

Prep Football Playoffs Expanded

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The high school football post-season playoffs received a major expansion and improvement last week when the North Carolina High School Athletic Association membership voted overwhelmingly to increase the field in the Division I play and eliminate the present Division II format.

Ninety-seven percent of all football-playing schools voted to drop the Division II playoffs and instead adopt a 32-team Division I field in each classification. The Division II playoffs was a post-season format for conference runners-up which was only played to an eastern and western champion in 2-A and 3-A classifications while the 4-A class was played to a state champion.

The newly adopted 32-team field will give each conference two playoff berths and in some larger leagues allow as many as three spots.

This new format will become effective with the upcoming fall season while the playoff pairings will be released by the NCHSAA within the next several weeks.

The expanded playoffs will add an extra week onto the prep football season but the decision to increase the field is one of the best improvements in years because in past years when each conference received only one playoff berth, a number of 7-3 and 8-2 teams were forced to stay home or participate in Division II.

Although the Division II playoffs were popular and provided the NCHSAA with increased revenues, the recent Division I expansion will do all these and more.

Another step forward in all prep athletics came in a vote by NCHSAA members to add an additional preseason scrimmage. Seventy-one percent of the members voted in favor of the addition which will especially help in football.

Football would be the only sport that would have specific guidelines with one scrimmage conducted under the present conditions while the other having restrictions in the kicking game. Teams will instead have simulated conditions and no contact during kicking and punting situations in one of the scrimmages.

In another NCHSAA decision, fall sports other than football will now be able to play their first contest beginning with the last Monday in August. This decision will not take effect until the 1986-87 season since many schools have already prepared schedules.

Football schools will not continue to play their first game the last Friday in August.

In other news, it was announced that NCHSAA Executive Director Charles Adams and Administrative Assistant Ken Tilley will be guest speakers at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NCSHSA) in Lexington, Kentucky on July 1-6.

More than 1,000 athletic administrators and school officials from across the nation will attend the week-long conference.

Adams will be presiding at a workshop entitled "The Use of Non-Certified Coaches" while Tilley will speak on "Working with School Boards and Legislatures".

The NCSHSA has a membership of 20,000 high schools; 500,000 coaches and 500,000 officials and judges from all 50 states.

Legend Resigns

Hickory's Frank Barger, the winningest active high school football coach in North Carolina, resigned last month to end 32 years guiding Red Tornadoes teams since 1953.

Barger, 62, ended his coaching career with a 231-101-5 record including last season's 6-4 team which won its last five games after a 1-4 start.

Larry Wittenberg was announced last week as Barger's replacement. Wittenberg, a Lenoir-Rhyne College graduate ironically enough played under Barger during the late 1950's and has been an assistant coach at Hickory since 1970.

I had the privilege of attending Hickory's, and also Barger's, final home game in early November last year. The Red Tornadoes sent the legendary coach out on a winning note with a thrilling come-from-behind win over state-ranked Morganton Freedom.

Post 68 Sweeps Past Jacksonville, Winter Park

Brunswick County Post 68 remained in first place in the American Legion Area II Eastern Division baseball standings last week with a pair of wins over Jacksonville and Winter Park. Post 68 defeated visiting Jacksonville 11-6 Monday and blasted Winter Park 13-6 Friday to boost its league-leading mark to 8-2.

Pitcher Matt Gore ran his record to a perfect 6-0 in Monday's win over Jacksonville. John Lewis had three hits while Keith Stanley, Chuck Clemmons and Gore had two each to lead Post 68's 12-hit attack. Gore also added an eighth inning homer.

Henry Rochelle was the losing pitcher for Jacksonville (4-6) and Steve McAllister had four hits for the visitors.

Post 68 used a three-run eighth inning rally and then scored four more in the ninth to break from a 6-6 tie

top Winter Park (3-8).

Andre Perkins was the winning pitcher for Brunswick County while also collecting a double and single. Mike Russ led Post 68 at the plate with three hits while Glenn McCuen added a double and home run and Chuck Clemmons two hits also.

Winter Park was led by Sean Ross and Jim Rogers who collected two hits each.

In other American Legion play last week, Post 10 also won two games with a 6-4 win over Winter Park and an 8-6 victory over Whiteville.

American Legion Area II Eastern Division Baseball standings as of Tuesday, June 25

Team	W	L
Brun. Co. Post 68	8	2
Wilmington Post 10	7	4
Whiteville Post 137	6	3
Jacksonville	4	6
Winter Park	3	8
Beaufort	2	7

Coonhunters Compete Sunday

Plotts, walkers, black and tans and redbones will star in the bench show, water race and treeing contest planned Sunday at the Coastal Coonhunters Club at Windy Point.

President Darryl Somersett said the United Kennel Club-sanctioned bench show begins at 3 p.m. at the clubhouse. It will be judged by Junior Duncan of the Clarendon Club in Columbus County.

The treeing contest and water race will follow, with trophies to be awarded in all three events.

"We're encouraging local coonhunters to come participate in it," said Somersett. "We've only advertised in one (coonhunters) magazine. We want to get the local hunters interested in the club."

Presently the club has about 32 members, but wants the club's membership and activity to increase.

Local coonhunters interested in Sunday's events can obtain more information by calling Somersett at 579-6398, or Julian Britt at 754-4754.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW FLYLER
JIM GREGSON, left, of Holden Beach, is congratulated by Jimmy Simpson for taking first place in the low net men's division of the Simpson Invitational Golf Tournament Sunday evening. Gregson shot a 61 at the Marsh Harbor Golf Links in the tournament that benefits the Brunswick County Special Olympics program.

Weather Cooperates In Simpson Tourney

A full field of 144 golfers returned to Marsh Harbor Golf Links in Calabash Sunday where the weather helped make the third annual Jimmy Simpson Invitational Golf Tournament a success.

Held each year to benefit the Brunswick County Special Olympics program, the tournament was earlier postponed from June 16 due to rain. Under sunny skies Sunday, first and second place finishers for low net and low gross scores in both men and ladies competition were awarded trophies.

In the low net competition, Jim Gregson of Holden Beach and Joan O'Neil finished first with scores of 61 and 66 respectively. Finishing second in low net were Darwin Whipkey of Carolina Shores with a 62 and Joan Blackshaw with a 67.

In the low gross competition, David Wall and Kay Brannon finished the field in first with scores of 73 and 82 respectively. Finishing second were Sean Mulholland of Holden Beach with a 74 and Helen Morrison with an 85.

Golf course green fees and cart rentals were donated by Marsh Harbor owners Larry and Judy Young.

Other prizes for the tournament were furnished by area businesses and awarded in drawings following a barbecue dinner at the club house.

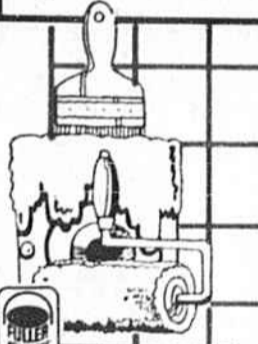
Receiving prizes for having the highest scores of the day were Rozelle Hewett of Shallotte Point with a 113 and Blanche Bechie of Carolina Shores with a 149.

Money raised from the tournament will be used to benefit the Brunswick County Special Olympics program, and to possibly send the children on an outing to Carowinds in Charlotte.

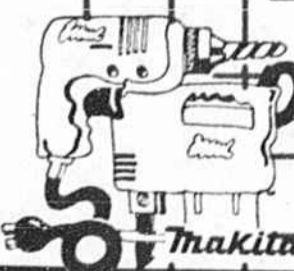
Brunswick County Men's Softball League Schedule for week of June 27-July 1
All games at Supply Park
Thursday, June 27
Ocean Front Paint vs. H.P. Wrecking Crew, 7 p.m.; Heavy Metal vs. Road Warriors, 8 p.m.; Ocean Isle Builders vs. Bald Head Island, 9 p.m.
Monday, July 1
Road Warriors vs. Joe & Moe's, 7 p.m.; Ocean Isle Builders vs. H.P. Wrecking Crew, 8 p.m.; Bald Head Island vs. Joyner Electric, 9 p.m.

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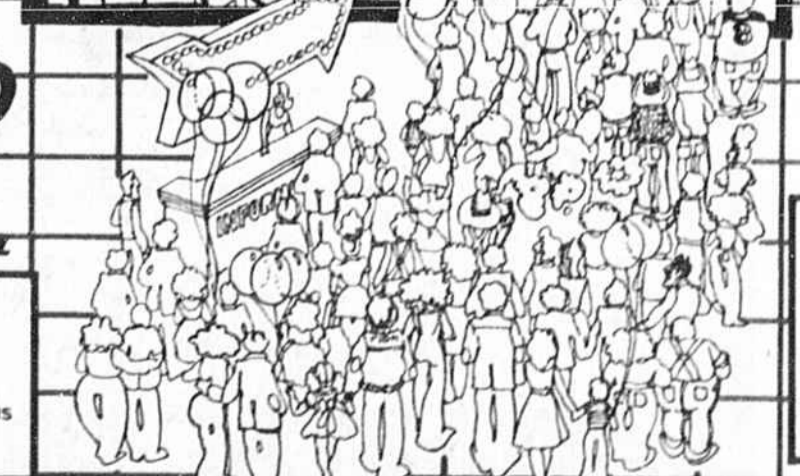
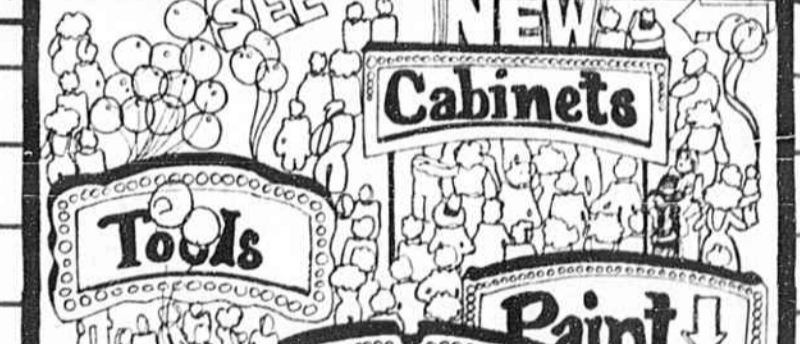
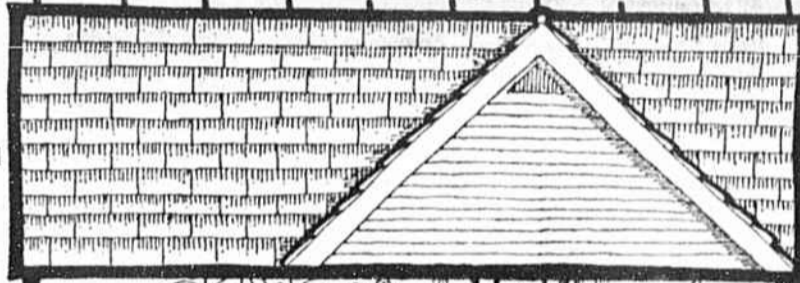
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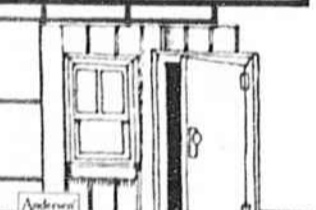
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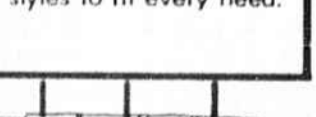
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