



## Junior High's Cagers Launch Season Against Landis Today

Today (Thursday) at four o'clock in the afternoon the 1963-64 edition of the Junior High basketball season will officially open its season. The opener pits the locals against Landis on the Mooresville home court.

This contest will be the only display available to the home folks this year, as the Imps will not play again until January 9 at D. Matt Thompson. Better make plans right now to be on hand for the tipoff this afternoon.

Coach Dave Richardson will be starting almost from scratch, with only one returning starter from the team of last year. This boy, Mike Deaton, will team with new boys John Verbis, John Beam, Tony Levan and Bill Keeter to make up the starting five for the opening game.

Coach Dan Woody of the young lassies reports his team is almost in the same fix. Still, the girls have no place to go but up after losing all 10 games they played last year. The boys, after losing their first four games, came on strong the last half of the season to post a 5-5 record.

The Junior High Imps will be operating in the Central Piedmont Conference, which was set up for the first time this year and is made up of five schools with each team playing the other on a home-and-home basis.

Woody reports his girls have been working hard and are expected to make a good showing in the opener today. He lists his probable starting line-up with Judy Kistler and Jeanne Talbert at forwards and Jane Kelly and Jane Church at guards. Judy Robinson and Lisa Alexander will man the raving player positions.

Donna Allison, Ponda Hayes, Betty Jo Wike and Linda Benfield are also highly praised by Woody and they too are expected to see game duty this afternoon.

Rounding out the sextet team are Sue Brooks, Kathy Phillips, Debbie Burdette, Janet Oliphant, June Wilson, Annie Bravley, Christine Barlow, Mary Anne Charles and Susan Brantley.

Richardson is high on the praise of the entire membership of his team. He reports practice has been the best since he took over the coaching duties two years ago. The spirit and hustle shown by the unit is a sign they will improve steadily as the season rolls along.

Other than the first five listed, Richardson is high on Ricky Moore, Joe Benson, James Benfield, Chuck Byrd and Mitchell Coggins. He expects these boys to add strength and depth to the squad.

Still other boys who are working with a fine effort are Brent Cur-

## Coddle Creek

By CHRISTINE PATTERSON

A picnic supper will be held Thursday, December 12, in the basement of the Educational Building at 7 o'clock. Following the supper Dr. Charles Younts, moderator of our Synod, will be the guest speaker at 8 o'clock. Dr. Younts has visited Palestine and the Holy Land. Each member is urged to be present.

Church officers for the coming year will be installed and ordained next Sabbath.

Herman Johnson was a recent patient at Lowrance Hospital.

The Christmas tree party will be held on Wednesday evening, December 18, at 7 o'clock. The program of Sacred music will be given on Sabbath evening December 22, by the Adult and Children's Choir.

Mr. and Mrs. David Smith visited with Mrs. Parks Patterson and Christine Monday night.

Miss Sandra Diamond is confined at her home with chicken-pox.

Miss Frances Litaker, freshman at Catawba College spent last week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Litaker.

The Linwood Club held their annual Christmas party Tuesday night at the club house.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burgess, Dean and Denise visited in Greensboro Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith visited last week end with Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Smith Jr. and children in Georgetown, S. C.

Newly elected officers of the Men's Club are Donald Kistler, president; J. C. Wallace, vice president; and Morris Johnston, secretary and treasurer.

## Blue Devil Basketball Travel To Odell In Return Tilt Friday

Tomorrow night (Friday) the Blue Devil basketball team will journey to Odell for a return engagement against the Dragons. In their first encounter of the season, the two schools split a twin-bill. The local girls lost in a thriller 27-25, while the boys came through with a 78-41 verdict.

The Devil teams played at Statesville Tuesday night and the results of that contest will be found elsewhere in today's issue.

The girls, under the direction of Coach Roy Boyles, who is in his first endeavor at guiding the lassies team, gave the local fans their share of thrills in the opening game Friday night. Boyles was high in praise of his team for their fine showing. With a little more experience they will be a real top notch outfit.

Devil hustling forward Sandy Torrence was the spark of the lassies, keeping them in the ball game down to the final whistle. All total, Torrence scored 13 points to top the scoring for both teams. Mooresville set a hot pace in the first quarter, getting off to a 11-5 advantage. However, the hoop closed on the basket for the locals as they totaled only four points in the second chapter while the visiting team got 10 to make

the score stand at 15-all at half time.

The drought continued in the third quarter as only a bucket by Torrence kept them on the scoreboard. Trailing by five points going into the final three minutes the Devils battled back and could have tied the score with one second to play should a last ditch shot have found the basket. It failed and the girls dropped their opener by the narrowest of scores.

Second high scorer for Mooresville was Rene Gibson with six points. Shirley Sherrill got four to total out the locals scoring. Susan Cooke, Marlene Poore and Sandy Sharpe were demons on defense at the guard slots.

Mooresville's boys proved they will be a team to reckon with as they took the lead from the start and rolled over the Odell five 75-41 in the largest victory margin for a Blue Devil team in recent years. Coach Harlan Bowman has his entire starting five returning this year and from all indications they will be in strong contention for the North Piedmont Conference championship.

Guard Tommy Deal was the top knocker for the winners, scoring 32 points. Mike Robinson was second with 16. Every member of the

team got a chance in the contest and practically all got points on the scoreboard. Harry Morris topped the Odell scorers with 17 points.

Johnny Cate tallied seven, Tim Roach and Gary Laws each got six, and Eddie Barnett sank a foul shot for one point.

In recent practice periods, Coach Boyles has had his team really shooting from the foul line. The lassies got only nine points at the charity stripe in 30 attempts, which proved the margin in the opener. He hopes to have them ready at tip-off time Friday night.

Coach Bowman's lads will be a heavy favorite in the contest judging from the previous score and the real game is expected to be the girls contest when the locals try to reverse the loss.

Odell is just a skip and jump across the county line on the Cordle Creek road, so make a special effort to attend the game and root the locals to victory. Tip-off time for the girls game is 7:30 p. m.

Tuesday night, the locals travel to Kannapolis for another non-conference practice affair and they will be on the home court December 19 in a contest with Statesville.



READY AND ABLE — The Mooresville wrestling team opens its 1963-64 season tomorrow night (Friday) in a match here against South Mecklenburg. Following the final practice Wednesday afternoon, Coach Perry Pearson pronounced his team ready for the encounter. Some of the boys

who will see action in the match are, left to right, William Kelly, Bobby Ham, David Oliphant, Dewitt Hinson, Coach Pearson, Jeff Stonestreet, Larry Dyson and Bobby Ingram. Starting time is 7:30 p. m. in the Senior High gym.

## FRIDAY NIGHT

## Devil Grapplers Set For S. Mecklenburg Contest

Coach Perry Pearson and his wrestling charges this week held final workouts, perfecting their attack in preparation for their opening contest of the year against South Mecklenburg here tomorrow (Friday) night.

The match, scheduled to get underway at 7:30 in the Senior High gymnasium, will see the locals going all-out to avenge a loss to the Rebels in their lone meeting last season. From all indications this match shapes up as a real test for the Blue Devil squad in its quest for honors in wrestling circles during the coming campaign.

Pearson will be making his wrestling coaching debut, having taken over the duties from Bill Griffith who guided the team for the past three years. This year's

team has the promise of being one of the best to come from the school in recent years.

In all, Coach Pearson has 22 boys hoping for a starting slot in the opening match, which will see 11 boys taking part in the actual competition. Should Pearson's plans go well, he will be able to send a boy to the mat in each of weight classes. The only doubtful division is in the lightweight 95-pound class in which Gary Freeze is the only team member who could possibly make the weight.

Main anchor of the team will be association champion Dewitt Hinson in the heavyweight, or unlimited, division. Hinson is the only returning title holder of the three championships captured by the Blue Devils in the Association tour-

namment last year.

Heading up the hopes for the locals will be experienced wrestlers in seven of the 11 weight classes. Along with Hinson they are David Curtis in the 145-pound division, William Kelly in the 120-pound class, Mike Couch in the 127-pound class, Jeff Stonestreet in the 180-pound class, and Tommy Pennington in the 103-pound class.

Tony Bentley competes in the 112-pound class, Bobby Ingram in the 154-pound class, Bobby Ham in the 133-pound class, Larry Dyson in the 165-pound class, David Oliphant in the 138-pound class and Freeze in the 95-pound bracket.

Pearson reports that he is well pleased with the team's fine efforts in the first weeks of practice. Each of the boys is making a fine effort to bring depth to the squad.



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