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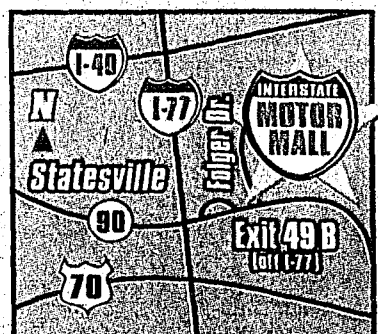
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THE MOORESVILLE Tribune

Friday, August 24, 2001

Section B

Sports

Sweet 16 poll ranks Devils ninth in soccer

Somebody's watching Mooresville's boys soccer team. And it shows.

After not making the list in the season's first Sweet 16 area high school soccer poll released earlier this month, an undefeated start to the season that continued late Wednesday has earned the Blue Devils a top-10 ranking.

In the poll released Thursday

morning, the 3-0-1 Devils are ranked ninth, making the largest jump of any other first-time poll member. Mooresville celebrated its appearance in the ranking with a match at Davie County Wednesday, locking legs with the host Eagles in a scoreless tie.

In the same poll, South Iredell dropped a spot from its initial ranking, now standing fifth after a

2-0-1 start to its season.

Though not appearing on each other's regular-season schedule for the first time in at least four years, Mooresville and South Iredell will face each other as entries in the upcoming Hickory Invitational Tournament slated to take place early next month. The Devils and Vikings will be first-round foes in that attraction tak-

ing place Sept. 4-8.

Wednesday's tie, marking the first time Mooresville was held scoreless but also accounting for its second straight defensive shutout, closed out the Devils' three-game road trip as they head home for only their second match in the Mooresville Stadium against South Rowan Monday

night.

Prior to the varsity match, Mooresville's unbeaten junior varsity team, at 4-0 after a 5-1 triumph over Davie County Wednesday, will also be in action against South Rowan.

Play starts with the jayvee game at 5:30 p.m., followed by the varsity play.

Stand-ins stand out, finish first

Stand-ins not only stood up but also stood out during last weekend's second annual Mooresville Midget Football League's benefit golf tournament.

A team with a roster finalized as late as Friday night for playing in the early Saturday morning affair held at the host Mooresville Municipal Golf Course and featuring four completely different players from those registered on the initial entry form spent better time playing than they did getting acquainted.

As a result, the hurriedly-pieced together foursome consisting of Scott Sarvis, Mike Overcash, Matt Ray and Guy McConnell set the MMFL tournament field on a tee and kicked it through the uprights with a gross captain's choice score of 15-under par 57, winning top team honors in that category and bagging top overall accolades by a comfortable, three-stroke margin.

"When I found out short notice that we needed some players to fill out the team," quipped Sarvis, the one responsible for settling the roster late Friday, "then I figured I had best get some who could play. As it turned out, we played well together. I hardly had to put it at all. We kept making them better as it was my turn."

It showed. The group, one of a near-capacity number of foursomes to compete, shattered the field with the score of 57 to take top gross honors and emerge as the most celebrated of the total of six teams to be recognized during post-play awards activities. The top three teams in both a gross and adjusted-handicap net division were similarly acknowledged for their efforts.

With the team of Sarvis, Overcash, McConnell and Ray singled out to receive top gross accolades, placing second with its score of 12-under 60 was the crew comprised of Brent Cornelison, and McKenzie family members Wanda, Keith and Matt.

Claiming third with a score of 10-under 62 featured Dale Robbins, Todd Kerley, Carlton Whittington and Jimmy Moore.

In the net division that took into account the total combined handicaps of the players and put them to use in a formula, top team score belonged to the quartet consisting of Leon White, Sam Cogdill, Benny Cook and Jimmy McLean, doing so with a tally of 16-under par 56.

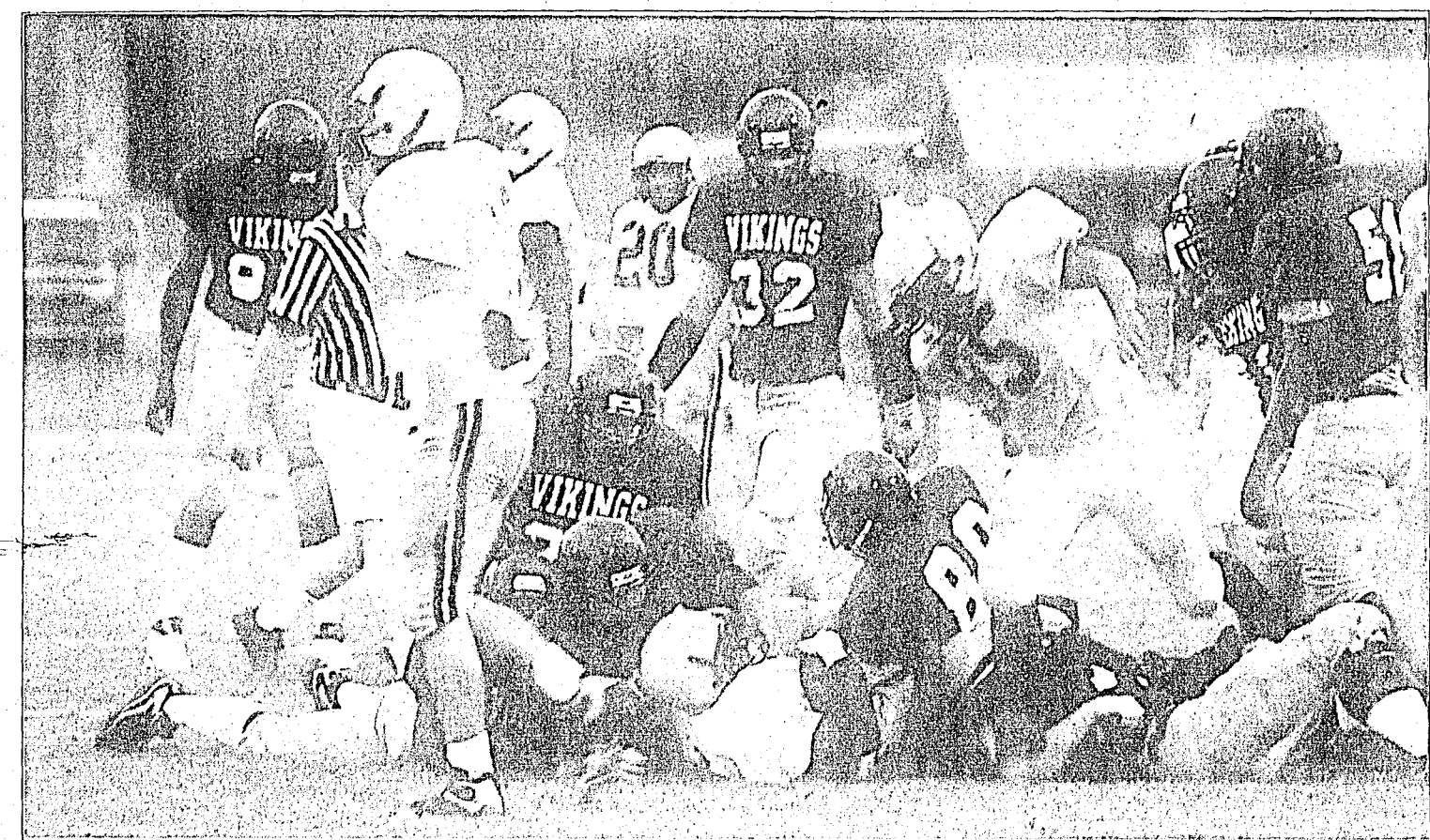
A tie existed in second place, forcing an on-card playoff to take place to settle the final two spots. The team made up of Scott Bruton, Richard Compton, Brian Young and Chris White was awarded second, with the foursome comprised of Ken Holloway, Don Miller, Terry Thompson and Jim Tighe settling for third, after both teams fired identical net totals of 11-under par 61.

In addition to the team competition, contributing sponsors helped assure on-course events in the form of four closest-to-the-pin contests on each of the host course's par-three holes as well as a pair of long drive challenges on a hole each on the front and back sides.

In the par-three encounters, it was Overcash's shot that landed closest to the intended target at the fifth, with Matt McKenzie taking honors at the ninth, Mark Wilcox

See MMFL TOURNEY, page 2B

Open season



Pile-up full of Vikings defenders serve to bring a halt to runners' run during course of home team's final preseason performance

Will bigger be better? Vikes start finding out tonight

Starting Friday night, South Iredell's football team starts finding out if bigger does indeed mean better.

The Vikings definitely hope so. Coming off a season at their final one as it turned out among the state's 3A classification for at least a four-year span, during which they managed just a pair of wins both overall and within their then Western Foothills Conference, the Vikes head into this season as a member of the state's largest 4A class and with a slew full of new conference opponents.

With nine starters back on offense, the outlook appears a little better for the blue-and-gold colored Vikings as they prepare to kick off their first-ever season as 4A class members Friday night. Though filled with a season of new, the team heads into play under the guidance once again of

head coach Kent Millsaps.

South Iredell opens play against one of those new schedule foes, tipping off the season at home in an endowment contest when facing a West Rowan team that reached the quarterfinals of the state 3A class playoffs last fall, Friday night.

Game time, like all of the team's games this season, is set for 7:30 p.m.

It's the first of a total of five home games for the Vikes this season and the first of two to be held in Viking Valley within the campaign's first three weeks. Among the home games are two of the five set against fellow first-year members of the newly-formed 4A class Central Piedmont Conference. Each of those also take place to help form South Iredell's most extended home stretch of the 11-game season.

Due to increased student

enrollment based on numbers turned in to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association during the most recent realignment period, it revealed that South Iredell has grown to belong among the state's largest 4A class of schools. That will be the case during the next four years of the realignment period, even though as early as next year, the school's student population could be affected as much as half due to the opening of a new scheduled high school also within the county's southern end.

As a result, the home of the Vikings is Iredell County's only school to be bumped up into the largest class of schools for statewide athletic purposes. Still, the Vikes will be able to fill four of their five non-conference dates with games against fellow inter-class county opponents, some of them aligned within same conference circles as recently as just last year.

During the season that starts this weekend, the Vikes will engage in a total of six non-conference games to go along with the five CCP contests. The six members of that latter group will be fighting for just two available state playoff berths.

In addition to South Iredell, other charter CCP members includes Davie County, R.J. Reynolds, South Rowan, West Forsyth, and North Davidson. In most cases, due to the new league assignment, the Vikings will be facing most of those foes for the first time ever on the football field.

Of the new conference foes, the two making first-time visits to the Vikes' home turf include North Davidson and Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds, doing so on back-to-to-

See KICK OFF, page 2B

Mooresville to Mooresville, Martin meets McClain

Mooresville's Brian Martin, now in his first season as a member of the South Atlantic League minor baseball circuit's umpire group in just his second year as a professional, had heard about Mooresville's Michael McClain, the former Mooresville American Legion baseball Moors player severely injured in a collision this past season. Recently, the two final got to meet face to face. It came as Martin, dressed in his officiating uniform, made his final regular-season appearance in the Kannapolis Intimidators' home Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium. Just after McClain was involved in first-pitch ceremonies, Martin makes it a point to shake the player's hand and offer words of encouragement for his continuing recovery. McClain is backed by his dad, Patrick, and flanked by yet another Mooresville connection in Todd Parnell, vice-president and general manager of the host single-A Chicago White Sox affiliates.

