



Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team lost a close region matchup on Friday to Athens Academy by a score of 3-2

The loss was the first in region play this season for the Lady Indians, now with a 4-1 region record and a hold on second place. In the night cap, the Indians lost a one-sided match up with the Athens Academy boys' team by a score of 10-0. For the Lady Indians, their next action comes April 12 in North Carolina against Highlands in Macon County, NC. Earlier this season, the two teams tied 1-1. The boys' team is idle on April 12. On April 15, both teams return to action as they meet Hebron Christian in region action. Hebron Christian's Lady Lions are undefeated in region play. The games, both boys and girls, are on the road in Dacula beginning with the girls' game at 4 p.m.



Bradley Swanson (7) goes after the ball in a soccer matchup with Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Seniors left to right Jordan Moss, Ana Quijada, Taylor Moats, Bradley Swanson and DJ Rogers played their final home game on Friday Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



The Lady Indians braved the chilly conditions on Friday in their region match up with Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Freshman Makayla Underwood uses a headshot to move the ball against Athens Academy on Friday Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

Trout stocking sites week of March 28-April 1

Fannin: Rock Creek, Toccoa River Tailwaters (Below Lake Blue Ridge Dam), Toccoa River.
Lumpkin: Etowah River, Nimblewill Creek.
Union: Cooper Creek, Winfield Scott Lake.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NT(Apr6,21)DCA

Racing resumes at Tri-County

The highly-anticipated 2011 season at the Tri-County Race Track got underway recently with the season opening program. 40 cars pulled into the pit area and a nice crowd was on hand to witness the first race of the year on a brisk Friday night. Danny Ledford (Super Late Model), Charlie Parker (Limited/Crate Late Model), Jeffery Wood (Modified Street), Charles Toomey (Street Enduro), and Justin Woodard (Pony) reached victory lane at Tri-County. Our next event will be Friday, April 8 with all five divisions in racing action. Come out and visit us at the Ray Cook-promoted Tri-County Race Track! NT(Apr6,21)SH

Diamond Tribe struggles continue against Lions, Wolverines

By James Reese
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County Indians have had a rough go of it lately. Following a Saturday rainout against border rival Hayesville Yellow Jackets, the Indians hit the road to take on the Lakeview Lions.

The outcome was hard fought but the result was a disappointing 4-0 defeat.

On another bitter cold Thursday similar to the recent doubleheader against George Walton Academy, the Indians played host to the visiting Hebron Christian Lions at Zell B. Miller Field on the Young Harris College campus.

Starting Pitcher Mason Felt took the hill for the HC Lions and was perfect literally.

Felt dominated the Indians from start to finish, facing the minimum, in a brilliant 12-0 shutout performance.

Felt struck out the side in the opening frame and never faltered throughout the impressive pitching performance. It was a perfect game for Felt and a stunner for the Indians.

"This was my first ever no-hit involvement," Indians Head Coach Chris Vardo said, following the one-sided affair.

The Indians regrouped and traveled to the Classic City in Athens to face the Prince Avenue Wolverines. The prior home meeting resulted in a commanding performance by senior Alan Turpin, who struck out 13, and gave up only 2 hits against the same Wolverine lineup.

The results were much different as the Wolverines squeaked out an 11-10 home win.

On the first pitch, Indians' senior Billy Meier turned on a Wolverine Reid Geddings' fastball and sent it into the outfield for a hit.

Meier's hit meant Wolverines would not share in a repeat perfect performance against the Indians.

Junior Jimmy Pearce followed with another hit and the Indians were in business until Kyle McConnell grounded into

an inning ending double play.

Following the scoreless top of the first, the Wolverines put up a four spot before the Indians turned a double play of their own ending the first trailing by a score of 4-0.

The scene appeared to look all too familiar given the recent struggles of the past few games. The Indians managed to tack on a run in their half of the second inning to narrow the gap to 4-1 as Turpin came across on a fielder's choice.

The Wolverines added a run in the bottom of the second to make the score 5-1.

As the game appeared to be getting out of hand, senior starting pitcher Brett Bradshaw helped his own cause driving in senior Taylor Denton following a leadoff single 5-2. Dillon Diehl drew a bases loading walk, setting the table for a clutch Devin Henderson bases clearing triple to tie the game 5-5, which delivered a spark throughout the Indians dugout. Pearce led off the top of the fourth inning with a single which in turn, led to a go-ahead 6-5 lead.

After settling in, with a high pitch count, Bradshaw ran into control problems in the fourth and had to be pulled in favor of McConnell and the Wolverines re-took the lead 7-6 in the bottom of the fourth on back-to-back RBI hits by Bryce Huff and Hayden Carey.

Prince Avenue's bats exploded in the bottom of the fifth with back-to-back home runs by Carl Mattox and Ryan Finch as the Wolverines took a 9-6 lead.

Prince added another run in the sixth to once again extend their lead to four runs, staking a 10-6 lead.

The Indians battled back to tie it 10-10 on RBI hits by Bradshaw, senior catcher James Mullins and Diehl.

In the bottom of the seventh, Mattox hit a leadoff double and quickly swiped third. Vardo went to the bullpen to call on Turpin to put out the fire.

Inheriting an extremely tough spot, Turpin rendered a



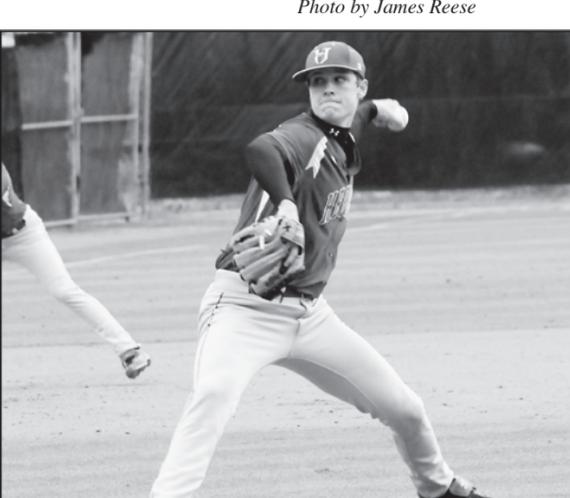
Jimmy Pearce gets yet another hit against Prince Avenue Christian Photo by James Reese



Brett Bradshaw throws heat against Prince Avenue Christian Photo by James Reese



Brett Bradshaw throws heat against Prince Avenue Christian Photo by James Reese



Hebron's Mason Felt tossed a perfect game against the Indians Photo by James Reese



Alan Turpin tries to break up the perfect game Photo by James Reese

NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Harvick outruns Junior at Martinsville

Kevin Harvick caught and passed Dale Earnhardt Jr. for the lead with 5 laps remaining in Sunday's 500-lap Goody's 500, then held him and Kyle Busch off for his second consecutive win of the season.

"What an awesome day it was for us," Harvick said. "I didn't think we had the car. Those last two tires we put on really helped us get up front."

"I hate that I was the one that kept Junior from winning a race, but that's the way it has to be sometime."

The win was the first at Martinsville for a Richard Childress driver since Dale Earnhardt Sr. won in 1995.

Junior was able to hold on to second and finished two-one-hundredths of a second ahead of Kyle Busch.

"I don't think I could have done any better," said Junior. "When he got under me, I had gotten a little loose. I caught back up, and I gave Kevin a bump, but I didn't want to wreck him."

"We had a fast car. I didn't think it was a winning car, but we came close. It seems like when I lose track position the team pitches in and helps me get it back. They did a great job today."

"I'm glad we're in the mix of things, but I'm frustrated that I got so close to winning."

Kyle Busch led the most laps (151), but lost the lead during lap 480 to Earnhardt.

"We had our car set up for long runs," said Busch. "We needed a longer run near the end. We just weren't set up for short runs."

Juan Montoya, Jeff Gordon, Matt Kenseth, Jamie McMurray, David Ragan, Clint Bowyer, and Mark Martin were

the remaining top-10 drivers.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 6 of 36: 1. Kyle Busch-219, 2. Edwards-214, 3. Johnson-207, 4. Kurt Busch-205, 5. Harvick-204, 6. Newman-203, 7. Montoya-201, 8. Earnhardt-199, 9. Kenseth-195, 10. Martin-181, 11. Stewart-180, 12. J. Gordon-170

SAUTER BEATS KYLE BUSCH

Johnny Sauter did what very few drivers have done this season.

He beat out Kyle Busch near the end of the race.

Sauter passed Busch on the next-to-last lap of Saturday's Kroger 250 at Martinsville Speedway and held on to post his first Truck Series victory of the season and the third of his career.

Sauter said his truck was just about perfect.

"About the only thing that was missing today was leather interior," he said in victory lane. "I think Kyle got in the corner and got loose. He got loose and swung the back around and tried to come back down, and I was there and I made contact with him."

"It's pretty cool when you can beat Kyle Busch."

Busch, who has never won a race at Martinsville, ran second, .453 seconds behind Sauter. Ron Hornaday Jr. finished third, followed by his team owner, Kevin Harvick, who recovered from early trouble to finish fourth.

"We had a shot, and we gave it away," Busch said. "I just hate it. We had a really good truck, (but) on that last restart, I couldn't turn. The front tires were just beat off it. If we didn't have that last caution come out (on Lap 241 of 250), we probably would have

WOOD BROTHERS MAY RUN ALL-STAR RACE

Trevor Bayne the young Wood Brothers driver and Daytona 500 winner might make it into this year's All-Star race at Charlotte.

"We're working on something for the race, which is more than what we've talked about before," Len Wood said. "I think we've got somebody as a sponsor. I think we've got something that popped up in the last 36 hours."

The team still plans to run 18 events in 2011. It has run in the first five events and will run the next three races - Martinsville, Texas and Talladega. It does not plan to run Richmond and now that it is adding the all-star race, the Wood Brothers might take Darlington off after having that



Kevin Harvick winner of Sunday's Martinsville Cup race

event on the original schedule.

Mark Martin joined an exclusive club this past Sunday at Martinsville Speedway, becoming the eighth driver to start 800 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races.

During a career that has spanned parts of four decades, Martin has tallied 40 victories, 264 top fives and 429 top-10s. His 40 wins rank 16th all-time.

"I hate to say this isn't a big deal, because it is. But, to me, the bigger deal is what you accomplished in those starts, not just the starts themselves," Martin said.

The others who have eclipsed the 800-start barrier: Richard Petty (1,185), Ricky Rudd (906), Dave Marcis (883), Terry Labonte (870), Kyle Petty (829), Bill Elliott (825), and Darrell Waltrip (809).

Martin finished second in the final championship point standings five times, most recently in 2009 - his first season with current team Hendrick Motorsports.

Weekend Racing: It's on to Texas Motor Speedway for the Cup and Nationwide teams. The Trucks do not race again until April 22.

Apr. 8, Nationwide Series O'Reilly 300, race 6 of 34. Starting time: 8:30 pm; TV: ESPN2.

Apr. 9, Sprint Cup Samsung 500, race 7 of 36. Starting time: 7:30 pm; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: How many NASCAR Cup championships has Darrell Waltrip won?

Last Week's Question: Where is Kevin Harvick's hometown? Answer: It is Bakersfield, California.

Correction: A couple weeks ago we stated that Joe Gibbs had once coached the Atlanta Falcons in the NFL. That was wrong. Coach Gibbs owned stock in the Falcons, and had to sell it before coaching the Washington Redskins for a second time.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Apr6,C1)dc