

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

## Four-run inning dooms Mountain Lions

by Mickey Seward, YHC SID

Wabash Valley College took advantage of a four run sixth inning and received a stellar pitching performance as the Warriors defeated Young Harris College 7-6 in a non-conference baseball game Saturday in Young Harris, Ga.

The Warriors (12-3 overall) trailed 6-3 going into the sixth, but forced Young Harris (14-3 overall) to send four pitchers to the mound in the inning. Young Harris starter Ben Watson, who, with the exception of a three run third inning, had a solid first five innings, was allowed to start the sixth, but was removed after walking leadoff hitter Keith Koser. Kendrick McDonald came on in relief and would face just two batters, getting Ed Rivera to fly out to right field and giving up a single to Steve Hodgins. New reliever Adam Camara immediately threw a wild pitch that moved the batters up a base, then gave up a two-run single to Mel Rojas, Jr. After Michael Mosby followed Rojas' single with a single of his own that put runners on first and second bases, respectively, Camara unleashed another wild pitch. Rojas never slowed down after touching third base and sprinted home. The throw from catcher Brett Armour to Camara, who was covering the plate looked like it was in time to nab Rojas, but the ball trickled out of Camara's glove, allowing Rojas to score.

Camara struck out the next batter before walking Jacob Rhodes and giving way to the inning's third reliever, Steven Voigt. Voigt gave up



Adam Camara tries to cover home on a passed ball but the ball gets away and the Wabash Warrior scores in 7-6 win. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

an RBI single to the first batter he faced B.J. Willis, but would settle the Mountain Lions down and keep them in the game the rest of the way. In fact, that single was the only hit he would allow in 3.1 innings of work.

Still trailing by just one run, Young Harris couldn't get anything going against Bollenbacher, who entered the game in relief of starter Danny Gifford and shut the Mountain Lions down the rest of the game to earn the victory.

The Mountain Lions were cruising along against Gifford, touching him up for four runs in the first, thanks to an RBI double by Matt Lobacz and a three run home run by Michael Squires. Young Harris went a head 5-0 in the second when Matt Lowery lifted a sacrifice fly to centerfield that scored Daniel Marsh.

Wabash Valley would march right back, though, cut-

ting the deficit to 5-3 in the third on RBI singles by Rojas and Rhodes and an error that allowed another run to score. The Mountain Lions would get another run when Marsh belted a solo homer over the left field fence to make the score 6-3. But three batters later, Bollenbacher would enter the game and turn the tide.

Voigt nearly matched Bollenbacher's dominance. In addition to the one hit he allowed, he would walk just one batter and fan four in 3.1 innings. Camara (2-1) was saddled with the loss, allowing two runs in one-third of an inning. Watson allowed four runs (three earned) on six hits and five walks in five innings. He struck out seven batters. Chris Holloway and Marsh had two hits each for Young Harris, and Squires finished with a game-high three runs batted in.

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## Time to talk turkey - turkey season opens March 20

Turkey hunters across the state are practicing their yelps and clucks in preparation for the upcoming turkey season. Opening day is Sat., Mar. 20 and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division anticipates that the 2010 season should be good, and harvest levels should be similar in comparison to the past several years.

"There should be many vocal 2-year old gobblers available for harvest this year thanks to the high reproduction rate in the summer of 2008," says Kevin Lowrey, Wildlife Resources Division wild turkey project coordinator.

Statistics from the 2009 season harvest summary indicate that an estimated 56,113 resident Georgia hunters bagged 27,323 turkeys last year. The bird to hunter ratio (harvest rate) for 2009 was .49 birds per hunter - the same as in 2007 and 2008. According to Lowrey, Georgia's current turkey population is estimated at 300,000 birds.

Georgia turkey hunters are privileged with one of the longest turkey seasons nationwide. With a bag limit of three gobblers per season, hunters have from Mar. 20 through May 15 to harvest their bird(s).

Because most hunters pursue wild turkeys on private lands, the Wildlife Resources Division reminds hunters to always obtain landowner permission before hunting.

**WMA hunting opportunities**  
Georgia's Wildlife Man-

agement Areas offer excellent turkey hunting opportunities. Through the WMA system, resident hunters have access to nearly one million acres of prime hunting land for just \$19 a year.

Success rates and total harvest numbers from 2009 may help indicate which WMAs hunters should target this year.

In the northwest, Crockett-Pigeon Mountain and Berry College WMA reported the highest harvest rates. In the northeast, Dukes Creek WMA and Wilson Shoals WMA had the highest harvest rates. In west central Georgia, hunters should try Joe Kurz WMA and Rum Creek WMA. In east central Georgia, Di-Lane Plantation WMA and Tuckahoe WMA reported high harvest rates. In the southeast, hunters should visit Dixon Memorial WMA and Sansavilla WMA. Middle Georgia hunter should try River Bend WMA.

Finally, in southwest Georgia, River Creek WMA and Chickasawhatchee WMA had the highest harvest rates.

A special WMA license is required for any person 16 years or older who does not possess a valid honorary, sportsman or lifetime license when hunting wild turkey on a WMA, Public Fishing Area or State Park. In addition, both a valid hunting license and a big game license are required to legally hunt wild turkey. Wild turkey legally can be hunted with shotguns, loaded with No. 2 or smaller shot, any muzzleloading firearm, long-

bow, crossbow or compound bow.

### Conservation of the wild turkey in Georgia

The comeback of the wild turkey is one of Georgia's great conservation success stories. Although the bird population currently hovers around 300,000 statewide, as recently as 1973, the wild turkey population was as low as 17,000. Intensive restoration efforts, such as the restocking of wild birds and increased emphasis on biologically sound hunting seasons, have helped re-establish turkeys in suitable habitat in every county. This resurgence is due to the efforts of private landowners, hunters and conservation organizations like the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Georgia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has donated more than \$3,220,977 since 1985 on projects that benefit wild turkey and other wildlife. The NWTFF works cooperatively in partnership with the Wildlife Resources Division and other land management agencies with the focus on habitat enhancement, hunter access, wild turkey research and education. There currently are 96 state chapters of the NWTFF with membership totals of more than 16,000.

For more information regarding wild turkey hunting opportunities, WMA hunting opportunities, 2010 wild turkey hunting seasons, regulations or license requirements in Georgia, visit www.gohunt-georgia.com. NT(Mar17,21)SH

## NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### LET'S GO RACING BOYS

While Kurt Busch's victory last Sunday at Atlanta was impressive, it took a back seat to the on-track combat between Carl Edwards and Brad Keselowski.

The Edwards-Keselowski conflict features a few chapters written over the past season, including the incident at Talladega last April, the Nationwide Series race at Memphis last October, the Nationwide Series race at Daytona just a few weeks ago, and now the Kobalt Tools 500 at Atlanta.

Carl Edwards offered swift retribution to Brad Keselowski for what Edwards perceived to be either an intentional or foolish move by Keselowski early in the race that damaged his car.

After a love tap from Edwards, Keselowski's car went flying, upside down and into the outside retaining wall. Keselowski was unhurt, and Edwards admitted it was done intentionally.

How was NASCAR to respond after telling everyone they will allow drivers to display their personalities without dropping the hammer every time a driver loses his cool?

"Have at it boys," is what Robin Pemberton said.

So, how could NASCAR suspend or levy any serious penalty?

Elliott Sadler said he didn't think Edwards deserved the probation.

"I guess they're trying to intervene a little bit, but trying to stay out of it," he said. "I didn't think any suspension or anything like that was definitely going to happen, or was worthy of happening. They're going to leave it [in the drivers'] hands, and we'll see where it goes from there."

"You have to say this, NASCAR has stuck to their guns to let the drivers talk it out and work it out. The message I kind of got out of NASCAR's decision was, if you get yourself in this kind of a bind, yes, we're going to intervene a little bit, but we're going to let you and the other driver and owner talk about it, because it's their race cars, and it's your driving the race car. That's the message [Helton] sent, and kind of what he said at the beginning of the year, too, that they were kind of going to put it back in our hands. He's staying true to that point."

NASCAR is close, side by side racing. Wrecks will happen and tempers will flare but that is the sport of NASCAR. If fans didn't come to see that sort of thing, then what happened between Edwards and Keselowski wouldn't have overshadowed Kurt Busch's win.

Most fans loved it, because with Jimmie Johnson's domination, there hasn't been much to keep the emotions going.

This is the kind of stuff that makes racing fun. Just to watch a bunch of cars fall in



Carl Edwards



Brad Keselowski

line and go in circles for three to four hours is boring.

Edwards and Keselowski created excitement.

What happened between these two drivers last week wasn't the first time something like this happened in NASCAR.

Dale Earnhardt Sr. hooked Darrell Waltrip as the two raced for the win at Richmond, sending both viciously into the fence.

The Allison brothers -- Bobby and Donnie -- squared off with Cale Yarborough after Cale and Donnie crashed each other on the final lap of the 1976 Daytona 500.

Earnhardt claimed he only meant to "rattle his cage" after spinning Terry Labonte out in turn two late in a Bristol race to win ... and heard the Bristol crowd's boos for the first time in his career.

I believe that NASCAR is intent on allowing drivers to police themselves on the track. "Boogity, boogity, boogity, let's go racing, boys," said Darrell Waltrip.

Keselowski said this week that his in-your-face driving style has separated him from other young drivers and put him on a road to success that the vast majority of "developmental" drivers won't visit.

With that in mind, Keselowski said he'll continue to race hard, hold his line and keep pushing forward, and that includes this week's Cup race at Bristol.

Five or six years ago, NASCAR was experiencing a youth movement. Young drivers were being groomed in the Truck and Nationwide Series, and then brought up into NASCAR's big league series, Sprint Cup. But since the economy went sour, that strategy has changed.

Sponsors no longer want a fresh face; they want somebody who knows how to win. The big budgets have been slashed, so the large corporate sponsors don't have the money, to go through the learning process with a young driver.

Teams that base their futures on developing young talent now have to rely on older, more experienced drivers.

Most of the top teams created driver development programs, but only a select few make it to the top. Joey Logano came through the ranks at

Joe Gibbs Racing, and Home Depot took a chance with him at the Sprint Cup Series level. But for every Logano, there are 15 drivers who are still waiting on sponsorships to get their shots.

Joe Gibbs Racing has only been able to sell Nationwide sponsorships for Joey Logano and Kyle Busch this season. Development drivers Brad Coleman and Matt DiBenedetto will have to wait on the sidelines until a different sponsor steps up.

Busch said he is running more Nationwide Series races than he would like to, just to keep everyone at JGR on the payroll.

"It's a pain to sell sponsorship; I know firsthand," Busch said. "The only reason I did my truck deal was because I had Micosukee and then I didn't have Micosukee. Now I've got to go and try to sell myself and try to get some sponsorship for our truck deal so all of the money doesn't have to come out of my pocket."

"I feel like I can probably sell my races, but I'm going to have a struggle in trying to sell Brian Ickler's races. It's no different than (Kevin) Harvick going back and running his Nationwide car. He wanted to help Cale Gale come along, and nobody wanted to sponsor Cale so he (Harvick) had to step in the car and run for people that wanted the Cup affiliation and the big name that got the coverage."

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Nationwide teams gear up for their first short track event of the season at Bristol.

Sat., Mar. 20, Nationwide Series Scott's Turf Builder 300, race 4 of 35; Starting time: 2 pm (ET); TV: ABC.

Sun., Mar. 21, Sprint Cup Food City 500, race 5 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm (ET); TV: Fox.

**Racing Trivia Question:** How many race tracks does Bruton Smith's Speedway Motorsports Corp. own?

**Last Week's Question:** How many members of the Flock family raced in NASCAR? Answer: There were four; Fonty, Tim, Bob, and Ethel Flock Mobley.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net (NMar17, A9)

## Softball goes 3-1 at Wallace State Invitational

by Mickey Seward, YHC SID

Young Harris College's softball team finished 3-1 at the Wallace State Invitational after splitting its two games Saturday in Hanceville, Ala. The Mountain Lions defeated Jefferson Davis 4-3 in an eight-inning affair to open the day Saturday. Victoria Sink struck out 14 batters for Young Harris. Later in the day, Snead State topped the Mountain Lions 14-3.

Friday, Young Harris won two games by defeating Indian Hills 5-3 and Columbia 7-3. The Mountain Lions were scheduled to play Jefferson College later that night, but when the game scheduled before the YHC-JC game went late and temperatures plummeted, the contest was called off.

Young Harris improved to 9-10 overall with the 3-1 showing at the tournament. The Mountain Lions are scheduled to return to action March 20, when they open Georgia Junior College Athletic Association play at South Georgia College in Douglas. TM17TCH Sps23ac



Emily Wilson slides safely at third during one of three games in weekend softball invitational. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

## New athletic website for YHC

Young Harris College's Department of Athletics, in conjunction with ATHLETICSITE.com, introduced www.YHCathletics.com, the new official online home of Mountain Lions Athletics, Friday. The new web site is the only official source of information, multimedia, and more directly from the Young Harris College Department of Athletics.

Along with the new address and look for Young Harris College Athletics' official web site, YHCathletics.com offers expanded efforts to provide alumni, fans and media with complete information on all Mountain Lions sports. The site features capabilities to offer live statistics, audio, video, schedules, rosters, statistics and up-to-the-minute news about all of Young Harris' teams.

YHC Department of Athletics Eric Geldart said the new website will benefit many different groups in different ways.

"Prospective student-athletes seeking information on the Young Harris College athletic program will access a friendly, informative and well-designed website," Geldart said. "Easy identifiable links provide all that is needed to introduce and follow YHC Athletics. The website is a major place for YHC Athletics, alumni and all who seek information regarding Intercollegiate Athletics at Young Harris College."

"Providing our student-athletes, coaches and fans a quality web site is vitally important as we transition to senior college competition for all of our teams

beginning this fall," said Mickey Seward, YHC's sports information director. "YHCathletics.com will give Young Harris College an athletics web site that is on par with those of colleges and universities that we see ourselves competing against in the future."

"Scott McCain and ATHLETICSITE.com have done a phenomenal job designing YHCathletics.com," Seward said. "They worked tirelessly to make sure that Young Harris College had a unique Athletics web site that would make everyone associated with the college proud. I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to partner with ATHLETICSITE.com on this project."

## 2010 Fundraiser Car - Truck - Motorcycle Show

When: May 15, 2010 From: 10 AM to 5 PM

Where: Towns County High School Parking Lot

Admission: \$5.00

Entry Fee: \$20.00 (car -/ truck) \$10.00 (motorcycle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year, Make & Model of entry: \_\_\_\_\_

NO AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN. FUNDRAISER EVENT

This fundraiser is to benefit athletics in grades 6 to 12 of Towns County Schools.

DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2010

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