that's right, you guessed it, Larry's Sports Side.

Thanks, I think you would. This is Chester from Church Street. So, you've been gone, eh? Hardly missed ya. While you were gone, you gave a second batch of local athletes the devil with your cracks on golfers last week, this after throwing dirt on some softball players. Are there any you consider sacred?

Well, let's see. Basketball players foul. Football players hold and clip. Soccer players just pound you to death. All pool players smoke. And all bowlers drink. I guess the last remaining unspooled ground is in horseshoes, where the very nature of the game prevents any sort of rules breaking. Of course, even it has its draw backs. After all, in horseshoes, the more ringers - another word for those who specialize in certain areas - you have the better. And how you realize it's all in fun.

Yea, right. This is Cyndy from Center Avenue. I noticed a story while you were gone that said something about the ball fields in Huntersville Athletic Park being "fan-unfriendly." I would love for Mooreville to have such a facility. What gives?

Give me the multi-field complex but you can keep the people around it. Granted, it is a nice park, with four fields of different dimensions spreading around a central location. But the folks who stand watch over it are another matter. They don't honor press passes, one major strike against a site that you would think would welcome publicity. And because of the field's awkward layout, you have to be just as aware, if not more so, of foul balls sent caroming from the surrounding fields as you do what's taking place on the one you're watching. For that reason, they strike out completely. A little local common sense would make such a similar facility a great Mooreville feature, but for now, let them keep it like it is.

New putter finds spot in Harwell's golf bag

Though reluctant at first, Mooreville's Steve Harwell managed to find a spot in his golf bag to place a new putter during earlier this month's 87th Carolinas Amateur golf tournament.

Replacing a 20-year-old model, one he still took with him as a security blanket, with a new putter, Harwell relied heavily upon it particularly during the match-play segment of the yearly attraction, zooming through the 36-hole stroke play portion with the 170 players in the initial field and finishing a final-four showing in the match play area that accounted for the second-highest finish in his Carolinas Am career.

"I'm extremely satisfied with the way I played throughout the tournament," beamed Harwell, owner of his New York Life insurance company based here. "I guess it was a heck of a way to break in a new putter. I felt kind of lost out there early without the old one, and I had it packed if I needed it. I hit the ball well, scored well, and played about as good as I could."

It showed.

Harwell, who a few years ago reached the finals for a 36-hole, head-to-head confrontation that resulted in a second-place finish to account for his best ever effort in the five-day attraction, began his trek towards making the 32-player cut with an opening round of even-par 72 at famed The Dunes Golf and Beach Club.

Then, on the last day of stroke play, he crafted a round of four-under par 68 that tied him with one other player for medalist honors.

His two-day, 140-stroke total

Senior Juniors rule on course

Tourney crowns champs

Mooreville's Eric Barnhardt played where he works during late last week's inaugural Iredell County Junior Golf Championship.

He worked harder at it, and wound up with more to show for it, than any other player in the field.

Barnhardt, a rising senior at South Iredell High School where he was also a member of the school's golf team this past spring, made the most of familiar surroundings due to his summer job on the host Mooreville Municipal Golf Course staff as well as being the son of the public facility's greens superintendent to post the lowest score of any of the inaugural field's participants to reign as the first-ever Iredell County Junior Golf Champion.

Barnhardt earned overall medalist honors and was among the most recognized of a total of six age and gender division



Medalist Barnhardt, flanked by Roberts, left, Brian Salers, right

teaming with a Mooreville course regular to emerge as a winner in a Beat The Pros contest staged at the course Saturday before embarking on a week-long vacation beach trip, was joined by five other age division winners at the podium during the post-play awards ceremonies conducted following the tournament.

The field was branched off into three age brackets each, for boys and girls, with the youngest among them, playing just nine holes and the older two playing all 18 holes. Boys and girls competing the 9-11 age group are the ones who played just nine holes, while those in the 12-14 and 15-17 groups completed all 18 holes.

With Barnhardt winning his division as well as overall honors, joining him from the girls 15-17 bracket as a champion was Statesville's Meredith Morrison, whose round of 90 landed her that right by a two-stroke difference.

In the girls 12-14 field, it was Courtney Boyd carding a 108 that placed her first by nine strokes, while for the boys, a rare double-eagle two at the par-four 10th hole helped Gordon Brezicki post his 77 and claim top honors.

In the girls 9-11 division, Jessica Mitchell's 55 was best by three strokes, while boys age bracket champion Wesley Sams



Queen Morrison hailed by Roberts, left, staff assistant Salers

Devils to open football camp on Thursday

It's kick-off time for Mooreville's varsity and junior varsity football players as of tomorrow (Thursday).

That's when a mandatory team organizational meeting will be held. It will take place in the Senior High gym beginning promptly at 10 a.m.

All players interested in participating in football at the school, be it at the varsity or jayvee level, are required to attend, according to Mike Carter, the Devils head coach.

The purpose of the meeting will be to issue locks and lockers, distribute equipment, present free spirit gift packs, and collect physical examination forms.

Players must have a completed physical before engaging in any team activity.

It will be the only pre-practice meeting for the program. Practice will get underway beginning July 30, starting at 2:30 p.m. The first five days of practice will be held with players donning helmets and shoulder pads. Full contact drills will begin later next month.

Team pictures will be held Aug. 4, with a required parents meeting scheduled for Aug. 9. The first of Mooreville's three scrimmages will be held Aug. 11 at Bandys. The only home scrimmage for the Blue Devils will be held Aug. 23 against Ledford.

Chambers, West stars suffer all-star game defeat

As is the norm for offensive linemen, Mooreville's Jason Chambers once again worked in the shadows during the course of earlier this month's 53rd annual East-West All-Star football game.

Staged at Greensboro Grimsley High School's Jamieson Stadium as perhaps the highlight attraction during the annual week-long N.C. Sports Clinic, the contest pitted some of the state's best most recent high school graduates from the state's western part against counterparts from the eastern half previously selected on a vote from coaches.

Chambers, at 300 pounds checking in as the largest player on the West squad, accounted for the 18th player from the Blue Devils to be

picked to play in the game, and the first since former standout runningback and current University of South Carolina team member Corey Alexander in 1997.

A second-year, all-Western, Foothills Conference and All-Iredell County selection, Chambers earned the starting nod at offensive guard, where he played for the majority of the game. He was one of just two players from Iredell County named to participate in the showcase affair.

Handling the dirty work along the trenches proved to be a tough enough task for the Chambers, who has agreed to a scholarship offer to attend Western Carolina University. With the team together just a few days for game