

Towns County Sports

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Towns County Indians Baseball continued to skid last week



Jake Mullins fires to homeplate against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by James Reese.

The Towns County Indians continued to skid last week following a previous week of positives for Head Coach Chris Vardo and the Indians.

The Indians dropped consecutive games to North Carolina's Hiwassee Dam and Region 8 foe Prince Avenue Christian School.

Just a week prior to those match ups, the Indians snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 4-0 shutout over the Tallulah Falls Indians.

Unfortunately for the Indians, there would be no extension of their winning streak.

In fact, the momentum was hushed early on against Hi-



A Luke Parker double plates Indians' catcher Vonya Baldwin.

Photo by James Reese.



Boone Moss drives in a run against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by James Reese.

wassee Dam.

The visiting Eagles jumped on the Indians' Jake Mullins early, and staked their

starter to a 6-1 lead by the second inning.

In the bottom half of the second, Harrison Hobbs singled in Boone Moss, who had reached base courtesy a leadoff walk. Following a bases on balls to Cruz Shook, the Indians' master batsman, Dillon Diehl, drove in Hobbs and Shook with a two-run single cutting the Eagles lead 6-4.

Hiwassee Dam battled back with a four-run third inning, spiking their lead to 10-4 over the Indians.

The Indians' Bradley Smith led off with a double, moved to third on a ground out and scored in the bottom of the inning following a balk to cut the deficit to 10-5.

After holding the Eagles scoreless in the top of the fourth, Vonya Baldwin walked, and was driven in by Jake Mullins' double. Luke Parker joined in the hit parade, driving in Mullins with a single and slicing the Eagles' lead to 10-7.

Boone Moss again reached first to leadoff the fifth inning on a solid single to left field. Moss reached third base before Cruz Shook brought him in to score on a sacrifice fly



Payton Shook squares to bunt against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by James Reese.



The Indians' James Mullins is safe at third against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by James Reese.



A two-run single by Dillon Diehl plates Cruz Shook against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by James Reese.

trimming the eagle lead 10-8.

However, the Eagles would tack on three more runs in the top of the sixth going up 13-8. The battle continued when Diehl reached base and scored putting the Indians within four runs at 13-9. As the Indians strung together hits from Parker, Smith and Moss to load the bases, Hobbs drove in two more before a questionable tag out call at second ending the sixth inning and the Indian scoring threat along with it.

The Indians held the Eagles scoreless in the top of the seventh but were unable to rally to overcome the deficit and the Eagles took the contest by a fi-

nal score of 13-11.

Wednesday the Indians were overmatched and dropped a 12-0 decision to the solid hitting Region 8 foe, the Prince Avenue Christian Eagles.

Rains washed away the scheduled Friday and Saturday games against the Hayesville Yellow Jackets and the Commerce Tigers respectively. Both games will be rescheduled.

The Indians were scheduled to play a game at Athens Academy on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and a rescheduled home game on Wednesday against Hebron Christian Academy at 1 p.m. Results of either contest were not available at press time.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Newman gets dramatic Martinsville win

The only two laps Ryan Newman led in Sunday's Sprint Cup race were the last two, the ones that counted. He gained the lead with two laps to go, after three Hendrick cars suffered misfortunes.

"Call it luck, or call it circumstances, but we were right where we needed to be," said Newman.

Jeff Gordon, who led 328 of the 500-lap race was the leader on a green/white/checkered restart. He and Jimmie Johnson, had battled each other for the latter half of the race, and were on old tires. Several cars that were lined up behind them had pitted for fresh tires during the caution.

When the green flag was given, Clint Bowyer, who had four new tires tried to dive-bomb under Gordon, but wound up hitting Gordon's 24-car and pushing him up into Johnson. Dale Earnhardt Jr. then ran into Johnson, his teammate.

Newman took advantage of the miscues by the other drivers and zipped under the four damaged cars, and into the lead.

While the cars were circling the track under caution, waiting for the restart of the second, green/white/checkered, Jeff Gordon ran out of gas.

When the final green flag was given, Newman and A. J. Allmendinger raced each other hard, but in less than a lap, Newman was able to pull away from Allmendinger, who finished second.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., Matt Kenseth, Martin Truex, Denny Hamlin, Tony Stewart, Aric Almirola, Brad Keselowski, and Clint Bowyer were the remaining top-10 finishers.

"It was a bad situation for everyone," said Bowyer. "Jeff drove around for all those laps and then on that last restart, he just stopped. We had fresh tires and they didn't. What else could you expect?"

Jimmie Johnson finished 12th, while Gordon managed to wind up 14th.

"Clint and I are good friends and I talked with him about it," said Gordon. "He said he got hit from behind by the 39-car (Ryan Newman). We had such a good car, and I thought we were in a good position to win."

Dale Earnhardt's runner-up finish was the only bright spot for Hendrick Motorsports. With two laps to go, HMS had three drivers: Gordon, Johnson, and Earnhardt running one-two-three. The fourth driver and polesitter, Kasey Kahne lost an engine on lap 316 and finished 38th.

It was also a bad day for the Busch Brothers. Kyle cut a tire during lap 102 and hit the outside wall of turn-2, damaging his car. The team made repairs, but when he returned to the track, he was 78 laps down. He wound up 36th.

During lap 316, brother Kurt had a similar problem in almost the same spot, but lost only a couple laps and finished 33rd.

Top-12 leaders after 6 of 36: 1. Biffle-225, 2. Earnhardt-221, 3. Truex-214, 4. Harvick-213, 5. Stewart-211, 6. Kenseth-210, 7. Hamlin-

209, 8. Newman-202, 9. Bowyer-191, 10. Johnson-189, 11. Keselowski-180, 12. Edwards-177.

Harvick dominates Martinsville truck race

Kevin Harvick dominated Saturday's NASCAR Truck Series race at Martinsville Speedway, leading 248 of the 250 lap race, which set a record for the most laps led in a series race.

"It's been a long time since we dominated like that and actually won," Harvick said. "We made a lot of changes in the off-season, moving our truck teams over to Richard Childress Racing. This is what we hoped for - making a good truck team a better truck team. Some of these guys had been to Victory Lane and some of them hadn't."

Harvick repeatedly held off his RCR teammate, Ty Dillon, who was making his first series start at the Virginia short track.

"Just missing a little experience - that was Kevin Harvick I was out there racing against and he's the man," Dillon said. "I can't thank him enough for racing me clean."

James Buescher, Justin Lofton, Timothy Peters, Nelson Piquet, Ross Chastain, Jason Leffler, John King, and Jason White were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 2 of 22: 1. King-82, 2. Peters-81, 3. Lofton-81, 4. Dillon-78, 5. White-74, 6. Buescher-69, 7. Kligerman-66, 8. Piquet-61, 9. Hornaday-58, 10. Bodine-57.

Stewart is on the fast track

Tony Stewart is in high gear this racing season.

He has already won twice in the 2012 season and believes he's running as well as he ever has during his NASCAR career.

The almost 41-year-old defending Sprint Cup Series champion has won seven of the last 15 races run dating back to last year and is obviously pleased with the performance of his race team.

"This is definitely the biggest one so far," Stewart said of his successful run. "Especially to go through an off season and pick it back up and to have some pretty big personnel changes in the middle of all that so, it's pretty big right now. You know the hard part is that you just don't want it to end, you want it to stay like this."

Stewart has spent 17 years of erratic, racing. He has bounced around, from Indy cars to NASCAR, from the blinding limelight on the Indianapolis 500's star rookie in 1996 through many a transition.

Along the way, he's had many an angry outburst, including time spent on the carpet with NASCAR. In 2001, after a particularly rough couple of races, Stewart said, "It's either NASCAR's way, or the highway, and I might be on my way."

But after winning his first Cup title in 2002, he seemed to overcome some of his demons, and since then, has been more calm and relaxed.

Stewart stopped short of calling this year's streak the



Ryan Newman celebrates his Martinsville Cup win.

best of his entire racing career with the success he's experienced during his USAC open wheel days and Indy Car tenure.

"I don't know that it is the best I have run in my career but it is pretty close," he said at Martinsville Speedway. "I mean when we were running the year we won the Triple Crown in '95 I feel like that is the best that I had ever run in my career and I don't feel like we are far off that right now."

"This is the best I have run in NASCAR I think as far as just a long, consistent run like this," he said.

While Stewart is one of NASCAR's hot drivers, there are several top name drivers that are not running well.

One of those is Jimmie Johnson.

Johnson has gone 12 straight races without a win and has only one win in the last 33 races.

"Poor guy," said Carl Edwards.

Despite the team's poor start, Johnson said he is not about to panic.

"We've had a couple things happen that maybe kept us from getting a win," said Johnson. "But overall, I think our game plan is doing O.K. While we don't have the results we would have desired at this point, it's early in the season and we have a record of running stronger as the season progresses."

"It's tough over the years to maintain a team at the highest level, but it's something Chad (crew chief Chad Knaus) strives for each week. I wish we could win every week, but when I look back, I think at the end of the day, communication is everything. The cars are so equal in our sport. It's really the communication the driver and the team have to make the car better, to make it more comfortable to drive, that separates the vehicles on the track. That's where I've put a lot of focus this year, and we will win again."

Fans sometimes forget that Johnson is the guy that has won five Cup championships. He'll be back.

The weekend of April 7-8 is Easter weekend and there is no NASCAR racing. The next racing will be at Texas Motor Speedway, April 13-14.

Racing Trivia Question: NASCAR does not race on two Sunday's during the racing season. One is Easter Sunday. What is the other?

Last Week's Question: Who is Joey Logano's new crew chief in the Cup series? **Answer:** It is Jason Ratcliff.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Apr4,C)1ac

Ladies split the soccer week; boys lose two



The Towns County Lady Indians ponder their fate during a halftime break against Athens Academy.

Photo by James Reese.



Faithe Robinson puts a foot on the ball against Athens Academy.

Photo by James Reese.

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Indians and Lady Indians squared off against Rabun County and Athens Academy last week in soccer match ups.

The Lady Indians split the games, taking Rabun County 4-0 and losing a heart-breaker to Athens Academy 4-3. The Ladies are 5-5 on the season and 2-2 in conference play.

The Boys lost both games, taking one on the chin against Rabun 4-1, and losing to Athens Academy 3-0. The Boys are 1-10 on the season, and 1-4 in conference play.

It is Spring Break this week so there is no soccer action on tap for either the Boys or the Ladies.

The Ladies return to action on April 10th, against Highlands, NC in North Carolina.

The Boys return to action on April 13th, at home, against Hebron Christian Academy.



Ali Bleckley steals the ball against Athens Academy.

Photo by James Reese.



Makayla Underwood on the move against Athens Academy.

Photo by James Reese.

Low Cost Rabies at Murphy Clinic

On Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tri-County Animal Hospital, Logan's Run Rescue, and Cold Nose College are teaming up for the 2nd Annual Low-Cost Rabies Vaccinations & Parasite Awareness Campaign. This is a non-profit cooperative effort and will take place at Tri-County Animal Clinic, 3711 E. US Highway 64, Alt., Murphy, NC.

Residents in the surrounding communities can take advantage of discounted core and non-core vaccines, as well as important parasite testing. Logan's Run Rescue volunteers will be present to provide information on all their various spay and neuter programs as well as community outreach programs. Cold Nose College will be offering complementary dog training and behavior advice, as well as clicker training demonstrations. Don't miss this chance to be a responsible pet owner by providing your pets with important vaccinations! For further info, please call Tri-County Animal Clinic at 828-837-0050. NT(Apr4,Z11)gg