

Towns County Sports

Town's County's Leader In Sports



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Severe weather late last week sent the Indians football team indoors to continue practice

The Indians, in preparation for the Aug. 27 season opener against arch rival Union County, didn't mind the break from the soaring heat that has dominated practice since the team gathered a week ago at The Refuge on Plott Town Road.

First things first as the Indians must get in the groove to take on Fannin County in a scrimmage game in Blue Ridge on Aug. 19.

It's the first time in two years that the Indians have not utilized their scrimmage game against Union County. Rather, in 2010, the Panthers are the first regular season game on the schedule.

"Experience-wise and veteran-wise, we're as experienced as we've been in two years," Coach Kyle Langford said. "Technique-wise, right now, we're not very good. But we've still got a good ways to go. But I feel good about the kids that we've got out here right now."

Coach Langford gave rave reviews of Indians' linebacker Wesley Bloodworth.

"He's looking like he's ready to take the field and start the season tomorrow," he said. "We've got depth at linebacker this season and that's a good thing."

Defensively, the Indians return nine starters and from the looks of this season's crop of youngsters, they have something they haven't had in two years - depth, Coach Langford said.



Noah Calhoun takes the handoff from quarterback Jackson Noblet during indoor drills.

Once the Indians face off against the Panthers on Aug. 27 at Frank McClure Stadium, the schedule begins to unfold with a chance of a return to respectability.

The Cherokee Braves come to town Sept. 3 following the season-opening clash against Union, as the

Indians open the regular season with their first two games at home. Following the Cherokee game, the Indians begin a four-game road trip, traveling first on Sept. 10 to Copper Hill, Tenn. to take on the Copper Basin Cougars.

The Indians are eager to turn the tide on the Cougars after last season's 7-6 loss. The Indians then travel to Hayesville, NC on Sept. 17 to take on the arch-rival Yellow Jackets. The Indians thumped Hayesville last year 48-12 to avenge a bitter 2008, 34-32 loss in Clay County, NC.

On Sept. 24, the Indians make the pilgrimage to Milledgeville to take on the Bulldogs of Georgia Military as the Indians seek to avenge a 15-0 loss to GMC in 2009.

Towns County adds two non-traditional rivals to its schedule in 2010. On Oct. 1, the Indians travel to Kennesaw to take on the North Cobb Christian School Eagles.

The Indians return to Frank McClure Stadium on Oct. 15 following an open week to take on the River

Ridge Knights out of Cherokee County.

The following week, Oct. 22, Glascock County's Panthers come to town for their annual matchup with the Indians. On Oct. 29, the Indians travel to Gainesville to take on Lakeview Academy's Lions followed by the season finale on Nov. 5 at home against Hebron Christian Academy's Lions.



The backs get in their agility drills during indoor practice last week at Bill Kendall Gymnasium.



The Indians focus on Aug 19 scrimmage versus Fannin County.

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Montoya wins easily at The Glen

Juan Pablo Montoya smoked the rest of the field on his way to victory in Sunday's Sprint Cup race at Watkins Glen. He dominated the 90-lap race and finished over 5-seconds ahead of runner-up Kurt Busch.

"We had our problems, but we understood each other, and this is the result of a lot of hard work," said Montoya.

It was Montoya's first Cup win since 2007.

"We had a hard fought battle," said Kurt Busch. "We were right there in the mix. We slipped a lot, but it was a good run for us."

Marcos Ambrose, the winner of Saturday's Nationwide Series race, passed Montoya for the lead about midway of the race, but faded in the closing laps and was lucky to come in third.

"We lost the handle there at the end, and there was no way to fix it that late in the race," said Ambrose.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: A.J. Allmendinger, Carl Edwards, Jamie McMurray, Tony Stewart, Kyle Busch, Jeff Burton, and Jeff Gordon.

Dale Earnhardt and his team turned in a poor performance, as he finished 26th.

"It was a terrible race, terrible car," said Earnhardt. "No it was worse than that, it was awful."

Jimmie Johnson hit the outside wall with 20-laps to go and finished 28th.

Denny Hamlin ran into Johnson's wrecked car and wound up with a DNF. He was credited with a 37th place finish.

Top-15 Chase contenders with four races remaining before the 12-driver Chase format begins: 1. Harvick-3210, 2. J. Gordon-3025, 3. Burton-2895, 4. Kurt Busch-2892, 5. Johnson-2882, 6. Hamlin-2872, 7. Kyle Busch-2866, 8. Stewart-2865, 9. Edwards-2821, 10. Kenseth-2806, 11. Biffle-2743, 12. Martin-2641, 13. Bowyer-2631, 14. Newman-2558, 15. McMurray-2547

AMBROSE GETS NATIONWIDE WIN

Marcos Ambrose earned his third consecutive victory at Watkins Glen, as he dominated most of the race and pulled away from runner-up Joey Logano to win the Zippo 200 by nearly three seconds.

Though his future is uncertain, with his announced departure from JTG/Daugherty Racing for parts—or team—unknown, Ambrose drove immaculately Saturday afternoon in picking up his third straight NASCAR Nationwide Series victory at Watkins Glen International, winning from the pole.

"It was a wonderful day for us," said Ambrose, who has not announced plans for next year, though the rumor mill says he's likely to land in a NASCAR Sprint Cup ride at Richard Petty Motorsports. "We've had our troubles at JTG this year, and we're parting ways at the end of the season, and this is a really fitting way to finish this thing off."

Top-10 points leaders after 22 of 35: 1. Keselowski-3509, 2. Edwards-3182, 3. Kyle Busch-3036, 4. Allgaier-2984, 5. Harvick-2774, 6. Menard-2732, 7. S. Wallace-2626, 8. Bayne-2441, 9. Gaughan-2420, 10. Lefler-2384

TODD BODINE ROLLS TO NASHVILLE TRUCK WIN

Todd Bodine tightened his hold on the Camping World Truck Series point standings with a dominant victory in the Nashville 200 at Nashville Superspeedway on Saturday night.

But the veteran driver isn't about to start celebrating his second truck series championship yet.

"No, not really. It can be lost," Bodine said. "You can never count anybody out. Racing, you never know what's going to happen. We've just got to keep doing what we're doing every week. If we take care of what we do and don't worry about everybody else, we'll be just fine."

Top-10 points leaders after 14 of 25: 1. Bodine-2188, 2. Almirola-2014, 3. Peters-1956, 4. Sauter-1955, 5. Dillon-1900, 6. Crafton-1894, 7. Hornaday-1875, 8. Skinner-1854, 9. Starr-1773, 10. White-1706

KENTUCKY WINS, ATLANTA LOSES

Tradition continues to crumble in the world of NASCAR racing

Politics and Kentucky Speedway won.

Atlanta Motor Speedway will lose its spring race.

When the reshuffled schedule is announced in the coming weeks, the 1.5-mile track will pick up the date Atlanta had in March and begin its venture into NASCAR's top series with an early July date.

"We've now gotten the word," said AMS president Ed Clark. "It's time to step back and re-focus. A lot of tracks have one NASCAR event weekends and do very well. That's what we intend to do."

"That's one thing about this; great moments have occurred here, and that's not going to go away. We're going to make some more."

Atlanta now joins Darlington, which historically hosted the Labor Day race, has done with its lone Mother's



Day date.

At least Clark won't have the headache of trying to sell tickets for a March date few wanted because the weather always seemed to be a factor.

"It's a business decision," Clark continued. "Are we happy about it? No, but we're very supportive of the company. The most difficult thing for me was a lot of loyal people have worked a lot of years to build what we have."

The Kansas City Star reported that Kansas Speedway will also be awarded a second date, beginning in 2011.

While Kansas Speedway president Pat Warren has not received formal notification from NASCAR, he said, "We fully expect when the schedule is announced, or when they at least tell us what our portion of the schedule will be, that we anticipate next year we will have two Sprint Cup races."

Kansas' receiving a second date is part of several changes to the NASCAR schedule that will be announced next week.

Auto Club Speedway, in Fontana, California will relinquish one of its two Cup dates, and that's apparently the one going to Kansas Speedway.

Chicagoland Speedway has scheduled a Monday news conference to announce it will move its July date to September and kick off the Chase for the Sprint Cup in 2011.

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Nationwide teams are at the 2-mile Brooklyn, Michigan track, while the Camping World Trucks are at the historic Darlington Motor Speedway. Sat., Aug. 14, Nationwide Series Carfax 250, race 23 of 35; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN2. Sat., Aug. 14, Camping World Series Too Tough To Tame, race 15 of 25; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sun., Aug. 15, Sprint Cup Carfax 400, race 23 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Ken Schrader continues to race in the Truck series at the age of 55. What year did he win the Sprint Cup rookie of the year?

Last Week's Question: Where is Robby Gordon's home state?

Answer: He is from Bellflower, California.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT(Aug11,C)ac

Youth Coed Basketball League

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for The Youth Coed Basketball League for children ages 5 thru 7. (Must turn 5 by November 1st of 2009 to be eligible).

Boys and girls will be placed together on teams. Teams will have volunteer coaches who will lead, teach and direct their team. Registration will begin on August 23rd and run thru Saturday September 4th. Fee for the program will be \$25 per child (this includes a uniform). You must register your child and volunteer to coach during this period.

For more information contact the Recreation Department at (706) 896-2600 Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. And Saturday 9 a.m. till 7 p.m. TA(Aug11,J2)SH

Mountain High Hikers Hiking Club

Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and meeting locations. NA(Aug11,G2)gg

Gray Panthers

The Gray Panthers of the Senior Men's Softball League dropped a pair of games to Towns County this past Sunday. The Panthers were led by Davey Jones who was a perfect 6 for 6. Tyree Dietz was 5 for 6 and Ron Massucco was 4 for 7. Craig Arlotta was 3 for 4 with a double and Steve Robitaille had 3 hits including a triple. Bob Pittman and Syd Garrett also collected 3 hits. The Panthers are sponsored by Union Realty and Jock's Sporting Goods. NT(Aug11,C)ac

Trout Unlimited 692 monthly meeting

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville, GA at 7 PM. Information may be found on our website www.ngatu692.com.

To contact TU 692 you may call our chapter President, Ken Bachman at 706-636-5373 or 561-762-4800 or email dutchmanvi@aol.com. NA(Aug11,A4)SH

Trout stocking sites week of August 2-6, 2010

FANNIN: Big Creek, Lake Blue Ridge Tailwaters (below Dam), Rock Creek, Toccoa River.

LUMPKIN: Etowah River, Nimblewill Creek.

UNION: Cooper Creek, Toccoa River.

***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. NA(Aug11,X)SH

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura

Charlotte driver Rick Goss takes Georgia Mini Sprint feature event

Charlotte North Carolina driver Rick Goss blasted around Tri-County Race Track Saturday night on the way to victory over Atlanta's Matt McCulough, Werner, Jim Wall and Sam Williams in the top five. Goss came from last place in his feature to start on the front row. The 20-lap feature was run at speeds approach 100 mile per hour and went caution free.

The Late Model Sportsman feature saw Peachtree's Jamie Olive beat Bobby Panter through turn one to take the lead and out pace the field to take his second feature in a row as Panter, Danny Ledford, Preston Crisp and Doug Sneed rounded out the top five spots.

Copperhill speedster Jason Deal held on to his points lead in the GM Performance Late Models as he out lasted Kevin Bradshaw, Sam Parris, Trevor Parker and Tony Ledford.

Brasstown's Greg Suderth took the lead in the Cornwell Tools Modified Street feature on the 13th lap of the 15 lap event when Hiawassee's Stephen Sofield slid high coming off of turn two after leading from the drop of the green. Brad Thomas, Mike Bryson and Sammy Berrong crossed under the checker in the top five positions.

Robbinsville's Charles Toomey bested 78 year old

Clark Molster to take the Street Stock feature followed by Harold Garrett and Josh Roberts.

Sylva driver Justin Woodard drove his Toyota to victory in the Mini Stock feature as Lynn Burchfield Gary Wilkins and Joshua Cordin round out the field.

Racing returns to Tri-County this Saturday night with the Late Model Mid-Season Championship and in two weeks with the Southern Regional Racing Series Super Late Model touring show.

In other action around the area, Ray Cook took the SRRS \$3000 to win feature at Cleveland Speedway. Blairsville's Jacob Grizzle finished 12th and now trails Tony Morris by just a few points for the championship. The SRRS will visit Tri-County in two weeks. David McCoy won at Toccoa Speedway as local racer Randy Nichols managed a fourth place finish. Boyds Speedway got rained out as well as Dixie Speedway. Westminster Speedway was idle last week as the track was taken over by two new promoters. Hartwell Speedway shut down last week and is now for sale. Jonathan Davenport finished fourth in the \$50000 to win USA Nationals at Cedar Lake Speedway where Scott Bloomquist took home the big money.

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Charlotte driver Rick Goss visited Victory Lane Saturday night at Tri-County