



Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County Lady Indians rout Lady Highlanders 9-1 in soccer



Destiny Blythe moves the ball upfield for the Lady Indians. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team scored early and often in Thursday's match up against the Highlands Lady Highlanders at Frank McClure Stadium.

Sophomore Faithe Robinson scored early and often, tallying five goals for the Lady Indians in a 9-1 route over the Lady Highlanders.

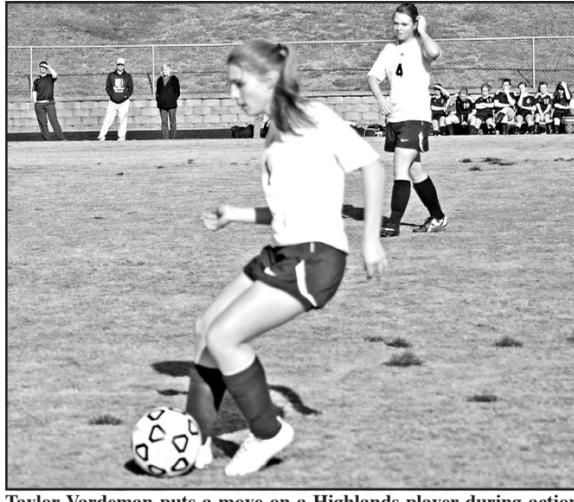
Vanessa Eller, Taylor Vardeman, Makayla Underwood and Ali Bleckley each added a goal to the Lady Indians' final score.

Junior goalkeeper Alex Fagin rejected three of the four shots sent her way by the Lady Highlanders.

The Lady Indians (2-4) displayed one of their better defensive performances of the 2012 season in support of Fagin in goal.

The Lady Indians are hoping to repeat their success from a year ago when they advanced into the state playoffs and finished with a 6-3-2 record. It was the first state playoff appearance by a Towns County soccer team.

The Lady Indians berth in the state playoffs last year followed a 2-0 shutout over Lake-



Taylor Vardeman puts a move on a Highlands player during action last week. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

view Academy in Gainesville to clinch a playoff berth.

They also played host to the school's first state soccer playoff game, hosting Our Lady of Mercy Bobcats. The Lady Indians lost a close one to the Lady Bobcats.

The Lady Indians have some work to do in an effort to repeat their 2011 performance.

Georgia High School Association rules state that the top four teams out of each Area goes

on to the state playoffs. Towns County must earn at least a No. 4 Seed in Area 5 in order to make that possible.

Just how improved are the Lady Indians? Well, if last week's match with Highlands is any indication, the offense is smoking. Towns County defeated the Lady Highlanders last season by a score of 1-0.

Here's hoping the Lady Indians catch fire in the weeks ahead.



Ali Bleckley en route to a goal against Highlands. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Faithe Robinson breaks away from the pack en route to one of her five goals against Highlands. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

It's Keselowski at Bristol

Brad Keselowski loves Bristol and now has back-to-back wins at the .533-mile track. After winning the 2011 August race, he came back Sunday with a strong performance, and outlasted Matt Kenseth for his first Cup win of the season.

"I don't care what they say about the racing at Bristol, I love it," Keselowski said. "The car was strong. I knew this car was good enough to win. All I had to do was drive. If this team keeps going, we're going to go far."

Keselowski gained the lead for the last time from Matt Kenseth on lap 389 of the 500-lap race. He was not able to get a long lead over Kenseth, but Kenseth was not able to gain on Keselowski's Blue Deuce.

The race's fifth caution came on lap 482 when Tony Stewart slapped the outside wall.

Keselowski again got the lead from Kenseth on the restart, and led the remaining 18 laps to the finish.

"If I could have gotten to the top of the race track, then maybe I would have had a chance," said Kenseth. "He was strong, and my car was too loose, and it was all I could do to keep up."

Martin Truex was third. "We've come a long ways," said Truex. "We've been pretty consistent in our last 10-15 races. We had some ups and downs during this race, but we were good at the end."

Clint Bowyer, Brian Vickers, Jeff Burton, Jamie McMurray, Juan Montoya, Jimmie Johnson, and Paul Menard rounded out the top-10.

Regan Smith got into the rear of Kasey Kahne early in the race, causing a six-car pileup, involving the cars of Carl Edwards, Kyle Busch, Marcos Ambrose, and Kevin Harvick. Most of the cars had to be pulled behind pit road for repairs.

"I was feeling pretty good until all that happened," said Edwards. "I went to the bottom, but couldn't miss Kasey. I think maybe somebody was trying to race too hard this early in the race."

Jeff Gordon wound up slamming the outside wall on lap 365, after he and his teammate Dale Earnhardt brushed each other, and Gordon's left rear tire went flat.

Top-12 leaders after 4 of 36: 1. Biffle-125, 2. Harvick-115, 3. Hamlin-113, 4. Earnhardt-107, 5. Kenseth-102, 6. Edwards-102, 7. Stewart-100, 8. Truex-98, 9. Logano-98, 10. Martin-97, 11. Menard-89, 12. Kyle Busch-87.

The economy or other factors certainly took a toll on the attendance at Bristol this past weekend. The Nationwide event normally draws around 90,000 fans, but a conservative estimate at this year's race would be about half that number.

The Bristol grandstand has a listed seating capacity of 160,000. My estimate is Sunday's crowd was much less than 100,000. It was probably the smallest crowd I've seen since coming to Bristol in 1994.

SADLER GETS SECOND NATIONWIDE WIN

Crew chief Luke Lambert's late call to keep Elliott Sadler on the race track under the final caution gave Sadler the boost he needed to win his second Nationwide Series race of the season, two weeks after he broke a 14-year drought in the series at Phoenix.

"He reminded me that I won a race here in 2001 by doing the same thing," said Sadler, who celebrated with his parents in victory lane -- a special moment, because Sadler's parents never before had been on hand for one of his NASCAR victories. "Luke made a great call to stay out."

Sadler drove away from Kasey Kahne and Brad Keselowski after a restart on Lap 273 of the 300-lap race and beat Kahne to the finish line by 1.159 seconds. The victory was Sadler's second at Bristol, the seventh of his career, and it came at the .533-mile track that gave him the first of his three Sprint Cup victories in 2001.

Brad Keselowski finished third, followed by pole-sitter Joey Logano and Dale Earnhardt Jr., Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Justin Allgaier, Trevor Bayne, Kevin Harvick and Ryan Truex completed the top-10.

Notes: Danica Patrick finished 19th, two laps down... Logano led a race-high 119 laps... Nationwide Series regulars have won the first four events of this season, the first time that's happened since 1995, when Chad Little won the first two races, Kenny Wallace the third and Johnny Benson the fourth.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 33: 1. Sadler-131, 2. A. Dillon-116, 3. Stenhouse-114, 4. Bayne-112, 5. Whitt-109, 6. Hornish-98, 7. Malsam-90, 8. Annett-82, 9. Allgaier-76, 10. Koch-66.

IS KNAUS A LIABILITY OR AN ASSET

Chad Knaus has helped Jimmie Johnson win 55 Cup races and five Cup championships, which is an enviable record, second only to Richard Petty and Dale Inman, winner of seven titles and 200 victories.

With Johnson's cool style of racing and Knaus' extreme savvy on setting up the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, they have become the standard by which all other crew chief/drivers combinations are measured.

But after NASCAR confiscated the No. 48 prior to the Daytona 500, Knaus was suspended for six weeks and fined \$100,000.

Hendrick lost their first appeal to a three-judge panel, and are now appealing to NASCAR's chief appellate, in hopes they can get the decisions reversed.

Win or lose the final appeal, it doesn't look good for Knaus.

If this were the first infraction, most fans would look the other way, and give him the benefit of a doubt.

"His record speaks for itself," said Arnold McKenzie of Baltimore, Maryland. "He's



Brad Keselowski celebrates his Sunday Cup win at Bristol.

a great crew chief, but what you've to understand is, you sometimes have to push the envelope if you're going to have the edge you need to win."

Knaus has been fined and/or suspended four different times since he entered the Cup series in 2002.

He was suspended prior to the 2006 Daytona 500 and before the 2007 road race in Sonoma, California.

Knaus told Johnson over the team's radio last year, "If you win, back it into the wall."

The implication was there was something illegal about the car, and he wanted to have an excuse for the illegal something-or-another.

While Johnson and Knaus are clean-cut young men, the suspensions and the stigma of being called "cheats," hanging over their heads, doesn't set well with all fans.

"I think they (NASCAR) have been too lenient," said Walter Alston of Charleston, South Carolina. "Disqualify them completely. That's what they do in short-track racing."

If NASCAR were to disqualify a team, or not allow them to race, then that would be hurting the team's sponsors, who put up hundreds of thousands of dollars for each race.

No matter what the final outcome, Johnson's team is being looked at more and more as trying to get by with something underhanded.

NASCAR, and all teams in Cup racing are very image conscious. They try hard not to allow anything to happen that would put a blemish on the team.

Knaus and Hendrick need to clean up their act, so there will not be any doubt in fans minds, that when they win, it will be a hard-fought, above reproach victory.

Weekend Racing: It's back west to the 1.5-mile Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, CA for the Cup and Nationwide teams. The Truck teams remain idle.

Sat., Mar. 24, Nationwide Royal Purple 300, race 5 of 33; Starting time: 5 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sun., Mar. 25, Sprint Cup Auto Club 400, race 5 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Which is the oldest track on the NASCAR circuit?

Last Week's Question: Which series does Cole Whitt drive in? **Answer:** The Nationwide series.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Mar21,C)Jae

It's Bluegrass Night at the Peacock Playhouse

This Saturday night, the smooth and intricate sounds of Bluegrass music will live up the stage at the Peacock Playhouse.

Chattanooga-based Barefoot Nellie & Co. will perform both traditional and original bluegrass.

Hot picking, tight harmony and an easy on-stage presence will make this concert performance a favorite of true, bluegrass lovers.

Barefoot Nellie & Co., is an awarded bluegrass group, placing fourth in the overall competition at the 2011 Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Awards in the 28th International Bluegrass Band Championships held in Nashville, TN.

Now, they're bringing



Barefoot Nellie & Co.

their award-winning performance to the Peacock Playhouse Saturday, March 24th at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at Phillips and Lloyd Bookstore and Cafe Touche in Hayesville, The Curiosity Shop in Murphy and

Anderson's in Hiwassee, or by calling the Peacock Playhouse office at: 828-389-2787. For more information on this and upcoming concerts please visit peacockplayhouse.org.

This concert is sponsored by Four Leaf Clover Diabetic Supplies, Hayesville. NT(Mar21,ZS)CA

Former L.A. actor now teaches dance locally

Laurel Adams, who appeared in the 1970s TV series "Little House on the Prairie," is shown instructing The Bradford Club Member, Margit Stortz, and her partner, the Foxtrot dance step. A one-time Arthur Murray Dance Director, Ms. Adams, of Warne, NC in addition to her appearance in the long-running TV show, appeared in many other films and television productions during her 26 years in Los Angeles. While there, she appeared opposite Andy Griffith, William Shatner, James Arness, Ken Curtis, Suzanne Somers, and many more famous artists. When asked, "What is your most memorable experience?", she replied: "Riding on an elephant in the Barnum Ringling Brothers parade thru Kansas City." And then another question: "How do you compare acting with that of dance instructor?" She answered: "I really, really enjoyed playing and directing on stage and now I equally enjoy



(L-R): Laurel Adams, Margit Stortz and dance partner

teaching ballroom dancing to all age groups. And this past week, I've enjoyed my two sessions at The Bradford Club preparing dancers for their upcoming April 26th evening 'Spring Fling Dance'. I know they must be looking forward to putting into practice the steps I've taught, while they dance in front of a live band."

The Bradford Club Director, Shelia Haigler, noted

that individuals 50 and over can sign-up for the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 26th event by calling 706-896-4285 for a reservation, or go to thebradfordclub.com for more information. "The cost is only \$10 per non-resident attendee," she said.

The Bradford Club at Brasstown Manor is located at 108 Church Street in downtown Hiwassee. NT(Mar21,Z12)CA

Rollins Planetarium presents Cosmic Concert: Led Zeppelin

Young Harris College's O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium will present the full-dome video extravaganza "Cosmic Concert: Led Zeppelin" on the following Friday evenings at 7 and 8 p.m.: March 23, March 30, April 13 and April 20. Planetarium admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free with YHC ID.

Led Zeppelin's cosmic concert remains one of the most popular music shows ever performed in planetariums. This one-of-a-kind concert transports the audience into a series of fantastical and surrealistic settings, taking visitors on a captivating journey led by this legendary rock band. The motions are calculated to heighten the transportive feeling, drawing audiences deeper into the ever-changing landscape of sight

and sound. The soundtrack includes Led Zeppelin classics such as "Kashmir," "Black Dog," "Over the Hills and Far Away," "Stairway to Heaven" and "Rock and Roll."

Cosmic concerts contain loud music, flashing lights, spinning stars and other effects that some may find disruptive and are not recommended for those who may have conditions that could be aggravated by this experience.

O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium features a state-of-the-art GOTO Chronos Space Simulator star projector with a state-of-the-art full-dome digital projection system, the Sky-Skan Definiti, in a 40-foot dome theater. Recently renovated with comfortable seating for 104, Rollins Planetarium offers public shows and educational opportunities for

school groups throughout the year. Rollins Planetarium is located in the Maxwell Center on the campus of Young Harris College.

If skies are clear, the Young Harris College Observatory is open immediately after planetarium shows. The observatory features a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and is located about 1.5 miles from campus at Brasstown Valley Resort. Maps are available at the planetarium. Observing sessions last up to one hour and include a guided tour of the constellations. The observatory is open on the same dates as Rollins Planetarium.

For more information about planetarium and observatory events, call (706) 379-5195 or visit www.yhc.edu. NT(Mar21,A1)SH

T-Ball and Farm League registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for T-Ball and Farm League the week of March 19 thru March 31. Co-Ed T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Co-Ed Farm League is for boys & girls ages 6, 7 and 8. The age control date will be prior to May 1 for boys and girls. Boys and girls ages 6 may play in either the T-Ball or

the Farm League programs.

Cost for these programs will be \$35 per participant. All registration will be held at the Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. til 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. T(Mar21-Mar28)FISH

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