



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



TCHS athletics at the Georgia Mtn Fair

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It was a first for the Towns County Indians, three concessions booths at the same Georgia Mountain Fair. This year the football, wrestling, softball and girls basketball teams all participated in the GMF. In talking numerous times with the coaches in these sports, the recurring theme seemed to be to try to support their programs without having to depend on the public so much for financial support. In case you are unaware, public tax monies cannot be used for athletic activities except under certain specifics. For years the TCHS Indians have been dependent on the financial generosity of the local merchants and community organizations. The coaches want to relieve some of these expectations during poor economic times.

According to the coaches, participation in the

eleven day event was a mixed bag. Exhaustion would be a good word to describe all the work the coaches put in working their three booths. Kyle Langford, Jeff Stowers, Jason McClure, Darryl McClure, Brett Keller, Pete Boyd, Ricky Ellis, Chris Vardo and Jarrod Shirley handled the football/wrestling booth; Shannon Floyd and Michael Anderson handled the softball booth and Jim Melton handled the girls basketball booth. Throughout the eleven days several players and youth football coaches/parents assisted.

According to the coaches, it was a bitter-sweet experience. They raised "monies they would not have had" but fell way short of expectations due to huge booth rental fees, insurance, percentage of gross and supply/operational costs. "It was much like sports camp, long, hard and you're glad it's over but hopefully the financial net pay-off was worth the effort."



The football/wrestling booth had a wide and varied menu from wings to boiled peanuts. Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Claire Wilson and Sheena Kendall delivered drinks to folks throughout the fair.



The softball booth served up smoothies throughout the fair.



Inside the softball booth players served up their smoothies.



Football and wrestling coaches worked their booth at the GMF.



Girls basketball ran the snowcone/beverage stand.

Local Racing Action



by Carl Vanzura

Woodard take Mini Stock Mid-Season trophy

Sylva driver Justin Woodard strengthened his track points lead with the winning of the 2009 Mid-Season Mini Stock Championship. "This is the first time I have ever won this race, and boy have I tried many times. I really love that trophy, it really is a big heavy one", stated Woodard. Lynn Burchfield, Adam Creekmore, Ricky Dyer and Franklin Burk rounded out the top five in the 10 car field.

The lead in the Sportsman feature was swapped when Preston Crisp passed Devin Dillbeck on the inside in turn two, but Dillbeck took the lead back when Crisp spun coming out of turn four. Crisp then had to exit the track with a flat tire. Dillbeck then had to hold off a hard charging Jonathan Cope, Jason Payne, Doug Sneed and Jamie Lunsford.

Murphy driver Jacob Anderson seems about unbeatable lately in the Nesmith Crate Late Model main event as once again he bested Kevin Sutton, Jason Deal, Kevin Bradshaw and Terry Ledford in the top five.

Blue Ridge racer Brad Thomas made it a three-peat in the Modified Street feature when in a bumper to bumper battle between Greg Sudderth and Jim Twigg; he crossed the finish line in front of Sudderth, Charles Devine, Twigg and Heather Taylor.

Another duel in the Street Stock feature between Murphy's Jeremy Woody and Hiwassee's Steven Sofield saw first Woody leading, and then Sofield taking the lead to win his 10th win of the season. Finishing behind Woody in the top five were Harold Garrett, Charles Toomey and Josh Roberts.

Racing returns to Tri-County this Friday night with go kart racing with a big money race and the start of the points season, then on Saturday all classes except the Supers will be on the program with three age groups of kids will race bicycles for prizes and trophies.

In other action around the area, it was mostly rain. Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport set fast time at Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney SC and then went on to win \$4000 in the Southern All Stars East race. Davenport is now driving the Barry Wright house car. Ray Cook traveled to New York for Thursday's running of the Lucas Oil Series race and won the \$10,000 event. Tony Knowles won at Dixie Speedway. Cleveland, Toccoa and Boyds fell to rain. Chase Elliot won the Georgia Asphalt Series 100 lap race recently in Cordele. Tri-County has a cig money race and the opening of the points season this Friday night. Toccoa will be holding a \$5000 to win Southern All Star race this Saturday night.



Cars battle it out for a win in the Modified Street feature.



Steven Sofield made it 10 wins this year.

Photo by Jack Appleget

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter



Crew chief Rick Ren and Ron Hornaday

HORNADAY GETS FIFTH STRAIGHT WIN

NASHVILLE, Tenn.-- By winning Saturday night's Camping World Series Truck race at Nashville, Ron Hornaday became the first driver in any of NASCAR's national series to win five races in a row since 1971, when Richard Petty and Bobby Allison each did it in the Cup Series.

"That's unheard of (five straight) in this time and age," Hornaday said. "Five, can you believe that?"

Hornaday led 115 of 154 laps in the Kevin Harvick Inc. Chevrolet. It was his sixth victory of the season and 45th of his NASCAR Camping World Truck Series career, first on the all-time list.

It was his first win in 13 NASCAR races at the 1.33-mile concrete-surfaced track, five in trucks and eight in the Nationwide Series. He has long coveted winning Nashville's trademark trophy, a Gibson guitar painted by artist Sam Bass.

"I finally got me a Sam Bass guitar," Hornaday said.

Hornaday led the final 63 laps. He had a 2.8-second lead over Brian Scott wiped out by a late caution, which forced the race into a green-white-checked overtime finish.

Hornaday easily pulled

away from Scott on the final restart and won by .944 seconds.

Rick Ren, the crew chief, also moved up in the history books with his 27th victory as a crew chief in the series. He's done it with five different drivers, but has 16 since the start of the 2007 season with Hornaday.

"We both made history tonight," Ren said. "It's not much better than this. I think most wins is an honor, but what I really feel good about is I've done it with five different drivers."

Top-10 points leaders after 14 of 25: 1. Hornaday-2293, 2. Crafton-2077, 3. Skinner-2045, 4. Bodine-1927, 5. Scott-1920, 6. Starr-1867, 7. Malsam-1831, 8. Setzer-1815, 9. Braun-1804, 10. Crawford-1785

KESELOWSKI OUTDUELS KYLE BUSCH

NEWTON, Iowa -- Brad Keselowski passed Kyle Busch with eight laps remaining to win Saturday's inaugural Nationwide Series race at Iowa Speedway, in one of the best races of the season.

Busch had pitted for two tires late in the race, while Keselowski chose to keep his No. 88 Chevrolet on the track during the caution period. It was a risky move on the part of Keselowski's team, but it paid off as he won his second Nationwide Series race of the year.

Top-10 points leaders after 21 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-3471, 2. Edwards-3264, 3. Keselowski-3099, 4. Leffler-2955, 5. Allgaier-2493, 6. Bliss-2479, 7. S. Wallace-2423, 8. Logano-2395, 9. Keller-2394, 10. Gaughan-2365

STEWART CONSIDERING THIRD TEAM

While there might be doom and gloom for many big racing teams, Stewart-Haas Racing is not one of them. Tony Stewart, the current Sprint Cup points leader told reporters at Pocono that his two-car operation

was looking to form a third team.

"We are definitely open to it for sure," said Stewart. "We are interested for sure. We feel like it is a matter of timing, it is everything. I don't know that something would happen for next year. I think we are getting close to the stage of the season where it may get too late to have that opportunity to add a third car for next year. It is something that at least as a company we feel comfortable with and feel like with the right opportunity, that it is definitely possible."

Stewart's teammate, Ryan Newman is seventh in points.

WILL IT BE LOWE'S OR CHARLOTTE

Lowe's Home Improvement Stores announced they would not renew its naming-rights deal at Lowe's Motor Speedway after the present contract expires.

Last week the retailer informed Speedway Motorsports Inc., the track's parent company, of its decision. The initial 10-year, \$35 million deal ran through 2008. Last year the two sides agreed on a one-year extension through 2009.

The two sides have not been able to reach an agreement. Sources said it's possible for Lowe's to change its mind, given that five months remain on the current deal and the unpredictable nature of the economy.

Barring a late agreement with Lowe's or the signing of a new corporate partner, the track is expected to go back to its former name, Charlotte Motor Speedway in 2010. Industry sources say that SMI initially came to the table asking for close to \$9 million annually, and while that number dropped over the course of their discussions, the two sides could not reach agreement.

Lowe's is also evaluating

its future with driver Jimmie Johnson, who has won three straight Cup championships. Their deal with Johnson and Hendrick Motorsports expires at the end of 2010 and those renewal talks are expected to begin later this year. Industry sources say that Lowe's will be expected to pay a hefty increase to maintain its position as the only primary sponsor on Johnson's No. 48 car.

The most expensive sponsorships go for the mid-\$20 million range annually. Probably the most expensive sponsorship would be that of the No. 88 driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr. The total package is in the \$30-million range. Lowe's earnings fell 22 per cent in 2008 and 60 per cent in the final quarter.

SMI officials said they are not presently talking with any other companies on the naming rights.

Correction: In last week's column, we should have said, Jimmie Johnson was a repeat winner at the Brickyard. Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams are at Watkins Glen, NY for their second road course race of the season. The Camping World Trucks do not race again until Aug. 19.

Sat, Aug. 8, Nationwide Series Zippo 200, race 22 of 35; Starting time: 2:30 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Aug. 9, Sprint Cup Series At The Glen, race 22 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which RCR driver took over Dale Earnhardt Sr's Cup ride after his death? Answer: Kevin Harvick.

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Herald's sports quote of the week

"A boxing match is like a cowboy movie. There's got to be good guys and there's got to be bad guys. And that's what the people pay for-- to see the bad guys get beat."

- Sonny Liston, boxer

The Great Outdoors by Jim Bryant

More kid fun around the campfire

CAN OVEN

An oven can be added to your Hobo stove by taking a slightly smaller can such as a shortening can and cutting out both ends of the can. Next, wire a see-through oven wrap tightly over one end so that the food is visible (see-through oven wrap is obtained from your local grocery store). Make a wire handle by hooking the end of the wire on each side of the can.

You can now place food in a tuna can or directly on the stove lid and the oven placed over them to bake. If it is a cake batter or other type liquid, place a well greased, clean can, it is wise to pre-line the can with foil with some extra left sticking up to

serve as a handle after cooking. It is very important that you place three small rocks 1/2" high on the stove top to elevate your oven and release some of the extra heat. Now place the can oven containing your food on top of the rocks to allow heat circulation around in the oven, thus baking the food.

Cover the food with your oven and let it bake. Try cooking a pineapple upside-down cake. Place a cherry and some pineapple in the foil lined tuna can, sprinkle brown sugar over it and pour a tablespoon of juice over that. Fill the can two-thirds full of cake batter and place in your can oven for about twenty minutes. Enjoy!

