

Johanson, Morris are soccer All-Piedmont

This spring's girls All-Piedmont soccer team has personalized the youth movement.

Players from Mooresville and South Iredell help bring that fact to life. On the first team, 11-member roster for the All-Piedmont squad that was released over the weekend, one underclass player each from the Lady Devils and Lady Vikings are among the total of 10 non-seniors from across a wide region to be selected.

The Devilettes' Erica Johanson, a rising senior sweeper and midfielder, and the Vikettes' Katie Morris, a soon-to-be senior forward, team up as All-Piedmont selections. They are the only

players named to the team from Iredell County and account for half of those tabbed from their Western Foothills Conference.

Johanson was also named All-Region and all-conference while being singled out to receive co-most valuable player honors on her team following this past season.

Morris uses the All-Piedmont selection to accompany previous all-conference, All-Region and WFC MVP recognition.

Each are already being counted on to provide leadership on next year's respective squads.

South Iredell won its first WFC regu-

lar-season championship and ended its season with a double-overtime loss to the eventual state 3A class champions.

Mooresville earned its first 3A class state playoff appearance and returned to that stage following an eight-year absence before ending its season in a first-round loss to that same eventual state championship team.

Of the two teams, South Iredell, 15-3-1 overall, made the largest end-of-season impact to officially finish ranked with a share of eighth in the final Sweet 16 area poll that takes into consideration over 100 schools in North and South Carolina of all classifications.

PWF bouts to feature Battle of Belts Tour

Bragging rights for title belts will be among the items up for grabs when the Professional Wrestling Federation makes its return appearance in Mooresville this weekend.

It will be the Battle of the Belts Tour 2001 when PWF as well as World Championship Wrestling, and World Wrestling Federation members all see action in the ring

in the National Guard Armory Friday night.

Bell time for a full card of matches is set for 8 p.m.

Advance tickets are available now for \$8 each. Tickets at the door the night of the event will be \$10. Children ages five and under will be admitted free.

Highlighting the belts battles will be a weapons match featuring PWF and fan

favorite the Italian Stallion during which contestants will be putting to use items, with the exceptions of guns and knives, brought to the arena site by those attending.

Seven bouts, including one hard core affair, are scheduled, as well as live interviews with participants during televised appearances by crews from local

Adelphia channel 4.

Proceeds realized from the stop will go to help fund an anti-drug program for children.

Another Earnhardt is champ

Add a third member of the Mooresville Earnhardt racing family to Victory Lane at Michigan International Speedway.

Doing so in convincing style, Kerry Earnhardt, oldest son of Cup champion Dale Earnhardt, secured his second career Automobile Racing Club of America series win last weekend by winning the Flagstar 200.

In so doing, he joined his dad and brother Dale Earnhardt Jr. as winners at the Michigan site. His father won two Winston Cup races at the two-mile oval during his highly successful career, while Earnhardt Jr., now a Winston Cup regular, won a Busch Grand National Series race at the track in 1999.

Earnhardt Jr. was at the track and witnessed his older brother's feat personally.

"This is what it's all about," beamed the winner after the fact, "to come here and win for these fans."

More than just a strong family connection helped stirred the eventual winner. He was behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Monte Carlo carrying the colors and giant

logo of the Kannapolis Intimidators single-A minor league professional baseball team that his late father was a co-owner of until his death in a crash during this year's Daytona 500 in February.

The Intimidators are the first minor league baseball team to serve as a professional driver and car sponsor. The team's logo was on the hood of the car, while the entire minor league baseball organization was represented with decals on the rear panels to help celebrate its 100th anniversary.

"The national attention we continue to receive," boasted Mooresville's Todd Parnell, the Intimidators' general manager and vice president, "is good for baseball, for racing and for our community. The Intimidators are creating precedents this year."

The race's finish wasn't close, as Earnhardt, who qualified ninth and ran the second fastest lap in late practices, placed nearly a full six seconds ahead of the eventual runner-up. Earnhardt took the lead on lap 22 and never relinquished it to secure his second win in the series.

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