



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Indians take the sting out of the Yellow Jackets

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Matt Beni helps put 12-3 bite on Hayesville Stingers.

The TCHS Indians were one slide at home plate from having a "mercy rule" win over the Hayesville Yellow Jackets in a Saturday afternoon baseball affair. Coming off a Friday 14-13 road loss to the Social Circle Redskins, the Indians were anxious to let their bats do the talking (Harkins hit a grand slam, corn hit a HR and Gribble homered). With Matt Beni on the hill, and all over the diamond, the Tribe took a 1-0 first inning lead off an RBI double by Zeke Gribble that plated Beni. For the next two innings the Tribe stranded two runners on the diamond while the Jackets took over the lead with a 3-run blast, 3-1.

After a triple and one runner stranded in the top, back on the attack in the fourth, the Indians tied the score 3-3 off a 2-RBI by Matt Beni who was playing with a vengeance. Charles Corn and Tryston Drummond crossed for the

Tribe. The Indians reloaded but stranded all three potential scores. After Matt Beni went high to snag a line shot, turned and threw the DP at second base, the Indians started the longest fifth inning on record.

For the better part of the next hour, the Indians pummeled the Jackets in the fifth

inning. Randy Smith singled to load, Taylor Denton scored on a passed ball at home, 4-3, and Page walked to load again and Hayesville changed hurlers. Guess who? Matt Beni hammered a 3-run double to center, 7-3. A sac by Cody Harkins plated Beni, 8-3 before the Indians took a 9-3 lead to

end the fifth inning. Zeke Gribble went in relief of Beni on the mound but the Beni bat was still smokin' and he put another double into left. Andy Page took the opportunity to score on a Jacket passed ball, 10-3. Beni scored when Alan Turpin hit an RBI single to right 11-3. Gribble hammered a stand-up double to center and an RBI sac by Cody Harkins scored Turpin, 12-3. Hayesville managed to make a throw from center to tag a dust scattering Gribble in a slide at home that would have ended the game at 13-3. Gribble was called out and the game ended with the Indians thumping the Jackets 12-3. The Athens Academy article will run next week.



Randy Smith dives for a ground ball at third base.



Alan Turpin dives back to third in unsuccessful pick-off attempt.



Andy Page slides in for the score at home on a passed ball by the Jackets.



Zeke Gribble is shocked after being called out in a dust-flying slide at home.

Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant

Cats take Saturday DH to sweep South Georgia Tiger series

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

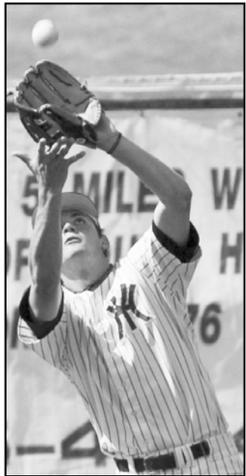
Down 5 runs in first, the Cats clawed back for conference win.

It was a busy weekend as all teams are trying to conclude or extend their seasons. The Mountain Lions took a step forward against the South Georgia Tigers, sweeping a three game series. It didn't start out that way however, as the stripped Cats took a demanding 5-run lead in the top half of the first inning to set the crowd in a buzz. Austin Schultz calmed the buzz somewhat in the bottom half when he jacked a HR shot to make it a 5-1 game. All fears subsided in the third inning for the Mountain Lions faithful when the Cats added 5-runs off four hits for the 6-5 lead. In this inning, it was Bryson Smith with the HR to plate himself and Derrick Lowery. In the fourth, it was more Smith than the Tigers could stand as Bryson again found the HR fence to plate two more runs, 8-5. The Cats changed hurlers in the fifth inning from Andrew Chilcoat to Matt Crouse when the visitors plated another run, 8-6. In the bottom of the fifth, Austin

Schultz and Shane Hammond both scored unearned to make it 10-6.

The Mountain Lions had another impressive inning at the plate in the sixth even without the long-ball, scoring four runs, 14-6. Bryson Smith tripled, then scored in the seventh and Chris Holloway scored in the eighth to take the 16-6 win over South Georgia. The Cats took game two, 11-3. The Moun-

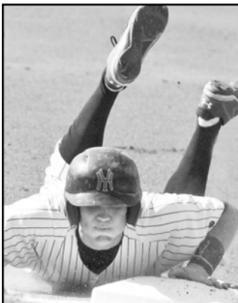
tain Lions had a grand total of 28 hits while scoring 27 runs on the day. Bryson Smith and Derrick Lowery held their own private hitting clinic, Smith went 6-7, 2HRs and 4RBIs; Lowery went 6-8, one HR, 9RBIs. Kenny Swab and Austin Schultz also joined the long-ball club, each having a homerun on the day. In the nightcap, the Cats continued their winning ways with an 11-3 win to sweep the three game series. The first round of the Region XVII Tournament against Andrew College will be run next week.



Matt Lowery hauls in a long fly out in right field for the Mountain Lions.



Bryson Smith waits for the ball to arrive as a SGA Tiger slides in under the tag.



Austin Schultz goes in the dirt in a slide at third base in win over the Tigers.

Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kyle Busch Sweeps Richmond

RICHMOND, Vir.— Kyle Busch celebrated his 24th birthday by winning both the Sprint Cup and Nationwide Series races at Richmond this past weekend.

Busch made his final charge to the front moments after a restart on lap 349 in Saturday night's Crown Royal 400. He got by Carl Edwards for second-place on lap 351 and was able to pass Jeff Gordon, for the lead one lap later.

"Tonight I had two good restarts," Busch said. "I jumped to the outside early in the race and got by two guys before we even got to Turn 1. Then Jeff Gordon slowed us down, I jumped to Carl's outside and got him on that restart. It's just trying to work towards being ready for it. You got to plan ahead. You got to watch what the guys do on restarts. You got to know who is restarting and

learn what they do over time."

The victory was the third Cup win of the season for Busch.

Second-place finisher, Tony Stewart continues to knock on the door to victory lane. He rallied from the 17th position in the final 50 laps around the .75-mile oval to get his second runner-up effort of the season.

"It was awesome," said Stewart, who opted for four new tires on his final pit stop of the evening while other drivers took just two tires. "I'm not sure we had a second-place car, but we got there at the end. We had the luxury of coming in to pit because we were toward the back of the lead-lap cars. We got to come in and put four tires on it. We had about 20 or 30 laps left on our tires than everybody else did and that gave us an advantage."

Jeff Gordon took the lead with a call to stay on the track

when most of the leaders pitted on lap 308. But his old tires were no match for the fresher ones of other teams as the laps wound down, and he slipped back to eighth.

The race was a nightmare for Gordon's teammate Jimmie Johnson. He started 15th, but was penalized for speeding on pit road during lap 116 and sent to the rear of the field.

Johnson spun on lap 192 bringing out another caution. He was again penalized for entering pit road while it was closed. The normally cool headed Johnson ignored the order to drop back to the tail end of the longest line of cars, and was penalized again with a pass-through penalty.

He was involved in a multi-car crash on lap 326, but was able to finish the race 32-laps behind the leaders.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. started the race from the 25th position. He never led a lap and

finished one lap down in 27th.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Kyle Busch, 2. Tony Stewart, 3. Jeff Burton, 4. Ryan Newman, 5. Mark Martin, 6. Sam Hornish, 7. Jamie McMurray, 8. Jeff Gordon, 9. Casey Mears, 10. Juan Montoya

Top-12 Chase Contenders after 10 of 26: 1. J. Gordon-1441, 2. Kurt Busch-1431, 3. Stewart-1402, 4. Hamlin-1321, 5. Kyle Busch-1314, 6. Johnson-1290, 7. Burton-1257, 8. Bowyer-1212, 9. Edwards-1204, 10. Newman-1198, 11. Biffle-1193, 12. Kenseth-1187

Kyle Busch Holds Off Edwards At Richmond

Kyle Busch held off Carl Edwards to win Friday night's Nationwide Series race at Richmond. Top-10 leaders after 9 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-1414, 2. Edwards-1332, 3. Leffler-1216, 4. Logano-1213, 5. Brad Keselowski-1201, 6. Ragan-1139, 7. Keller-1063, 8. McDowell-1021, 9. Lagasse-998, 10. Steve Wallace-967

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura



Rain received the checkered flag this weekend all over the area. Tri-County, Sugar Creek, Toccoa, Lavonia and Cleveland all fell to the wet stuff. They will all try again this week.

Tri-County will start running go karts on Friday nights starting Friday May 15th. They will also continue racing stock cars every Saturday night.

Former Blairsville Union County School student Chase Elliott has raced several asphalt series races with some really good results. The 13 year old son of Bill Elliott is now living with his parents in Ball Ground and racing in ASA and the Georgia Asphalt Series. He currently is third in the GAS points after two races with a seventh and a third place finish. Chase was set to run Saturday night at Lanier National Speedway in Braselton, GA but rain also canceled the event. The race has been rescheduled for this Saturday.



Chase & Bill Elliott sign autographs before one of Chase's races.

Go Karts to race at Tri-County

CARL VANZURA

Staff Writer

Starting Friday, May 15, there will be a different sound at historic Tri-County Race Track in the mountains of Braselton, North Carolina. The clay oval which features 800 horse powered full bodied stock cars each Saturday night has been shaped into a quarter mile oval for the karts for their Friday night events.

Promoters Steve and Sandra Morris are looking forward to welcoming another group of racers to their fine facility which features scales, new seating, great track lighting and the best race track food in the Carolina 's.

Tri-County will be running 16 different classes which will enable riders of all ages to be able to race. Several points and big money races are planned. Andretti Steves, a world renowned kart champion and kart builder will be one of two tech inspectors as the kart program starts at the "County". The track has electronic timing and scoring. The rules are pretty much standard and the tire rule is open. Parts an fuel will be available at the track.

Admission to the kart races will only be at the pit gate and cost \$10. The gate will open at 4 p.m., with racing starting at 7:30. Visit www.tricountyracetrack.com for more information about Tri-County Race Track.



Go Karts will be roaring around Tri-County on Friday nights.



Daniel Warzon sends up a dust spray in his slide at second base.

North Georgia Rapids swim team



The North Georgia Rapids recently participated in the *Mako Mania All Trophy Swim Meet* in Dalton, Georgia on Apr. 25. The team sent eight swimmers to this highly competitive meet, which saw approximately 200 competitors. This meet is unique in that only trophies are awarded to the top six place finishers in each event.

The team's eight swimmers earned a total of seventeen trophies with the younger

age group receiving eleven and the older afternoon swimmers bringing home six. All participating swimmers earned personal best times and continue to show great improvement.

Team members will continue to practice hard for the upcoming summer league competitions. If you are interested in learning more about the team which practices year round at the Blue Ridge Mountain Fitness Club, contact Barry Gay at 706-835-1662.