

Fantasy Football new game in town

Every football fan in the United States will be glued to the TV on January 30 when Super Bowl XXVIII is played at the new Georgia Dome.

But, did you know that one Super Bowl was played two weeks ago and that the winner was a team from right here in Kings Mountain?

The Western Carolina Fantasy Football League has been in existence here since 1989, and its popularity is spreading like a forest fire.

Shane Facemyer, whose Thunder Shock team won the Super Bowl for the second year in a row and the third time in five years, organized the league and it has grown to 14 teams. The league owners are considering expanding next season.

Fantasy Football began in the late 1970's and is popular throughout the United States. Many people have used it for gambling purposes, but the local football fans who operated the Kings Mountain league are in it just for fun and fellowship. They pay a \$20 entry fee which is used to buy soft drinks and chips for a get-together on Super Bowl Sunday and to purchase a number of awards.

The teams are comprised of skill players such as quarterbacks, running backs and receivers who are chosen from professional teams. Teams receive points by how their players perform on NFL game day

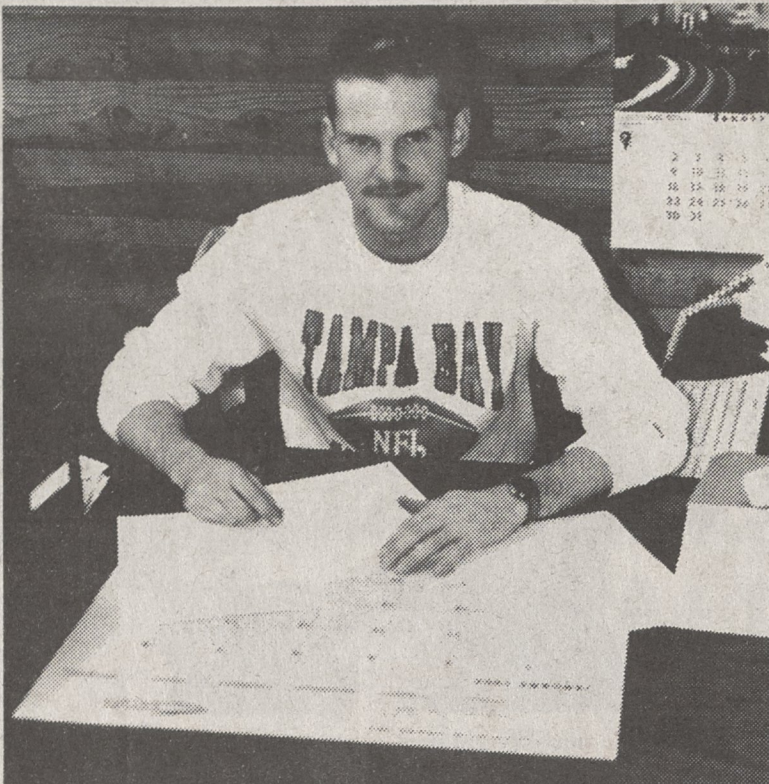
with points awarded for different lengths of scoring plays and rushing, passing and receiving statistics.

It's not uncommon for teams to score over 100 points. In fact, the score of the recent Super Bowl was Thunder Shock 95, Donald's Ducks 69.

The league starts its season around the first of August with a draft, just like the NFL. The team with the worst record from the year before gets the first pick, and the team with the best record gets the last. There are 14 rounds. Each team has two players at each position, so if their front-line players get injured they will have a complete roster on game day. Trades are allowed through the seventh week of the season, and teams are also allowed to pick up free agents along the way.

Facemyer and a close friend, Gary Bess, are the lone team owners from the original group that started the league. In fact, those two became acquainted through the league and have become the best of friends. That's one of the fringe benefits of participating, says Facemyer.

"The league has gone farther than I ever anticipated," says Facemyer. "I thought it would be pretty neat to do it for one year, but every year we get more people interested and wanting to play. We had five expansion teams last



Shane Facemyer looks over this year's statistics from the Fantasy Football League.

year." For the die-hard football fan, Fantasy Football makes the game much more interesting. Needless to say, most participants sit in front of the TV all day on Sunday flipping the channels back and forth to try to catch all the action.

With their players coming from many different teams, however, it's

almost impossible to figure the final scores until Monday morning. Facemyer, who is the league commissioner, keeps all the statistics on a computer and furnishes other league owners with up-to-date standings and player stats.

"On Sunday, I'll sit down and watch the 12 o'clock game and then the 4 o'clock game," he said.

"I work the third shift at Spectrum so I try to get up about 11 a.m. and watch CNN Sports since it's pretty thorough, to see if maybe I can find out who did what. It's hard until Monday morning to know what each team has done. You can have a pretty good ballpark idea, but until Monday it's pretty tough."

League owners can trade players and replace injured players by Thursday of each week, but after that their rosters are locked in. Facemyer said those owners who do not keep up with current injury reports are usually the ones that finish low in the standings.

"Fantasy Football makes you appreciate the talents of the players a whole lot more," he says. "I've become a lot more knowledgeable about the game of football and what talents you have to have to play a certain position. It makes you focus in on a lot of different people."

Facemyer said the stars of Fantasy Football are pretty much the stars of NFL game day, as players like Emmitt Smith, Barry Sanders, Jerry Rice, and Dan Marino usually help the Fantasy owners pile up big numbers.

"But, you usually have a surprise ever year," he said. "This year, Shannon Sharpe has been a big point producer. You are usually lucky to get seven points from a tight end, but he's been uncanny. There's always two or three that

you don't expect to do something that will come out and blow you out of the water."

Next season, the league is considering adding two defensive positions (defensive back and defensive lineman/linebacker) to each roster, and Facemyer thinks that will add to the excitement. They will be awarded points based on interceptions and quarterback sacks.

"Every team's going to want the Deion Sanders' and Reggie Whites, so there will be some literal wrestling matches when we have the draft," he said.

Facemyer said he first heard of Fantasy Football on CNN, and then the very next day saw a book about it in a local book store. He then heard about a league in the New England area that charges a \$500 entry fee, and also heard about some men in Texas who were arrested for illegal gambling because they were playing Fantasy Football for money.

"We just play it to have fun and make the game more interesting," he said. "All of the money for franchise fees goes to awards such as the league champion and rookie of the year, and food for our Super Bowl party. Next year, everybody who participates will be given something."

Anyone interested in information about the league may call Facemyer at 739-0600.

Pro wrestling slated Saturday at Armory

The Professional Wrestling Federations returns to the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory Saturday night at 8 p.m.

The main event will be a bunkhouse stampede, a match in which all wrestlers wear street clothes and bring foreign objects to the ring such as brass knuckles, chains and clubs. The winner is the last wrestler in the ring after all others have been thrown over the top rope.

The semi-main event is a special challenge match between Hillbilly J.R. Scruggs and his mystery partner and Nature Boy Austin Steele and the Russian Assassin.

The newly crowned PWF tag

team champions, Italian Stallion and Star Ryder, will battle Gorgeous George South and Terrible Terry Austin.

Kings Mountain's American GI goes against Black Scorpion, and Emilio Ulcia, the Latin Lover, battles Tyron Knox.

Other stars on the card include Scott Powers, Too Hot Thomas, the Masked Maniac, Cruel Connection II, Ravishing Randy Sledge, and the Texas Outlaw.

Tickets are \$8 at the door or \$6 in advance. Advance tickets are available at Floating Affections, Allen's Florist and the Armory.

For more information, call 739-4741.



Kings Mountain's Richie Scruggs (American G.I.) will defend his Intercontinental title in Saturday's wrestling action at the National Guard Armory.

SportSouth plans Super Bowl specials

The National Football League, SportSouth and The Coca-Cola Company today announced they will televise the NFL Super Bowl Channel from January 27-30. As part of the NFL Super Bowl Channel on SportSouth, Coca-Cola will produce seven hours of prime-time programming called "Coca-Cola BIG TV."

The NFL Super Bowl Channel - presented by Coca-Cola - will consist of 41 hours of live and taped programming, giving viewers a behind-the-scenes look at Super Bowl XXVIII, which will be played Sunday, January 30, in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. SportSouth, the regional sports network for the Southeast, will produce and distribute the NFL Super Bowl Channel.

The NFL Super Bowl Channel will present a "backstage pass" to the special events surrounding the Super Bowl in Atlanta, with a focus on NFL and community-initiated programs. In addition, interviews with NFL players, coaches and celebrities from the entertainment world, as well as 1993 season highlights from NFL Films will be featured throughout the weekend. "Coca-Cola BIG TV" will provide viewers with a unique, be-

hind-the-scenes look at the entertainment and sports events leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. The Coca-Cola Company has hired former CBS Sports Executive Producer Ted Shaker to serve as executive producer of the segments. While at CBS, Shaker produced seven Super Bowl and 11 NCAA Final Four telecasts.

SportSouth televises 500 live and exclusive events each year to more than 3.8 million subscribers in a seven-state region that includes Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. In addition to the network's region, viewership of the NFL Super Bowl Channel will be expanded to include selected affiliates of Prime Network.

Locally, SportSouth can be found on cable channel 34 on Jones Interchange.

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Midgette, Hullender grab lead

Mark Midgette and R.W. Hullender grabbed the lead in the first week of the second half in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Tuesday night at Dilling Heating. Midgette won three of four games from John Dilling and Hullender won three of four from Jack Barrett.

Beth Hardy's 142 line and 346 set led Midgette over Dilling. Midgette added a 118-339. John Dilling had a 139 line and 350 set and James Williamson added a 118-323 for the losers.

Chuck Ruley rolled a 112 line and 310 set to lead Hullender over Barrett. Jack Barrett had a 122 line and Tommy Hardy added a 314 set for the losers.

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