

Volleyball debuts at home

Mooreville's volleyball team can only hope it feels just as at ease after the first full week of regular-season play as it does where it will play during that first week.

The Lady Devils, missing six seniors of last year's 23-3 team that accounted for the most wins during a season since the second of consecutive state 2A class championships in 1994, follow up a pair of preseason road scrimmages this week by engaging in three straight home appearances to begin this season.

The Devilsites, second-place finishers during their final year of membership within the Western Foothills Conference last fall, start the stretch Tuesday by hosting Alexander Central. The stand also includes visits from non-conference foes St. Stephens and East Lincoln, each of them former fellow WFC foes.

Like most schools across the state, due to realignment that kicks in effective as of this year, Mooreville, too, is

beginning fresh as a new conference member. Senior High is now affiliated within the seven-school North Piedmont Conference, which has just two available state playoff berths.

Other members of the 3A class circuit feature Statesville and North Iredell within the county, as well as Kannapolis, Northwest Cabarrus, East Rowan and West Rowan. Once conference play begins next month, each of them will face the other six twice each, all on a home-and-home basis.

Mooreville will be filling its date prior to league play with non-conference action, accounting for a stretch of five straight before initiating NPC play. Once starting league action, the Lady Devils will see non-league competition just once more.

With all the newness surrounding this year's agenda, back to lend stability to the program is veteran head coach Nancy Dilks, beginning her 26th year. She has piled up well in excess of her

350 career wins while at Mooreville, including back-to-back state titles in 1993-94.

The Lady Devils spent all of the week before the season gearing up by engaging in scrimmages at Kings Mountain and Charlotte Latin.

Starting with Tuesday's opener, Mooreville's volleyball schedule, with home matches in all capitals, follows:

Aug. 14ALEX. CENTRAL
Aug. 16ST. STEPHENS
Aug. 20EAST LINCOLN
Aug. 21South Rowan
Aug. 23St. Stephens
Aug. 24Northwest Cabarrus
Aug. 30D.A.V.I.E. COUNTY
Sept. 6EAST ROWAN
Sept. 11North Iredell
Sept. 13KANNAPOLIS
Sept. 18West Rowan
Sept. 20STATESVILLE
Sept. 25N.W.E.S.T. CABARRUS
Oct. 2East Rowan
Oct. 9Kannapolis
Oct. 11WEST ROWAN
Oct. 16Statesville

MMFL puts ball on tee in Aug. 18 tournament

Before kicking, passing, throwing and catching it, the Mooreville Midget Football League will be putting it on the tee later this month.

And we're not talking about a football, either. Time is running out for teams and players interested in participating in the MMFL's annual golf tournament, slated to be held Aug. 18.

Play will begin that Saturday with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Teams have until Aug. 15 to register. Tee times will be available starting the Friday before tournament play.

This year's attraction will be held at the Mooreville Municipal Golf Course. Cost of playing is \$180 per team, or \$45 per player. The fee covers all golf expenses as well as free range balls, non-alcoholic beverages and food after play.

Participants may also purchase up to two mulligans each, equivalent of extra shots, at a cost of \$5 each.

All proceeds realized from the tournament will go to benefit the MMFL, which is already in the process of preparing for this coming season.

The youth football organization will again be fielding three teams each for play within a pair of age divisions. All will help form the Southland Football League, which will undergo a major schedule change this season designed to cut down travel time and the length of the season.

Tournament play will take the shape of a four-player captain's choice, where each shot on a hole will be hit from the best results of each previous shot. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishing teams.

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

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

Entry forms are available at the host course, from the Mooreville Recreation Department or from any MMFL official. For more details, contact Preston Harris, at 704-663-6550, or Brent Cornelison, at 704-663-7026.

Earnhardt items are up for bids in auction

Nobody may know just how much it could cost to purchase the items, some of them locally connected, until they're already bought during a silent auction planned this weekend.

The Kannapolis Intimidators minor league single-A baseball team will conduct the auction starting before and taking place during its home game Friday night.

Proceeds from the event will go to benefit Jenna Legg, daughter of former Piedmont Bull Weevils manager Greg Legg, who has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Among the items up for silent bid include a life-size cutout of the late Dale Earnhardt and friends, a baseball signed by Dale Earnhardt Jr. and a baseball signed by Kerry Earnhardt.

The Earnhardt family, of Mooreville, purchased a share of the team ownership during its bevy of off-season changes that also featured a name change - from Bull Weevils to Intimidators - and switch in parent organization affiliation from Philadelphia's Phillies to the Chicago White Sox.

Other items listed for auction include: a baseball cap signed by White Sox star Ray Durham; a bat signed by former Intimidator Humberto Quintero, named by Baseball America as the best defensive catcher in the White Sox organization; baseball signed by Ken Oberkell, former Weevils manager and former member of the 1992 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals; CTC pager and service; and CTC wireless phone and service.

Additional items will also be available. The event is set to coincide with the Intimidators' game Friday against the Lakewood BlueClaws, the Phillies' new affiliate that is coached by Legg. Gates will open at 6 p.m., with the game carrying a 7:05 starting time.

Mooreville-area ties will be fluent throughout, with local resident Todd Parnell, the team's general manager and vice president, helping direct matters while, on the field, umpire Brian Martin, who also lives here, will use the three-game series to mark his final appearance of the regular season in Kannapolis.

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Frye's reign nears end

Mike Frye isn't exactly shaking in his golf shoes.

Nevertheless, his reign as the Mooreville Golf Association men's club champion is rapidly drawing to a close.

Presently, entries are now being accepted for any and all of those who wish to take pot shots at unseating the current champion.

This year's MGA Men's Club Championship will be held Aug. 25-26, taking place at the organization's home Mooreville Municipal Golf Course.

The registration form is now on display in the host course's pro shop.

Cost of playing is \$25 per player, plus any accompanying cart and greens fees. Play will take the shape of 36 holes of stroke play.

The field will be flighted, if possible, after the first day of play. There will be awards presented to the top gross and/or net players.

However, the player with the lowest 36-hole gross total will be declared the overall 2001 MGA Club Champion.

Frye captured last year's title and is expected to be in the field to try and defend that crown later this month.

Deadline to enter is Aug. 22. Tee times will then be available beginning the Friday before the tournament is scheduled to take place.

The MGA Men's Club Championship is one of a number of outings being scheduled throughout the year through the local organization. Next month, the group is planning a Golf Staff Revenge Day, scheduled to be held Sept. 21. Sign-ups for that affair will start later this month.

For more details on the club championship or any related golf events, contact the MMGC pro shop, at 704-663-2539.

Course in safe hunting set

The area's dove population might not like it, but the season's first Hunter Safety Course is being scheduled just before the start of the dove hunting season.

Sponsored by the Mooreville Wal-Mart Store and the Fraternal Order of the Police Lodge No. 10, the free, two-day course will be held Aug. 25-26.

There is no charge, but students must attend both

sessions in order to be credited with completing the course and receive a certificate.

The course will be held at the FOP Lodge, off Dover Road, just off I-77 at Exit 45. Members of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission will be serving as instructors.

Class instruction will start at 9 a.m. Aug. 25, and 1 p.m. Aug. 26.

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