

Technology pioneer helps students find success

Chuck Stroud knew he was going to die. As enemy mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenades exploded in the U.S. Army firebase, near Phu Bai, Vietnam, he resigned himself to the fact that he would live not to see the morning.

When dawn came and Stroud realized he had, indeed, survived, he made a pledge. If he could make it back home to western Kentucky he would use the G.I. Bill, and get a college degree.

Today, Chuck Stroud is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at UNC Charlotte. He is also an expert computer chip designer and the author of a soon-to-be-published book on building microchips that can test themselves to determine if they are faulty. Such built-in self-test chips are used widely from the telephone systems that carry our calls to missile systems deployed by the nation's armed forces.

Stroud's journey from war-torn Vietnam to UNCC is amazing, even to Stroud himself. "Coming from a poor family in Kentucky, I never gave much thought to going to college," Stroud recounted. "And when the draft board selected my birthday 24th in 1970, it seemed like even less of a possibility."

Stroud reported to the famed 101st Airborne Division. He spent nine months in Vietnam, where his company provided combat helicopter air support. Stroud helped keep the helicopters flying, provided ordinance support and served as a flight crew member.

"In one way my Vietnam experience was beneficial. While some guys' lives were ruined, I came out determined to make a better life for myself. It became a motivator for me. I was lucky," Stroud said.

After completing his tour of duty, Stroud enrolled at the University of Kentucky where he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in electrical engineering.

From Kentucky, Stroud went to AT&T Bell Laboratories in Naperville, Ill. He worked at Bell Labs for 15 years. Early in his career, Stroud attended a conference on the relatively new field of testing computer chips. Among the topics discussed was how testing was a costly and time-consuming part of the design and manufacturing process. One conference presenter spoke of the future and proclaimed someday microchips would be able to test themselves.

"That statement struck a cord with me," Stroud explained. "I thought to myself, 'I could design those chips to test themselves, but how will I know the chips aren't lying to me?' That idea intrigued me, that chips could lie and say they were good when they were really faulty."

Inspired, Stroud began developing some of the first built-in self-testing microchips. He designed 21 different microchips and three different circuit boards used today in telephone switching systems around the world. Those chips and circuit boards were some of the first to employ built-in self-testing technology. His work earned nine U.S. patents.

While at Bell Labs, he also earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and began to think about people who had helped him be successful.

"I was extremely happy at Bell Labs. It was a great environment for innovation and creativity," Stroud said. "I recognized how fortunate I had been and decided that I needed to give something back. Just giving money didn't seem like enough. 'I thought about people who had helped me. I kept coming back to my professors who took an interest in me, a rough, unpublished young man, and opened my eyes to possibilities I might never have considered.'"

In 1993, Stroud left Bell Labs to join the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Kentucky. "I enjoyed teaching to help young people as I had been helped," Stroud continued. "The one thing my professors could not prepare me for was working in the corporate world — what it's like in the trenches and how to be an asset to a company. They had devoted their entire careers to teaching. I knew that was an area where I could be a mentor."

Stroud joined UNCC in 2000 and has quickly developed one of the few university programs in self-testing chip design offered in the country. His book, "A Designer's Guide to Built-In Self-Test," is being published by Kluwer Academic Publishers and will be released in 2002.

Stroud is writing the book for a technical audience — engineers, designers and test engineers — and as a textbook for students. "Building computer chips is a complex process. They have anywhere from 5 to 60 million transistors; each one is 1,000 times smaller than a human hair. One microscopic speck of dust can make the chip inoperable. A high percentage of chips can be faulty from the start," Stroud explained.

"That's why self-testing is so important. If implemented properly, the result is a significant reduction in the cost of producing electronic products along with a significant increase in the quality of the products. Therefore, this book teaches how to implement self-testing in such a way to optimize the benefits while minimizing the risks," he said.

Stroud's innovations have continued with his teaching duties. He received six teaching awards at Kentucky and has published more than 100 papers on designing microchips with built-in self-test capability. He has six patents pending and has secured more than \$3.5 million in research grants in recent years. Those funding his work include the National Science Foundation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, AT&T, Lucent Technologies, Agere Systems, Cypress Semiconductor, and the U.S. Air Force and Army.

Stroud supervises the research of three masters and three undergraduate students in UNCC's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

MOORESVILLE/NORTH MECKLENBURG'S CUTEST BABY CONTEST

Deadline for entries!
August 20

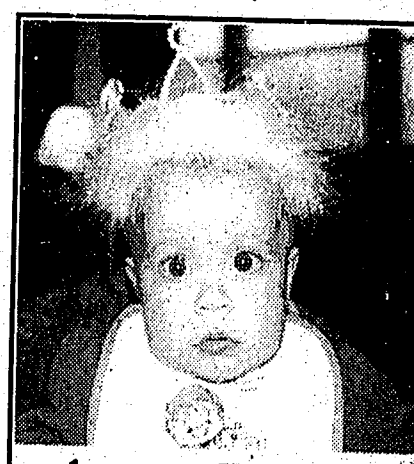
Sponsored by your local merchants

Mail a photo of your child (3 yrs and under) with this information coupon to:
**The Mooreville Tribune
Cutest Baby Contest
P.O. Box 300
Mooreville, N.C. 28115**

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope to return photo after the contest.

Name of Child _____
Name of Parent(s) _____
Age of Child _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Employees & family of the Mooreville Tribune & Davidson Gazette are not eligible to win.



Lauren Zalepka
9 months

THE MOORESVILLE Tribune

Wednesday, August 15, 2001

Section B

Sports

Start of fall is an exciting time for sports

Ain't this an excitin' time? And not just because the Braves are in first place to stay, or even because we're that much closer — as of today 23 days and counting — from my annual trek up the mountain for three days of fun and frolic disguised rather well as a golf trip either.

Nope, there are even bigger and better reasons for feeling the way we do. Wait a minute. Is that right? Just over three weeks left? Man, I had better get my game in gear and work on that golf swing, too.

SPORT SIDE



with Larry Sullivan

These indeed are exciting times in all sporting circles primarily because, in full throttle as of this week, the high school sports season kicks into full gear. Fueling the excitement is, of course, the fact that this starts a new era in the form of conference alignment.

There are those who feel the new-look North Piedmont Conference just might be the most competitive in all of the state's 3A class across the board in all sports.

This week, all but one of our current in-season teams join in on the fun and frolic, this time not disguised as anything else but.

This is the time when we can all look forward to a new season. Granted, that newness won't last long. Before too long, we'll be wondering where it went. For now, though, our anticipation and expectations are running wild. We are not alone. Coaches, players and close followers of all the sports teams are just as anxious as we are to get things rolling. Well, wait no more, my dear, for the train is leaving the station stacked to the gills with early-season action.

Since we started with soccer during the middle stages of last week, we might as well stay with it. The Devils of new but familiar coach Steve Stith follow up their scheduled home debut Monday against Alexander Central by opening a three-game road trip at Newton-Conover tonight. By the time they get back home to face South Rowan Aug. 27, we'll know if Stith's magic touch is still there.

Tennis, too, features a new but well-known coach, as former player Amy Smith — formerly Pardew — assumes the reins. Most of her time will be spent trying to keep assistant coach and new hubby Tim Smith under wraps, as the Lady Devils engage in consecutive home bouts this week to open their season. They do so against Alexander Central and South Rowan before a lone road trip leads to another stretch of four straight home outings. By then, she'll have her assistant roped and line-up set entering league play.

Volleyball enters its first week under the stability of veteran coach Nancy Dilks, who has spent all 26 of her years here chalking up nearly 400 career wins. The Devilettes are featured in three straight home games, including tomorrow against former league foe St. Stephens. Dilks is once again downplaying this year's crew, but just wait and see what they conjure up this fall.

Cross country, under Scott Sarvis' guidance, gets into the action as well, engaging in a meet at West Iredell tomorrow. These long-distance runners are a different breed of animal, covering the course with singular determination for a team's sake. There's a reason for the 12-day wait between the first and second meets. Some might need that long to recover.

The only sport missing from the agenda this week is football. The Blue Devils of head coach Mike Carter will appear in their second of three scheduled scrimmages, at Kings Mountain tomorrow night, and conduct that third when hosting Ledford next week. Mooreville won't officially open its season until facing host Forestview, last year's first-round state playoff opponent, Aug. 31.

To make matters even more exciting, regular-season play for three of Mooreville Middle School's five sports teams also start next week.

If this ain't an exciting time for you, maybe you better check that pulse.

Last visit for ump Martin

It wouldn't bother Mooreville's Brian Martin if he had to cram one more visit into his second-season schedule as a professional baseball umpire to the home of the Kannapolis Intimidators.

For if that should happen, it would mean a South Atlantic League postseason appearance for the former area recreational, high school and college umpire.

As it now stands, Martin, already selected to work this season's SAL all-star game held earlier this summer, made the final of his scheduled appearances on the Intimidators' home Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium field during a three-game series held this past weekend.

Based on merit, Martin could be among those selected to work upcoming league playoff series that will get underway in early September. One more trip to Kannapolis would mean that both he and the Intimidators make that playoff field.

Of the two, the way it looks now, Martin has the best chance.

He is rapidly climbing up the pro umpire ladder in this just his second pro season. He attended two sessions of umpire school, serving as an instructor during that second session. He has also worked extended spring training and fall season ball while continuing to upgrade his stock that could result in a third straight promotion next year.



During pregame conference, Martin, center, joins crew mate in meeting with home team's manager

"This is an exciting time for all of us," noted Martin, who expects to learn of any postseason assignment within the next couple of weeks. "I feel like I'm doing a good job, and we've gotten some good reports from our supervisors who have watched us work. I'll just have to wait and see."

Martin arrived at Kannapolis, the closest of all SAL locations to his Mooreville home on Wiggins Road, accompanied by a new partner, one that has been teamed with him for about a month. It was also one of his closest friends and former umpire school classmate. The two were on hand during the three-game

set between the host Intimidators and Lakewood BlueClaws, the latter the outfit that took the former's place as a single-A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies parent organization.

Working the plate in only the middle game of the series, Martin's assignment there was broken up into two days, when Saturday's affair was suspended by heavy rains four innings into play. He was back behind the plate to complete the game Sunday before calling the bases for the second contest of the doubleheader.

Before the rain came Saturday, Martin was involved in events

that put his hometown directly in the limelight. Helping mark his presence as an umpire, the Mooreville Family YMCA had a special group present.

Also, during the pregame ceremonies, former Mooreville American Legion player Michael McClain, recovering from head injuries sustained during this past season, was also the special guest participating in first-pitch festivities. Fellow players, coaches and followers of the Moors were also in attendance.

Martin made it a point to meet McClain before assuming his

See MARTIN, page 2B

** ADSL EXPO **

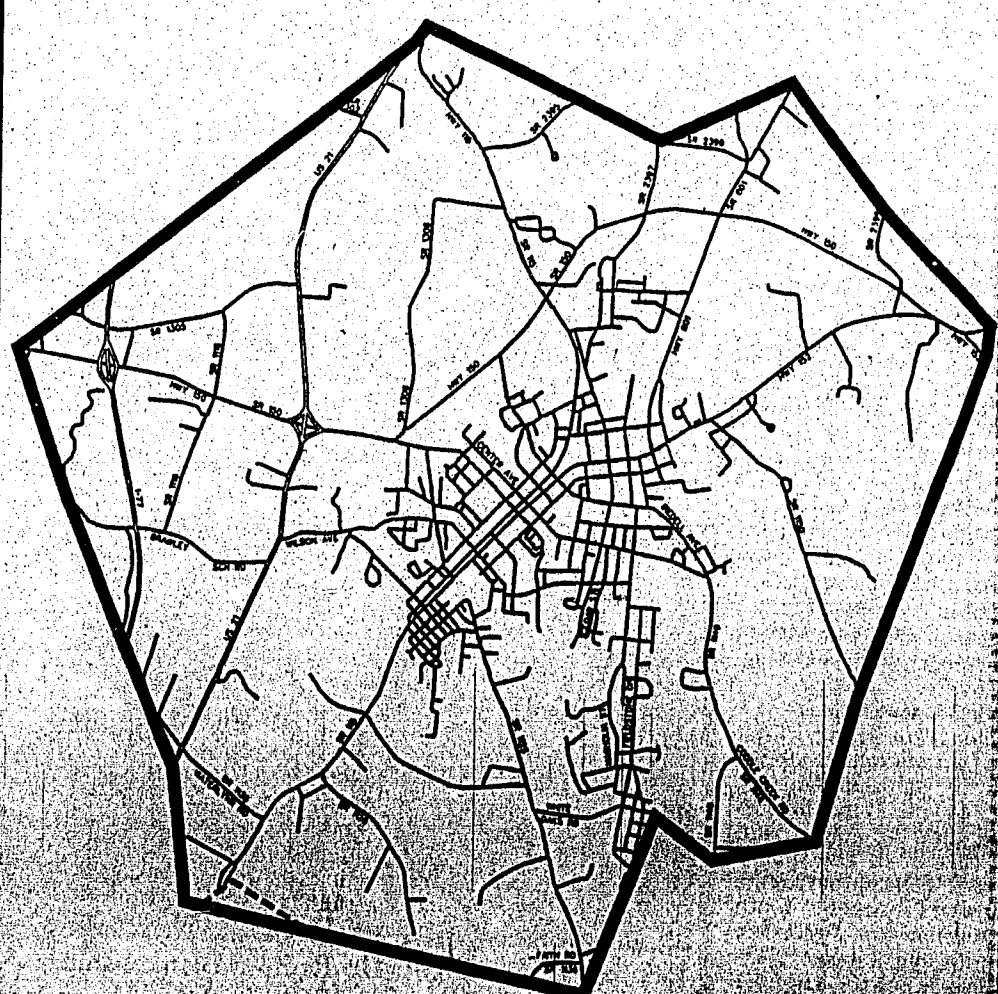
ALLTEL wants to know IF you would like to surf the Internet at high speeds?

If so, have we got a NEW service for you.

ADSL
(Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line)

Internet connections at 50 times faster than 28.8 dial up modems!

ALLTEL



MOORESVILLE

You are invited to come to a free DSL demo on **August 21st** from **11:00 am to 2:00 pm** at the **Mooreville Citizen Center**

For more information and answers concerning Alltel's ADSL, please call our local office at 704-663-7014.

Hands On Demonstrations For ALLTEL's DSL Service

Free ADSL modem with a 2 year agreement
Up to 50 times faster connection than a 28.8 dial up modem!
In most cases, it works over existing telephone lines
It's always on! * No waiting to log in! * No busy signals!
Secure Internet access
Surf the net and talk on the phone at the same time!
Network multiple PC's over one ADSL line!

DOOR PRIZES

FREE Demo August 21st Mooreville Citizen Center

Devils are impressive in opener

First-year Mooreville varsity boys soccer coach Steve Stith hoped he wasn't just seeing things during his team's impressive performance in last weekend's multiple scrimmage sessions held during the West Iredell Soccer Festival.

As it turned out, he wasn't. The Blue Devils followed up that strong showing Saturday by opening the regular season in perhaps more impressive fashion at home Monday night, posting a 2-0 halftime lead and ringing up a 4-0 lead at one point on the way towards a rousing, 5-1 triumph over visiting Alexander Central.

The win was used to welcome Stith back into the fold. The former Mooreville coach, who directed the boys program to a pair of state championships before taking a leave following the 1996 season, was back at the helm and as active as ever on the sidelines. In celebrating his return, the Devils made a success of their debut.

It came in the first of two first-week matches for Mooreville and in the only one among the team's first four that will be played at home.

After a scoreless first half of the opening period Monday night, the hosts jumped-started their offense on junior back Mark Cheslak's goal following an assist provided by junior midfielder Phillip Citroen.

Later in the half, Tyler Loecey backward kicked in a goal after controlling a loose ball near the visiting Cougars' net.

Building on the 2-0 lead that stood at the intermission, the home team went right to work on enlarging it in the second.

In the first 10 minutes of the half, Troy Harsey, a senior midfielder, and Citroen each legged in a goal. Senior forward Loecey then added his second strike of the night to round out the scoring.

The outcome came in the only scheduled meeting this season between the two foes.

In the junior varsity match that

See Devils, page 2B



Positioned near mound, center of attention readies to accept ball for ceremonial opening throw

Back in the line-up McClain tosses pitch towards recovery

Mooreville's Michael McClain continues to make his pitch towards a lengthy recovery from lingering after-effects reeling as a result of a horrific collision as a member of the Mooreville American Legion Moors baseball team.

Last weekend, in a special ceremony, he made just such a pitch in front of his largest crowd yet to help mark his ongoing recovery period from severe head injuries.

"I see improvement in Michael every day," beamed his dad, Patrick, before watching his son toss out the ceremonial first pitch prior to Saturday night's home game for the Kannapolis Intimidators. "He's made some remarkable improvement, but we still have a long way to go."

McClain, released from the hospital earlier this month but still involved in daily commutes for continuous rehabilitation, was able to accept the first-pitch honors on a night rich with Mooreville-area ties within the Intimidators' home Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium.

Those ties continually exist due to the presence of the teams' vice-president and general manager Todd Parnell, who lives here, as well as through its management with the one-third ownership purchased during the last off-season by the late Dale Earnhardt.

Last weekend in general, and on Saturday in particular, that bond was strengthened due to the arrival of Mooreville's Brian Martin as a member of the two-man umpire crew helping officiate the weekend series. As part of the combined celebration of McClain's tossing out the first pitch and Martin working behind the plate Saturday, a special contingent of area followers were on hand representing the Mooreville Family YMCA as well as players, coaches and followers of the Mooreville

Moors American Legion baseball team.

McClain was actually the last of a number of featured participants in the first-pitch events, ones that are held before every home Intimidators game. It marks McClain's first such very public appearance since his near-fatal accident in late June.

Then, as a member of the Moors, he was involved in a head-on-knee collision with a fellow teammate that immediately rendered the outfielder, at the time leading the Moors and all of the Southern Division of Area III in batting, unconscious. He remained knocked out until medical personnel arrived on the scene. He was transferred to a local hospital and remained in the facility's intensive care unit, with head trauma for more than a week. He developed blood clots in his head that additional hindered his recovery from the fractured skull and brain swelling.

After a month in the hospital, he was recently released but must continue a rehab period that is expected to last between 12 to 18 months. He still requires the use of a wheelchair but can walk assisted or with the aid of a walker for short periods of time that grow longer with each passing day.

It was during his stay at the hospital when he was visited by Parnell and Intimidators manager Razor Shines to offer the invitation to take part in first-pitch ceremonies when he was able. Saturday marked the first time since then that he was able to accept the invitation.

Part of the process also included a pregame meeting with local pro umpire Martin.

After making the pitch, McClain was also presented with an autographed game ball. He then watched the game from a special seat assignment until a thunderstorm in the fourth inning forced the contest to be suspended until Sunday afternoon.