

SD-Area III flag flies in state legion finals

The Southern Division of Area III has one of the eight shots at capturing the championship at this week's annual North Carolina American Legion baseball tournament. Based on previous successes, the SD-Area III could also have one of the best.

Of the eight teams in the field for double-elimination play, division regular-season champion Rowan County is tied for sixth all-time in state history with a half dozen previous championships. The program based out of Salisbury hoisted the state title banner in 1955, '69, '71, '78, '84 and most recently in '93.

Only fellow entrant Wilmington, with a second-most number of seven, has won more state titles among the teams in this week's field.

As luck of the pairings would have it, the programs with a combined 13 state titles that account for two-thirds of the three teams that rank among the top five programs in state American Legion history making this year's field.

Rowan County/Salisbury is matched up against Wilmington in a first-round affair.

After winning the SD-Area III regular season title, Rowan County joined South Rowan in advancing into the Area III semifinals. There, only Rowan advanced to meet Northern Division champion Asheboro to determine final seedings for state tournament purposes. The top two teams from each of the state's four Areas all earned the right to reach the state tournament.

Trailing in its best-of-seven series with Asheboro by 2-0 and 3-1 at one point, Rowan County forced a seventh and decisive game before finishing second just before heading into the state attraction.

As a result, Rowan will be matched up against Wilmington in that opening-round contest, it like all in the affair, taking place at Garner High School.

Other teams in the field include Asheboro, Scotland County, Shelby, host Garner, Rutherford and Snow Hill. Of them, Shelby, with five, and Asheboro and Garner, each with one, have also claimed prior state titles.

Though on the outside looking in, members of Mooreville's Post 66

Gresham-Baker Moors can take some satisfaction in the fact that it owned one win each over a pair of state tournament finalists. During season in which the Moors finished a second-place finish during the SD-Area III's regular season, they split home-and-home series with both Rowan County and Asheboro, the former accounting for one of just two losses by Salisbury against fellow division foes.

Play in the double-elimination state tournament is scheduled to take place through Aug. 9. The state champion will earn the right to advance into the Southeast Regionals, tabled to be held Aug. 17-21 in Albany, Ga.

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Summer softball league's kings of swat

Pitching around these two members of the Mooreville Recreation Department's adult summer softball leagues became the norm instead of the exception. That was the case as Greg Ballard, left, of the Industrial Softball League, and Baxter Burris, right, of the Open Softball League, made those pitchers pay more for the mistake of tossing the underhanded offerings to them more so than any other player in their respective circuits. As proof, each wound up leading their series in home runs. Burris continued what has become a traditional perch atop his Open League field with a total of 21 official homers. Meanwhile, Ballard was nearly as proficient within his Industrial League with 17 home runs that counted. As kings of swat, each is presented with respective home run champion trophies by Brent Cornelson, athletic director of the league-sponsoring MRD.

Aug. 1 is first goal for Vikings

Goooooooooalllllll!

Before prospective members of South Iredell's varsity and junior varsity boys soccer teams can hear that, that have to earn the right to do so.

That starts today (Aug. 1) Team tryouts for the Vikings teams will get underway that Wednesday at 4 p.m. at South Iredell

High School.

Jeff Cummings, head varsity soccer coach, reminds any and all interested participants that they must have a completed physical examination before being eligible to take part in any team activity. Tryouts will start Aug. 1 and continue every afternoon from that point.

The tryouts are for those interested in playing at either the varsity or junior varsity level.

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MMFL replaces footballs with golf balls

It will be a different kind of ball on a different kind of playing field for the Mooreville Midget Football League later this month.

The MMFL is now heavily recruiting the area for any and all teams interested in participating in its annual benefit golf tournament. The yearly attraction is set to be held at the host Mooreville Municipal Golf Course Aug. 18.

It will do so with a shotgun start that Saturday morning, beginning at eight o'clock.

Format for the event will once again follow the familiar captain's choice procedure of play Under this routine, all four members of a team hit each shot from the best result of each previous shot.

Cost of playing is \$180 per team. The fees covers all 18 holes of play plus the use of a golf cart, free range balls, non-alcoholic beverages and food after play.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishing teams. In case of ties, they will be played out using a panther-forward, on-card playoff system.

Also, in addition to the team competition, on-course events will be held in the form of closest-to-the-pin and long drive contests on selected holes.

The field will be limited to the first 20 teams, so early registration is urged.

When paying entry fees by check, they should be made out to the MMFL, which will use all proceeds realized from the event to help fund a program that once again this year plans to field three teams at a pair of playing divisions within the Southland Football League.

Registration, for youngsters still wishing to compete in the MMFL continues through this Saturday.

A dress code is under enforcement at the host MMGC, requiring soft spike shoes and prohibiting T-shirts and tank tops.

Tournament entry forms are available at the host course, from the Mooreville Recreation Department, and from any MMFL official.

If mailing forms, address them to MRD, Attention Preston Harris, P.O. Box 1455, Mooreville, 28115.

For more details on the annual MMFL golf tournament, contact Harris, at 704-663-6550 or Brent Cornelson, at 704-663-7026.



Parnell meets a really big guy

There are big guys, and really big guys. Consider Pete Metzelaars, left, a member of that latter category. Mooreville's Todd Parnell, vice-president and general manager of the single-A professional baseball Kannapolis Intimidators, gets up-close and personal view of just that fact when the two got together recently during the team's annual fundraiser golf tournament. Parnell and Metzelaars, the latter a former National Football League player, are surely discussing whose drives go the farthest, with Parnell likely finishing a distant second, before joining their respective teams for the captain's choice affair. The second annual Celebrity Golf Classic, held at Kannapolis Country Club, helped raise funds for research in the fight against the disease most commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Parnell's crew completes a current home series with the season's final mid-week business man's special today (Wednesday) against Charleston, W. Va.'s AlleyCats in a 12:05 start and makes a one-game appearance when hosting Hickory's Crawdads at Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium Saturday night, starting at 7:05.

Talbert wins state doubles title

A one-time pairing may lead to bigger, better, and more wins in the future for Mooreville's Kathryn Talbert.

The youngest, at age nine, of a group of youth tennis players representing Iredell County in last month's North Carolina State Championships held in Chapel Hill, Talbert formed a first-ever pairing with a doubles teammate and combined their skills to post a first-place finish in the girls 12 and under division.

The duo polished off the feat with a straight-set decision in the finals, knocking off a team from Greensboro by scores of 6-2, 6-4 to claim top honors.

Talbert, a product of the Randy Pate Tennis Academy that while based out of Statesville also conducts classes in the immediate Mooreville area, paired with Hickory's Stephanie Teague to pull off the state championship-winning performance. While it was the first time the two had competed as a team, considering their success, it may not be the last.

It helped complete quite an appearance for Talbert, who reaches her 10th birthday early next month. Earlier, she defied the fact that she played in a field filled primarily with older players to construct an overall fourth-place finish in the singles portion of the girls 12 division. In all her matches, she faced players on the higher end of the age bracket.

Talbert, the daughter of Denny and LouAnn Talbert and a rising fourth grader at Lakeshore Elementary School, was part of a group posting a strong showing on behalf of the Iredell County contingent. She was one of five players representing the group to collect state titles at various age levels and in both singles and doubles play.

On the heels of her most recent accomplishment, Talbert now heads to Boca Roton, Fla., this month for participation in the USTA Super Nationals Clay Court championships in the girls 12 division.

At the YMCA

Here's some of what's going on at the Mooreville Family YMCA:

- Life Line Screening: Scheduled to take place Aug. 4, required appointments are now being accepted by calling 1-800-407-4557. Tests will include carotid vascular, abdominal aortic aneurysm, ankle brachial index, and osteoporosis screening. There is a fee for each test, with a discount offered for choosing to have all four conducted.
- Kannapolis Intimidators Game: Taking place Aug. 11, the YMCA invites all to join in cheering for the single-A minor league baseball team and Mooreville native Brian Martin, the latter an umpire who will be officiating the game. The Intimidators will be playing host to the Lakewood Blueclaws. Y staff and members will be on hand. Tickets will be purchased at the gate, but registration at the local facility is required.
- Parent's Night Out: Tabled for Aug. 18, taking place from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Children will be cared for by trained staff and entertained with a movie, snack, craft and games. Cost is \$20 for the first child of Y members, and \$5 for each additional sibling with a maximum fee of \$35. Cost is \$24 for the first child of a non-member family, \$6 for each additional, with a \$42 maximum. Family YMCA, call 704-716-Preregistration is required.

with payment made by Aug. 16.

For details on these or any other program being offered through the Mooreville Family YMCA, call 704-716-4000.

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