

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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www.townscountherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

Mountain Lions in 6-5 win over GCC

Will Callaway's ninth inning sacrifice fly scored the game winning run as Young Harris College defeated host Gulf Coast College 6-5 and claimed the tournament championship of the inaugural First Pitch Classic in Panama City, Fla., Sunday.

Callaway's sacrifice fly came with nobody out, as the Mountain Lions pounced on Commodores reliever Adam Purdy, who had just entered the game to start the frame and was unable to find the strike zone. The first three batters Purdy faced all drew walks, setting up Callaway's sacrifice fly that scored Brett Armour from third base. Purdy would get YHC's Daniel Marsh to pop out, and Chris Holloway would then get tagged out in a rundown to end the top of the inning.

Young Harris head coach Rick Robinson then sent freshman lefthander Adam Camara to the hill to close out the game, just two days after Camara's sensational collegiate debut, in which he earned a win with a two and one-third solid innings in the Mountain Lions' 6-5 win over No. 2 Chipola College. Camara's save was the first of his career.

The Rockmart, Ga., native walked the leadoff hitter but Armour would pick him off after he wandered too far from the bag to record the first out. With one out, Cam Greathouse reached on an error by first baseman Matt Lobacz, but Camara would get Gulf Coast to hit into a 6-4-3 double play to end the

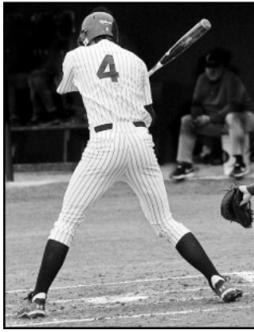
game and give the Mountain Lions the championship.

The tournament featured eight of the top teams in the Southeastern region of the United States. All eight teams that participated in the First Pitch Classic have at sometime in their history won state and regional championships. They have each participated in or won the Junior College World Series, also.

The Mountain Lions took advantage of similar early success against Gulf Coast Sunday, wasting little time firing up the engines, as Chris Holloway belted a leadoff home run. After Gulf Coast tied the score in the bottom of the first on Bryce Lane's RBI single, Young Harris would score three times in the second. The first two runs of the inning came after Greathouse dropped Brett Armour's fly ball in right field, allowing Matt Lobacz, who singled, and Brandon Curson, who reached on an error, to score. Holloway followed by grounding into a double play, but Greg Bowder, who walked earlier in the inning, would score on the play, giving the Mountain Lions a 4-1 advantage.

Gulf Coast would make up for his second-inning miscue in the fourth with a three-run home run that tied the score and chased Mountain Lions' starter Brian Holmes from the contest.

The teams traded runs in the sixth inning, with Young Harris taking a 5-4 lead on Curson's solo shot over the right field fence, before the Commo-

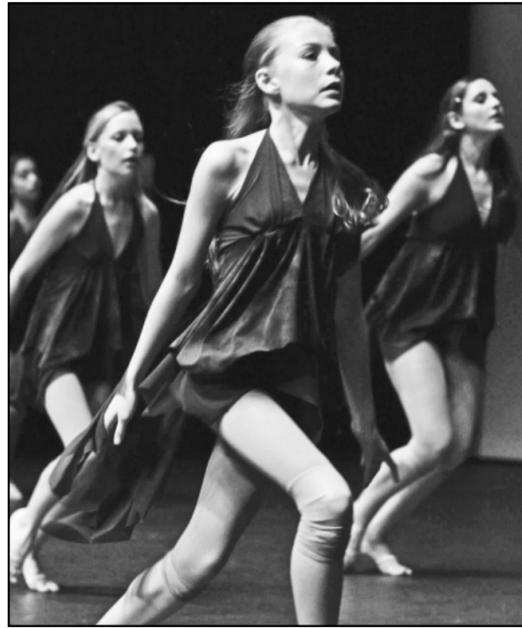


Matt Lowery took the plate as his purple Cats took the tournament 6-5 over Gulf Coast.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant
doreos would even up the score one more time on Rasmus' RBI double. Holmes went three and two-thirds innings in the starting role for Young Harris. He allowed four runs on four hits while walking four batters and striking out four.

Jake Montgomery (1-0), who came on in relief of Holmes in the fourth inning, earned the win for Young Harris in his collegiate pitching debut. The transfer from the University of Georgia tossed four and one-third innings, allowing one run on three hits. He did not walk or strikeout anyone. Calloway, Lobacz and Curson each collected a pair of hits for Young Harris, and Armour drove in a team-high two runs. The Mountain Lions return to action Friday as they open a four-game weekend series against Southeastern Community in Whiteville, N.C.

Fuzion Dance Company Spring Concert



Spring is coming and the Fuzion Dance Company Spring Concert is almost here! On Saturday, March 6, 2010, the Fuzion Dance Company will present their annual Spring Concert. This exciting production has something for everyone. The one-hour show is packed with inspired dance pieces in a variety of styles including contemporary, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, tap, ballet and bolliwood-themed modern. The Company will present two performances at Young Harris College in Clegg Auditorium; the first at 2 p.m., and the second one in the evening at 7 p.m. Admission is only \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. Free student ticket with each paid adult. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at Brass-town Dance Academy and Head 2 Toe Dance Supply in Young Harris, or at Hiawassee

Animal Hospital and Lakeside Café in Hiawassee. In addition, tickets will be available to purchase directly from Company members.

The nine members of the Fuzion Dance Company along with their instructors and Co-Directors have been training tirelessly to present an exciting, memorable event you don't want to miss! Inspired choreography, fantastic music and creative costuming will entertain and bless you! Make plans now to attend one of the shows!

For more information about the Fuzion Dance Company, Brass-town Dance Academy, other scheduled performances or to see if we are available to perform at an event, please call or visit the Brass-town Dance Academy, located in Young Harris, GA, just up the hill, across from the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

YHC women's tennis falls 7-2 to FSU-Jacksonville



YHC women's tennis team huddle before the start of the matches on Florida road trip.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant
Young Harris College's women's tennis team returned to the court Sunday after having its match against St. Petersburg College rained out the day before, but the Mountain Lions fell 7-2 to host Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Young Harris picked up two forfeit points, winning the No. 3 doubles and No. 6 singles matches when FSCJ was unable to put a player on the court in those positions. Other than those two YHC points, FSCJ earned straight sets wins in the other matches. The Mountain Lions are scheduled to return to action Feb. 7 at Lincoln Memorial University.

DOUBLES:

1. Yakovtseva/Ramirez (FSCJ) def. Black/Smith (YHC), 8-0
2. Lynn/Lopez (FSCJ) def. Deese/Brinkley (YHC) 8-2
3. YHC wins No. 3 doubles by default

SINGLES:

1. Arina Yakovtseva (FSCJ) def. Kinsley Black (YHC) 6-2, 6-0
2. Chelsey Lynn (FSCJ) def. Sarah Deese (YHC) 6-2, 6-2
3. Ari Lopez (FSCJ) def. Brianna Brinkley (YHC), 6-0, 6-0
4. Molly Lentini (FSCJ) def. Holly Smith (YHC) 6-0, 6-0
5. Eliana Ramirez (FSCJ) def. Michelle Allen (YHC) 6-4, 6-2
6. YHC wins No. 6 singles by default

Appalachian Trail Celebration and Backpacking Clinic

March 6-7, 2010 at Amicalola Falls State Park. Both experienced and novice hikers and campers attend this annual event to celebrate the great outdoors, learn about the Appalachian Trail, listen to AT hikers share their experiences, and discover what it takes to make the 5-million step journey across 14 states. There is no registration required... just come to Amicalola Falls State Park March 6-7, 2010, and seize the opportunity!

Saturday -- Authors Gene Espy (The Trail of My Life), David Miller (AWOL on the AT & 2010 Northbound - The A.T. Guide), J.R. Tate (Walkin' on the Happy Side of Mistery & Walkin' with the Ghost Whisperers), and Bill Walker (Skywalker) will do their presentations on Saturday, March 6, 2010, joined by The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, the Benton McKaye Trail Association, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Dane and Connie Ward, a husband and wife thru-hiking team. With an hour break

for lunch at noon, and a dinner break at 6 p.m., programs will be presented every hour from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Sunday -- The Backpacking Clinic highlights our vendors who will be displaying their wares in the lower lodge lobby as well as giving presentations throughout the day. Learn about the new lightweight equipment available, how to get a good fit on your backpack, what to pack, what kind of sleeping bag or water purifier is right for a long distance hike. Sunday's programs start at 9 a.m. with a question-and-answer presentation led by the seasoned hikers and trail guides of Atlanta Adventurers, followed by AntiGravityGear's George "Tim Man" Andrews sharing "What's for Dinner?" and lightweight gear tips. R.E.I.'s Geo Presley Brooks will then demonstrate the fine art of fitting a backpack to the hiker... or vice versa! After lunch, Thomas Horsch and Dan Eubank from La Fuma Millet will update guests on sleeping bags and alternatives

Individual Basketball Scoring

ATHENS ACADEMY

Lady Indians (Grade)	
Gabby Arencibia (10)	20
Lindsay Patton (10)	17
Ali Bleckley (10)	13
Jordan Moss (11)	7
Melissa Conrad (12)	5
Dadrian Blythe (9)	2

Indians (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	18
Brandon Henderson (10)	8
John Bleckley (12)	6
DJ Rogers (11)	5
Brett Bradshaw (11)	4
Rylan Albach (10)	2
Devin Henderson (11)	2

HEBRON CHRISTIAN

Lady Indians (Grade)	
Lindsay Patton (10)	19
Gabby Arencibia (10)	12
Jordan Moss (11)	10
Melissa Conrad (12)	9
Ali Bleckley (10)	7

Indians (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	22
John Bleckley (12)	11
Rylan Albach (10)	8
Brandon Henderson (10)	6
DJ Rogers (11)	5
Ethan Burch (12)	3
Brett Bradshaw (11)	1

Lady Indian JV's	
Kindle Moss (10)	11
Drew Kendall (8)	8
Emily Anderson (9)	7
Dadrian Blythe (9)	6
Crystal Bishop (11)	4
Davilyn Blythe (9)	4
Makayla Underwood (8)	4

Indians (Grade)	
Corbin Gilfilian (11)	13
Dakota Barrett (10)	11
Donald Lindemuth (9)	8
Ryan Tallent (9)	8
Jeb Edge (10)	7

LAKEVIEW ACADEMY

Lady Indians (Grade)	
Lindsay Patton (10)	20
Gabby Arencibia (10)	8
Melissa Conrad (12)	8
Jordan Moss (11)	8
Dadrian Blythe (9)	3
Brittany Walls (11)	3

Indians (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	13
John Bleckley (12)	8
DJ Rogers (11)	6
Devin Henderson (11)	4
Rylan Albach (10)	3
Brett Bradshaw (11)	3
Brandon Henderson (10)	3

Lady Indian JV's (Grade)	
Drew Kendall (8)	11
Dadrian Blythe (9)	10
Makayla Underwood (8)	10
Crystal Bishop (11)	9
Davilyn Blythe (9)	8
Kindle Moss (10)	7
Emily Anderson (9)	3

Indian JV's (Grade)	
Ryan Tallent (9)	13
Dakota Barrett (10)	8
Corbin Gilfilian (11)	7
Austin Wood (9)	7
Jeb Edge (10)	6
Donald Lindemuth (9)	2

Benton MacKaye Trail pleasure hike

February 20th: Benton MacKaye Trail: Winter on the Tapoco Section (19c) 4.43 miles. Great views! Moderate difficulty.

Hike Leader: Dick Evans (828) 479-2503 - email: richardevans@wildblue.net

Please contact Hike Leader for meeting time and place! Supper at Dick's house.

Also see website: www.bmta.org NIFeb10-A18gg

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter



2010 Bud Shootout winner, Kevin Harvick

Harvick Wins Shootout Thriller

Daytona Beach, FL—Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout lived up to its name. It was a no-holds-barred, shootout up until the last lap, and the type finish fans always hope for.

After a caution fell with just six laps remaining in the 75-lap event, Michael Waltrip was turned sideways by Ryan Newman, setting up for the exciting finish.

Kevin Harvick, sidelined with the flu for a week, won the race, taking the lead with just two laps remaining.

The race actually ended under caution when Greg Biffle's car had a flat tire to trigger an eight-car pileup behind winner Harvick, runner-up Kasey Kahne and third-place finisher Jamie McMurray.

Just before the race, Harvick, who had never run a lap in his car before strapping in for the race, told a national network television audience, "I'll earn my paycheck tonight."

And that he did. Harvick ran in front or close to it the entire final 50 laps of the 75-lap race and held off some real challenges by Tony Stewart and McMurray, as well as a pack of other hungry drivers, who bumped and banged each other all night. The night might have been a chilly one but the action was hot and heated.

"I think the biggest thing that we learned for us is our handling package is fairly good," said Harvick. "Obviously it will change a little bit as we go through the week because everything is going to shift to daytime temperatures for the Daytona 500."

"Our basic package of car is really good. And tonight, that was what was able to keep us up front. I wasn't pinned to one groove. I could run the top, bottom or middle. Didn't have to be picky about who I followed. I could go wherever I want. That's nice from a driver standpoint to have options like that."

The win for Harvick and his Richard Childress Chev-

rolet team was his second in as many years and was worth \$200,000.

Carl Edwards appeared to be the car to beat, dominating the first 25 laps, but he was shuffled out of line with about 30 laps to go and was eventually involved in the crash at the end.

Rounding out the top 10 behind Harvick, Kahne and McMurray were Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, Jeff Gordon, Joey Logano, Brian Vickers, Stewart and Montoya.

In other racing news, Danica Patrick finished sixth in her stock-car debut.

Patrick, racing a part-time schedule in the Nationwide Series this season, passed several cars in the closing laps of Saturday's ARCA season opener at Daytona, and was running with three laps left, but didn't have enough to catch the leaders. Still, it was a good start for her.

Patrick spent much of the race among the top 10, but she bumped fenders with Nelson Piquet and spun through the infield grass on Lap 54. She dropped to 17th, but worked her way through most of the field.

On a positive note, Daytona International Speedway announced this year's advance ticket sales were ahead of last year.

Fox Television said their ad sales for the rest of the network's 13-race schedule are 8 to 10 percent ahead of last year's.

Fox is seeing advertising sales slowly rebound across virtually all sports. These early returns represent a big relief for the sport and the network considering that last year's TV ratings were the lowest in a decade.

"We're definitely going to be in a much better situation than we were last year," said Neil Mulcahy, Fox Sports' executive vice president of advertising sales.

Emblematic of the rebounding economy is the automotive category, which Fox said is tripling its revenue commitment from last year. Fox expects to double the amount of auto sponsors that buy into the regular season. Last year, just two autos - Toyota and Ford - bought regular-season schedules.

Weekend Racing: The efforts of Hendrick Motorsports paid big dividends as Mark Martin won the pole for the Daytona 500 and Dale Earnhardt Jr. was second. The pair will start on the front row for the Sunday's race.

These are the first teammates to sweep the front row for the Daytona 500 since 2007, when

David Gilliland and Ricky Rudd did it for Yates Racing.

Martin, who has never won the Daytona 500, qualified at 191.188 mph while Earnhardt's speed was 190.913.

Maybe Dale Earnhardt's fortune has changed. It's the first time in his career that he has been on the front row for a restrictor-plate race, where seven of his 18 career wins have come.

Only the front starting row is locked in for next Sunday's Daytona 500. The rest of the field must race their way in or use provisionals from last year.

Martin Truex Jr., winner of the 2009 Daytona 500 will be with a new team this season. He left Dale Earnhardt Inc. and moved to Michael Waltrip Racing. Truex had several good practice sessions this past week, and looks like he can stay with the leaders in the Sunday race.

"It's a new start for me," said the driver of the No. 56 NAPA Toyota. "I have had a couple tough seasons in the last two years, so I'm looking forward to some change. There are a lot of things I have seen going on during the off season that shows me it's going to be a great deal."

"All the testing has gone really well. We have a lot of good guys and a lot of ambition. The opportunity is here to succeed. We just have to do every thing we can to take advantage of opportunities as they come our way. It's a great team and we've got a lot of great stuff."

TV Schedule: Thursday's Gatorade Duel features two 150-mile qualifying races that determine positions 3-35 for the Daytona 500. Provisionals and a complicated process will determine the remaining eight positions. Both races will be televised on Speed, beginning at 2 p.m. (EDT).

Friday, Feb. 12, Nationwide Series 250, Starting time: 8 p.m. (EDT). TV: ESPN2.

Sat., Feb. 13, Camping World Truck Series 300. Starting time: 1 p.m. (EDT). TV: ESPN2; Sun., Feb. 14, Sprint Cup Daytona 500, Starting time: 1 p.m. (EDT); TV: Fox; Defending champion: Matt Kenseth.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Daytona 500s did Dale Earnhardt Sr. win?

Last Week's Question: Name Mark Martin's three teammates that race with him in the Cup Series. Answer: Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NIFeb10-A16gg