

Finale worth donning rally caps for Moors

Mooreville, don those rally caps. And wear them with pride!

There will be no better weekend than the one fast approaching for any and all of us to show our town and team spirit. And what better place to do it than at a baseball game or two.

Our Mooreville American Legion baseball team is providing the ideal opportunity for this much deserved and perhaps overdue celebration.

There may be some in the field, who might wrinkle their noses, raise eyebrows and wonder what could be so special about another extended home

weekend of appearances by our Gresham-Baker Post 66 Moors. They're just a couple more games that help round out the regular season for just another local baseball team. These are the ones who think a hole-in-one is just another golf shot, the converting of that seven-10 pin split is just another roll of the bowling ball, or the called double-bank of the eight ball is just another pool shot. In short, they don't know what they're talking about.

I'd feel privileged to fill them in. This season marks the 30th anniversary of the renewed American Legion program in town, one that has survived the best of times and the worst of times. The regular-season portion of that groundbreaking ceremonial campaign draws to a close with a welcome weekend of play at home that involves some of the Moors' closest rivals. Friday night, to open the stand, Post 66 plays host to perhaps the single most heated of those rivals in Salisbury-based Rowan County.

It's just the second of two regular-season meetings between the two, with Mooreville in position for a series sweep after earlier knocking off what has become the most successful program in the area's legion history when the two first met nearly a month ago. It promises to be quite a show, one that merely kicks off an extended stay it continues the following night is what is tabbed to be the regular-season finale when Mooreville entertains perhaps the outfit that sits closest to it by odometer readings when South Rowan comes calling Saturday night. Those two have become very familiar with each other, playing three times in the season's first two weeks. Only one of those, however, counted in Southern Division of Area III play Post 66 losing it by a two-run count. There is nothing the Moors would like better than to square that series matters on their home turf.

And there is nothing the team deserves more than drawing a large crowd to watch them try to do it. While nothing is officially planned, perhaps we could do some ad-libbing in the way of conducting some sort of appreciation celebration. Just by attending, we could show what all those associated within the program since in reconception in that spring of 1971 have insisted to be a strong community involvement in the program. Over those years, it has perhaps been the most steady force in its success.

The local legion program was absent for a near 20-year span, and some of those directly responsible for its rebirth are still taking care of behind-the-scenes and on-the-scene duties. Among them is the head coach, Whitey Meadows, who denied to believe that the community wouldn't take a direct interest when assuming that role. He's remained on the job ever since, watching other programs' mentors come and go and the programs themselves undergo major changes. Mooreville's has remained rock steady, and those in charge of matters are to be commended for that.

There are more legion games left to be played when the divisional playoffs start later this month. That time of the year is for the players who have deserved to get that far. As for this weekend, it's for the program, weathered and torn but better off for the experiences it has provided. It's worth saluting. Don your rally caps, Mooreville, and wave them with pride this weekend.

SPORT SIDE



with Larry Sullivan

In the swim

Lessons for all ages, levels, team fill local water hole

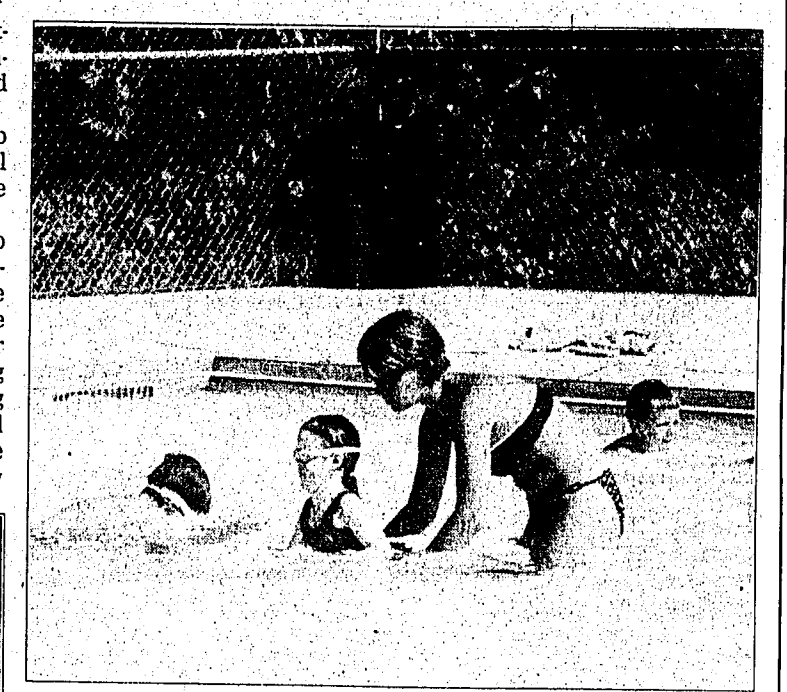
Ker-splash! That's a common sound being heard in the Mooreville Recreation Department-supervised public pool these days. And it's not just coming from those horde of swimmers taking daily public swimming dips, either.

Water is being splashed by a host of those just learning how to get their kicks the proper way by participating in youth swimming lessons.

The first of four scheduled two-week sessions of swimming lessons coincided with the arrival of June. The various sessions caters to youngsters and



Instructor Jamie Kochalka takes swimmer-to-be by the fins



Hilary Gromis guides student through get-acquainted session

adults alike, swimmers just getting the feel of the water and others who require more advanced training. It's part of a late spring into mid-summer schedule that will keep the pool water busy into the late stages of August. The first session caters to beginners two times each morning and once in the evenings, while intermediate swimmers are getting their instruction once in a morning gathering and another evening session. The same groups will also be catered to during the third session tabled for early July. Sessions II and IV, the former late this month and the latter late July into early August, will offer just the opposite, three classes for intermediate swimmers -- twice in the morning and once in the evenings -- and two for beginners. All lessons are for swimmers ages six and up. Also in the offering for any and all interested is the beginning of a Mooreville Dolphins swim team available to compete in meets with teams from other surrounding areas. Once the team's roster is set, practices will be held and a meet schedule will be announced. Team spots are available for swimmers ages 5-18. This is all going on while the pool is available for public swimming for all interested. Also on the pool's lesson agenda is toddler classes, that will be held during two sessions in August. They will be for swimmers ages 3-5. Additional information on the full line of swimming lessons offered, as well as other details concerning pool activities, can be obtained by contacting the MRD office, at 704-553-7026.

Routs flank drama



First sacker Allison snares throw on the hop in time to catch late-arriving baserunner off guard

Mooreville's American Legion baseball team used a pair of winning routs to help flank just as many drama-filled affairs during a critical four-game Southern Division of Area III swing that drew to a close just Monday night. The Gresham-Baker Post 66 Moors sandwiched a spree-opening, 12-1 thumping past host Mocksville-Dave and a closing, 13-2 thrashing of home-standing Stanly County around equal number close-knit outings resulting in a come-from-behind, 10th-inning nipping of visiting Kannapolis. 4-3, Sunday night, that followed a disappointing last-inning collapse accounting for an 8-4 defeat to Stanly Saturday.

Combined, the different avenues traveled leaves Mooreville in the thick of the hunt for a favorable first-round playoff position by fielding a 7-3 SD Area III mark as part of an 11-8 overall agenda with five league games left on the regular-season schedule.

To be honest, assured Whitey Meadows, using this spring to mark his 30th season as Mooreville's head coach and celebrate his 50th year anniversary of American Legion association overall, "we're right where I expected us to be at this point in the season. I knew we had some talent, but we didn't expect this from us, but we knew we could do it. We've still got some work left, but we're on the right track." Mooreville followed that 13-2 rout with a second win on a contest, shouldered with seven innings by a league 10-run lead within its last four games when jumping out to a 2-0 advantage before the Stanly County evening came to a Monday night. The Moors, who secured the season series, pushed their lead out to the 1-0 mark over

Martin gets the call to all-star game

This is one all-star break Mooreville's Brian Martin won't mind taking. Martin, a third-year professional baseball umpire working his first full season in the single-A South Atlantic League, found out last week that his two-man crew will be one of the two selected to be on the field calling the shots for the league's annual all-star game this month. Martin, who got his officiating start working local recreation-level games, and partner Anthony Wilder will join another two-man crew in making up the umpires for the all-star game that will be held in Hickory June 19. It's the middle day of the SAL's three-day, all-star game break.

Base and home plate assignments for the crew working the contest won't be finalized until a later date. Martin, who still lives here, will be able to spend the entire break among family and friends at home while also continuing to work as an all-star game official. Selection to the all-star game is based primarily on merit of performance by the umpires. Also perhaps contributing to his selection is the fact that Martin lives in close proximity to the all-star game site.

The honor continues a rapid climb through the umpiring ranks for Martin, who also gathered experience as a high school and college man in blue before embarking on the duty as a career. He attended two years of pro umpire school, just missing the cut the his freshman year before passing with flying colors a sophomore more. He was asked to serve as a school instructor, his second year, and also spent time during extended spring training games gathering additional experience. See AMERICAN LEGION, page 25

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