



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Indians pumped for upcoming season

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

The TCHS Indians football team hopes to be large and in charge. After suffering through three seasons ('05, '06, '07) without a single win (0-30) and after a stellar records breaking season last year (7-3), the Tribe is anxiously awaiting the September 4th opener against Lakeview Academy. For years the TC faithful have waited to break the thirty-eight year history of 42-275-1 (seven of those wins

coming last year).

Despite the huge loss of thirteen seniors, Head Football Coach Kyle Langford and his staff are confident that returning players will step up and show the leadership needed for their replacement. This year's team sports four seniors that must take charge, (#77) Zack Johnson, (#6) Mat Hogsed, (#50) Cody Partin, (#7) John Swilley and (#10) John Bleckley.

Three of the seniors, John Swilley (6-3 220); John Bleckley (6-4 195) and Mat Hogsed (6-0 170) are listed by Georgia High School Magazine as collegiate prospects.

Bleckley is also featured by the same magazine as a pre-season All-State player.

Statistically, the Indians set records all over the books. On defense, they held their opponents to 14 points or less in six of their ten games. Offensively, the Tribe averaged 35 points per game. The offensive line also returns four of the bigger arm-draggers in Cody Partin (185), Dylon Nelson (260), Josh Goodwin (255) and Josh Barnes (240). Supporting these players are Mat Hogsed (170), Matt Beni (170), Taylor Denton (205) and Billy Meier (160). Meier is

returning from a team leading six interceptions at his corner position.

Three quarterbacks are vying for playing time this season trying to replace the 2008 scholarship bound Chase Ellis. Mat Hogsed, John Swilley and Zack Stroud all hope to see time under the lights in the signal-calling position. They will be searching for wide receivers John Bleckley and Mat Hogsed who replace 2008 Andy Page and Charles Corn.

If preparation, determination and gusto are any indication, the Indians should have another good season.



Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura

Racers prepare for Saturday's big Tennessee Thunder event Racers at Tri-County were in action Saturday night in preparation of the \$30,000 Tennessee Thunder Dirt Car Series as they make their second trip this year to the super-fast one third mile clay oval.

It will be hard to match the last race when Murphy High School Coach David Payne overtook Clinton, Tennessee's Anthony "Dirty White Boy" White with one lap to go to take the \$3,000 to win event. Payne and the other 20 to 30 fast 800 horse powered Super Late Models will be racing for \$4,000 this go around.

Morganton, GA driver Bobby Panter set a near record time in the 13s and went on to hold off Hiwassee's Chris Henton in his first trip this year to the "County to take the win in the Sportsman feature. Devin Dillbeck, Preston Crisp and Doug Sneed rounded out the top five.

After a long absence, Blue Ridge driver Seth Wimpey battled Copperhill, TN driver Jason Deal who several times tried a pass on the inside to take the Nesmith Crate feature. Marty Anderson, Kevin Sutton and Terry Ledford filled out the top five positions.

A four way group ran inches apart in the Modified Street main event. At the end of the night, Murphy's Mike Bryson edged out Greg Sudderth, Brad Thomas, Heather Taylor and Frank Brzozowski.

Hiwassee's Steve Sofield took his 11th Street Stock win this year when he bested Harold Garrett, Josh Roberts, Charles Toomey and Kurt Kelly.

Sylva driver Justin Woodard pulled out another win in the Mini Stock feature which saw Adam Creekmore, Lynne Burchfield, Franklin Burke and Ricky Dyer in the top five.

Racing returns to Tri-County this Friday night with the go karts taking to the track, then Saturday night for the Thunder show.

In other action around the area, Casey Roberts held off a strong run by Randy Weaver and Benji Cole to win the \$5,000 to win Southern All Stars race at Toccoa Saturday night. Randy Weaver won the Southern Regional Series race at Boyd's Speedway Friday night. The same series ran Cleveland Speedway Saturday night and Jake Knowles was the winner there over a hard charging David Payne. Jonathan Davenport had a strong second place finish in the Carolina Clash race Friday night at Carolina Speedway. Blairsville youngster Hunter Young won another Purple Plate go kart feature at Tri-County Friday night. Hunter and Trey Anderson from Hayesville have been thrilling the crowd with their side-by-side action every race.



The Indians just could not resist showing off their work in the weight room this summer.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

AMBROSE BESTS KYLE BUSCH AT THE GLEN

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y.

-- When Marcos Ambrose and Kyle Busch came to the chicane or "bus stop" on Lap 64 of Saturday's NASCAR Nationwide Series Zippo 200 at Watkins Glen International, Busch stopped -- out of necessity -- and Ambrose didn't.

Ambrose's bold move into the chicane proved to be the winning pass, as the driver of the No. 47 Toyota held the lead for the final 19 laps, winning the race for the second straight year.

Busch wasn't happy with the aggressive pass, which forced him to miss the chicane and stop on the track for a three-second penalty, but he rallied to finish second, the record 10th straight time he has posted a first- or second-place result in a NASCAR Nationwide Series race.

Carl Edwards ran third, after Busch passed him to the outside through Turn 1 in the closing laps. Polesitter Kevin Harvick came home fourth, followed by road-course specialist Ron Fellows. Jeff Burton, Greg Biffle, David Ragan, Brad Keselowski and Scott Speed completed the top-10.

"I just didn't quite have the top-end speed to make a classic pass on him," said Ambrose, who won in his only start in the series this year. "I knew I was going to have to bomb him somewhere to get the win. He wasn't going to make a mistake on his own. I was going to have to force one on him.

"It's Kyle Busch we're talking about, and he's going to race you hard, and so I just tried to throw the element of surprise in. I came from a fair way back -- about a length-and-a-half back on him -- and just bombed up in there. I knew that it was a high-risk move, but it was one that was needed to be made to try to win the race.

"We're not here to come second. We're here to win, and I had that mindset all weekend."

Busch said he would not have tried the winning move Ambrose made.

"I wouldn't have made it, because I would have wrecked," said Busch. "I think we would have wrecked if one of the cars didn't give, (and) I was the car that gave. I don't think it was a fair move. It won him the race. He had to do something.

"Yay for him. Good job -- whatever. I wouldn't have been able to it. I would have wadded my stuff up."

Ambrose countered by pointing out that he hadn't touched Busch's No. 18 Toyota.

"You're racing against one of the best in the business,"

Ambrose said. "The element of surprise was my attack. He clearly reacted late to me coming on the inside there. I don't know what he's got to complain about."

Edwards saw nothing wrong with Ambrose's pass.

"Marcos knows more about road racing than all of us," Edwards said. "I wasn't happy that he moved me out of the way into (Turn) 1 earlier (after a restart on Lap 48), but he apologized for it and I believe him.

"I saw replays of it (the pass into the bus stop) on the big screen when we were driving around, and it looked like just a pass. If I could have put my car in that position, I sure would have. I think anybody out there would have."

Ambrose's pass wasn't the only controversy of the afternoon. Robby Gordon and Joey Logano repeatedly got together on the track. The last contact between the two sent Logano into a tire barrier, only to carom back onto the track. The car burst into flames, and Logano escaped unscathed but angry.

"You can't fix stupid," Logano said of Gordon's aggression. "It's forever."

Top-10 leaders after 22 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-3646, 2. Edwards-3434, 3. Keselowski-3237, 4. Leffler-3073, 5. Allgaier-2605, 6. S. Wallace-2535, 7. Bliss-2513, 8. Keller-2509, 9. Gaughan-2462, 10. Logano-2459

Raymond Parks Honored At Dawsonville

"Thank you Raymond Parks, you are my hero," said Gordon Pirkle, proprietor of the Dawsonville, Georgia pool hall.

A special section in the Dawson News and Advertiser, referred to Parks as "The Man Behind NASCAR."

Parks was honored Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Thunder Road USA in Dawsonville. Parks, who recently turned 95, was born in Dawsonville in 1914. He left his hometown while still a teenager to escape the hardscrabble life of a sharecropper's son to work for his uncle in an Atlanta service station. It wasn't long before he turned into a part-time moonshine runner. Within a few years, he was able to buy out his uncle, and start several other businesses, like jukeboxes, pool tables, and cigarette machines throughout the Atlanta area.

He was wealthy by the time he was 24 years-old.

"We decided to start racing in 1938 at Lakewood (Georgia) Speedway," said Parks. "We were all standing around Red Vogt's garage one day and decided to fix up a car for Lloyd Seay to drive. It was a '34 Ford

Roadster, and he won the first race he ran at Lakewood.

"That was really something, seeing my car win. I knew after that first race I wanted to get into it. Right after that I went and bought two '39 Ford Coupes from the Ford dealer in Atlanta. I paid \$565 a piece for them. I took them to Vogt and told him to get them ready for February. Roy Hall and Lloyd Seay were going to be the drivers. They were from up around Dawsonville, where I was born, too.

"We went all over North and South Carolina, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Florida. We raced just about every Sunday, somewhere."

Parks business and racing was interrupted by World War II. He served in the U. S. Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, with the 99th Infantry Division. At one point, he spent three months living in a snow-covered foxhole. After his discharge, he returned to Atlanta, and resumed his many businesses and racing.

His teams won several national championships because of his financial resources. But it was also his money that helped Bill France Sr. keep NASCAR going until the sport's popularity took off in the 1950s.

"Raymond never took any acclaim for having helped start NASCAR," said Grady Rogers of Dawsonville. "It was kind of an unspoken partnership. But Bill France could count on Raymond to help fund NASCAR and bring several cars with him."

"Without Raymond Parks, the growth of stock car racing would have been delayed several years. Many people criticized Parks for the way he earned his wealth, but his money helped grow the sport," said long-time Georgia announcer Jimmy Mosteller. "He's the Godfather of Stock Car Racing."

Parks left the sport in



2008 Youth Coed Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for The Youth Coed Basketball League for children ages 5 thru 7. (Must turn 5 by Nov. 1, 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 Aug. 17 and run thru Aug. 29

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.



Steven Sofield won his 11th feature of the year after carrying the flag at Tri-County.



It was another feature win for Bobby Panter in Kenny Garrett's Chevy.

Photos by Jack Appleget

Chatuge Shores golf scores

The winning team for August 6 2009 is Myron Grazio, Jan Still, George Darden, Ray Ward with a Score 69, -3 Under

A special thank you goes to all. We had a good turn out for our first annual Food Pantry Tournament. Thanks again for your support.

WILD FACTS: why birds look worn

Many songbirds' feathers look a bit ragged in late summer, with some birds having bare spots on their bodies or even balding heads. This loss of feathers is called molting, and it is completely normal.

After the breeding season, songbirds gradually lose worn-out feathers and grow new ones by fall. Wing feathers are lost only a few at a time, and new feathers grow in before more are dropped - that way the bird can still fly. All birds go through a late-summer molt, and some species will molt again in the spring to get brightly colored plumage in time for breeding season.



WILD Facts is a regular feature written by Linda May, a wildlife interpretive specialist with the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division.