

Adults back in the game, this time less pain

By Mary Beth Phillips

For Morrisville resident Linnel Baldwin, 16, a Cary High School football player, the flag football tournament on Saturday was "weird," but more fun than tackle football.

"Usually, you've got definite linemen, the line contains the quarterback. Here, it's not organized," Baldwin explained.

The major benefit was "obviously, no pain," he said, but also, "you get to run more freely."

"When you put on pads, you've got to be serious," he added, referring to playing tackle football for his school.

Four teams played Saturday in Morrisville Parks and Recreation's first flag football tournament. Director Alan Carroll hopes to start a league in the fall. Signups will begin in July.

"It's the up and coming municipal program," Carroll said.

The weather Saturday was perfect, in the upper 70s with a slight breeze.

Baldwin's team, the Remis Raiders, was in the playoff game, but lost to "Pack Attack" a team of

N.C. State University graduates who had played intramural flag football there a few years ago, and had gone to the nationals in New Orleans in 1994.

Randy Bechtoldt, assistant intramural sports director at N.C. State, helped organize the event. He knows both Carroll and Assistant Recreation Director Jimmy Huggins from the days when they attended graduate school at State. Bechtoldt advised them about rules and scoring.

Another one of the teams, Guts & Glory, was made up of N.C. State students and recent graduates.

The Remis Raiders was set up by Billy Thomas, a Morrisville resident who also works part time at the Morrisville Community Center.

Only two of the players on the fourth team, the Temple Dawgs, had ever played flag football before.

"It's different than I expected," said Mitchell Bowyer of the Temple Dawgs. "You can rush right away. You can't knee the opponent or physically contact them."

He also noted that the other teams seemed to have organized plays. "We just kind of say, 'you go this way, you do this...'"

The tournament Saturday was a Round Robin format - each team played three games.

The championship game was played before the consolation game. The Raiders were obviously proud to be in the championship game. "We old men put on a gallant effort," John York said after losing the game 28-0. "We beat some young puppies earlier."

Huggins said most of the players who are attracted to flag football had played football in their high school or college days. "After so many years, you just don't want to put those pads back on," Huggins said.

Kirkland Henson, 24, of Guts & Glory, said he prefers tackle, but the advantage to flag football is "a lot more action in terms of scoring." Also, flag football tends to involve everyone in the plays. "There's not as much blocking, the plays are more distributed across the team."



IN ACTION-Billy Thomas of Morrisville, a player for the Remis Raiders, reaches for a pass during a flag football tournament put on Saturday to create interest in a league.

Easter dance, pool party among April's P&R calendar

By Mary Beth Phillips

The spring season is gearing up at the Morrisville Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, with a variety of events from an Easter Dance to youth outdoor basketball.

Residents may also begin purchasing season passes for the outdoor swimming and wading pools, which will open May 17.

A pool party featuring games will be held May 17 from noon until 6 p.m. to kick off the 16-week swimming season.

Residents may swim at a cost of \$1.50 per person, or buy a season

membership for \$45. Non-residents pay \$3 per day or \$90 for the season. A family membership is \$75 for residents and \$150 for non-residents.

Registration begins May 13 for swim lessons, to be coached by the Cary Family YMCA. Non-residents may register beginning May 20. The eight-lesson package is \$30 for residents and \$43 for non-residents at the preschool age, and \$32 for residents and \$45 for non-resident school-age children.

The Easter Dance will be held April 12 from 7 to 10 p.m. Kenny Godwin will be the disc jockey for

the event, which draws people of all ages, but mostly youth, according to Alan Carroll, director of Parks and Recreation.

Tickets are \$1.50 for residents and \$3 for non-residents.

Registration is going on now for Arts/Together camps to be held in late April. Fees are \$140 for residents and \$175 for non-residents. The half-day sessions last two weeks.

Youth outdoor basketball for boys and girls age 9 to 12 will be held for the first time this summer. Registration is May 19-June 8. The

six-week season begins the week of July 7. Registration is \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Registration is also going on now for soccer camps and baseball camps.

The soccer camps run July 7-11 and July 14-18. The resident rate is \$120 for the week of instruction. The baseball camps run July 21-25, and July 28-Aug. 1. The camps will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration is always ongoing for Country and Western Line Dance lessons, Goju Karate, and Bodyworks step aerobics.

Nike Carolina Classic May 8-11 junior clinic one of new events

By Mary Beth Phillips

Local residents can participate a variety of activities before the pros tee off at the Nike Carolina Classic May 8-11.

A Junior Pro-Am Tournament for ages 12 to 18, and a free Junior Clinic will take place on Monday, May 5. Adults may also participate in the long drive competition on Monday.

A few slots are still available in the Pro-Am tournament, which will be played by the tournament's sponsors. Sponsors will also be treated to a Friday night gala featuring the "Four Tops." The general public may join the party at \$1,000 for a table of eight.

Volunteers are also needed. For \$30, volunteers are treated to a Nike golf shirt with tournament logo, lunch every day, extra tickets for friends, and two play days if they work three or more shifts during the tournament, said MaryMac Webb, tournament director.

And finally, you can just buy a ticket and go watch the pros play.

Daily tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate, and weekly tick-

ets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate.

The schedule of events includes the amateur skills challenge finals on Saturday, May 3, the Junior Pro-Am, Long-Drive Competition, and Junior Clinic on Monday, May 5. On Tuesday, The John Deere Shoot Out will consist of six Nike Tour players and amateur partners, followed by the Pro-Am Pairings party.

Wednesday, the Pro-Am tournament will be played.

Thursday, May 8, the first round of the Nike Classic will take place.

This year, the match will be televised on the Golf Channel. The second round will be held May 9, the third round on May 10 and the championship round on Sunday, May 11.

On Monday, May 12, the volunteers will party at Grill 57.

Proceeds after the \$200,000 purse and operating expenses will be donated to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Raleigh Area.

For more information about opportunities to participate, call the Nike Carolina Classic at 380-0011.

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