

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Indians defense looks solid in scrimmage against the Class AA Rebels



Quarterback Zach Stroud breaks loose on a scramble against the Rebels last week.



Defensive end Brandon Henderson and tackle Josh Barnes await the snap by the Rebels.



Wesley Bloodworth and a host of Indians upend a Rebel runner.

The Towns County Indians held their own against a veteran Fannin County Rebel football team last week in Blue Ridge. The preseason scrimmage against the Class AA Rebels unveiled a stingy defense for the Indians, which returns nine starters.

For three quarters, Indians' Head Coach Kyle Langford said that Towns County held its own defensively. "I thought that physically, we matched up well," Coach Langford said. "Our execution was a little off, some of that due to inexperience at crucial positions, but I thought we got after it really good, especially after the first two series. "Once the game got through the first quarter, I thought we settled in and played well," he said. "We

played some serious football for three quarters. I thought our defense played well enough to get us a win."

Typical of scrimmage games, coaches aren't adding up touchdowns and field goals, but the fans in the stands easily added up the Rebels' three scores. The Indians didn't breach the end zone throughout the evening. "Offensively, (line-men) Josh Barnes looked good, Dylon Nelson looked good," Coach Langford said. "Our quarterbacks (Zach Stroud and Jackson Noblet) looked okay at times and they didn't look okay at times. But, that's to be expected in their first real action." "Defensively, I thought Brandon Henderson (defensive end) looked really good, Wesley Bloodworth (linebacker)

looked good and I thought Alan Turpin (defensive back) looked really good," Coach Langford said. "I was really pleased with those guys; they haven't played their positions much. I thought they were way above where they should have been. "Dylon Nelson really presented a surprise on the defensive line," he said. "He's been a big surprise for us, because he hasn't really worked there very much. We were pleased with his play."

The good news from the scrimmage, the Indians avoided any injuries, Coach Langford said. "We came away from that scrimmage 100 percent health-wise," he said. "It's the healthiest we've ever walked away from a game or a scrimmage. I was really pleased with

that. "Praise God, nobody got banged up," he said.

The Indians also came away from the scrimmage with a better understanding of how some players would react under the pressure of a game-type situation. The scrimmage allowed Langford and his coaching staff to better select a depth chart for the upcoming season. "We've been waiting for this Friday night since the final horn sounded last season," Coach Langford said. "For a lot of our kids, we've got another year under our belts and we've got one of the most experienced squads we've fielded in my years here. "We're looking forward to the experience of lining up under the lights on Friday night," he said.



Indians Head Coach Kyle Langford watches the scrimmage action on the sidelines with Billy Meier.

Photos by Lowell Nicholson

2010 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 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. TAug25.FJ1/SH

Football for food

On August 27 at 7:30 p.m. the Towns County Indian Football team will meet with old rivals, the Union County Panthers for what is sure to be a great game. However, the fight on the football field is not

the only fight being fought by our great football team.

They are helping to fight hunger in Towns County by donating a portion of the gate proceeds to The Towns County Food Pantry. Please spread the

word and help us to overflow the stands with fans to help support the Indians in both their endeavors on the field and for the needy of Towns County. TAug25.FJ3/SH

Glenda Gooch House Golf Classic winners



1st Place 1st Flight: Danny Hemphill, Greg Young, Bill Bryant, Wyatt Larkin.



1st Place 2nd Flight: Gary Cochran, Eldridge Bateman, Jamie Nichols, Andy Worley



2nd Place 1st Flight: Stacy Buchanan, Ken Davis, Phil Lelievre, Larry Vandiver (not pictured)



Longest Drive: Harold Gibson & Danny Hemphill

Community Bank, Union Board of Directors of United Community Bank, Stan and Rita Gunter, Stacey Head, Julie Prince, Janet Hartman and Jeanette Hughes and Allyson McGraw.

Title sponsor for the tournament was United Community Bank. Other sponsors included Old Union Golf Course, Owen Glen Inc., Café Portofino (kick-off party) and DH Communications (cart sponsor), Head Westgate (putty green sponsor).

Corporate Sponsors included Blue Ridge North GA Ford, Owen Glen Real Estate Company LLC, America's Home Place, Inc. ETC Telephone Company, Davenport Transportation, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Rick's Rental, Inc., Smith & Boemanns Law Office.

Scorecard Sponsor was Mountain View Home Builders and Enrico's Italian Restaurant. Mountain Valley Motors donated the hole in one car and also the insurance.

Hole Sponsors were Mountain Graphics, Visual Outdoor Advertising, Allison Outdoor, Jay's Medical Equipment, Reese Signs, Inc., Lynn & Barry Varian, Cadence Bank, Carter Insurance & Investments, Cleveland & Cox, Rich Furniture & Cabinet Shop, Victoria's Attic, Chapman & Chapman, North Georgia Stone, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Porter, Community & Southern Bank, Holiday Inn Express, and Steve Gooch.

Donations were received from Serenity in the Mtns, Hogged Sportswear, United Community Bank, Mountain Valley Motors, Owners Club of Hilton Head Island, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Sosebe, Lovely Nails, Mayfair Salon, Union County Recreation Department, Resthaven Florist, Brasstown Valley Resort, Sleepy Hollow Fairy Houses, Blue Ridge Scenic Railway, North Georgia Sport Aviation, LLC, Richard Petty Driving Experience, Enrico's Italian Restaurant, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Porter, Sears Blairsville, The Flower Garden, Crane Creek Vineyard, Hughes Services, Home Depot, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Elliott, Goldhagen Art Glass, Mercer Jewelry, Bob Daniels, Copper Sunsets, BoHo Girl, Mr. & Mrs. Danny Goyn, Relax and Heal Massage Therapy, Charmed Accents. Special thanks went to Lori Redditt, Colleen & Tom Mangifesta, Sam Warren, North Georgia News, the golfers and the many volunteers. NAug25.A6/SH

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter



Kyle Busch swept all three Bristol races

Kyle Busch sweeps Bristol
Kyle Busch held off David Reutimann and Jamie McMurray to win Saturday's Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway and complete his unprecedented sweep of three NASCAR national touring events at the same track in the same week.

"The pit stops tonight were flawless," said Busch. "Jimmie (Johnson) beat us out one time just because of pit selection. But unfortunately he had his troubles, but we were able to just get out there and kind of set sail. We had a really fast race car. Coming through the field was fun. Passing in front of those guys and working traffic the way you had to work traffic and just kind of pick and choose your way; do you go high, do you go low. You had to have a car that would really work anywhere."

On Lap 429 of 500, Busch nosed past Reutimann after an intense 15-lap battle and pulled away to a Sprint Cup victory that fit well with his Wednesday win in the Camping World Truck Series and his Friday triumph in the Nationwide Series.

The victory was Busch's fourth at the .533-mile track, his third of the season and the 19th of his career.

"I mean, we had a good race car, and you know, we battled being loose at times through the center and loose on exit, and then we made the exit better but hurt the center, and that's kind of what ultimately got us at the end," said runner-up, David Reutimann, who battled a stomach virus all week.

"You know, it was a good race. I enjoyed racing the guys up front, Jamie and Kyle and those guys. You know, it's just a -- I feel really, really good about the finish, but I'm not feeling so hot right now, so I'm ready to go to sleep at some point."

McMurray came home third.

"I mean, it's pretty remarkable what he's (Busch) been able

to do this weekend, especially with owning his own truck team," said McMurray. "I know that's been fairly stressful for him. And obviously the Nationwide, it's -- I don't know, it's amazing how many races they can win in that car. But then to be able to come out tonight and win again, he obviously has a really good feel for this place, and he just had a really good weekend. He's been close to doing that before, so that's really impressive what Kyle has been able to do."

Clint Bowyer, Kasey Kahne, Ryan Newman, Juan Montoya, Greg Biffle, Kurt Busch, and Matt Kenseth were the remaining top-10 finishers.

After leading 175 laps, Jimmie Johnson was fighting for position on Lap 262 when contact from Juan Montoya's Chevrolet sent Johnson's Chevy spinning down the backstretch and into the Turn 3 wall. The polesitter lost 66 laps during repairs and finished 35th.

Denny Hamlin snapped a drive shaft near the midpoint of the race and lost 26 laps in the garage while his crew replaced it. He finished 34th. The only consolation for Johnson and Hamlin is that each has a series-best five victories, good for 50 bonus points to start the Chase.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran as high as seventh, but finished 13th.

Top-15 Chase contenders with two races left before the Chase begins: 1. Harvick-3521, 2. J. Gordon-3242, 3. Kyle Busch-3170, 4. Edwards-3113, 5. Hamlin-3108, 6. Stewart-3107, 7. Burton-3101, 8. Kenseth-3095, 9. Johnson-3077, 10. Kurt Busch-3073, 11. Biffle-3055, 12. Bowyer-2920, 13. McMurray-2820, 14. Martin-2819, 15. Newman-2820 Note: Only the top-12 drivers will make the Chase.

Kyle Busch took the checkered flag in Friday night's Nationwide Series, Food City 250 after bumping Brad Keselowski out of the way on lap 219 of the 250-lap race.

Busch and Keselowski were the class of the race, with Keselowski leading three times for 62 laps and Busch leading three times for a race-high 116 laps. Keselowski held the point from lap 162 to 218, but after doggedly pursuing the championship leader, Busch finally made his way past Keselowski in between turns one and two.

But as soon as Busch's car got in front of Keselowski on the backstretch, the nose of Keselowski's Dodge nudged the rear bumper of Busch's Toyota, sending Busch scrapping along the wall.

Busch never let off the throttle and quickly got in behind Keselowski as they entered turn three, and just before turn four, Busch reached Keselowski and nosed his

Toyota into the back of Keselowski, sending him spinning, with the rear of Keselowski's Dodge contacting the outside wall.

Busch motored on, and with the exception of two late-race restarts where he was briefly challenged by Elliott Sadler, Busch checked out to collect his second Nationwide Series win at Bristol.

"I raced and raced and raced him (Keselowski), I don't know for 12, 15 laps," said Busch, who is two for two this week at Bristol, as he won Wednesday night's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race at the .533-mile oval. "I thought I had him cleared on the back and I moved up in front of him, and instead of him doing an Earnhardt crossover move he decided that he would just run into the back of me and put me in the fence. So, that's Brad Keselowski. So, you know, I went down into the next corner and dumped him. He does it to everybody else. Why can't I do it to him?"

The victory was Busch's 10th Nationwide Series win this season, tying him with the mark set by Sam Ard during his championship run in 1983 and tied by Busch in 2008. It was also Busch's 40th career Nationwide Series victory, inching him ever closer to the all-time Nationwide Series win total of 48 set by Mark Martin.

Top-10 Nationwide points leaders after 24 of 35: 1. Keselowski-3830, 2. Edwards-3517, 3. Kyle Busch-3396, 4. Allgaier-3123, 5. Menard-3036, 6. Harvick-2908, 7. S. Wallace-2808, 8. Bayne-2721, 9. Leffler-2620, 10. Gaughan-2587.

Top-10 Camping World Truck leaders after 16 of 25: 1. Bodine-2533, 2. Almirola-2322, 3. Peters-2283, 4. Sauter-2245, 5. Hornaday-2210, 6. Crafton-2178, 7. Dillon-2172, 8. Skinner-2116, 9. Starr-1994, 10. Carmichael-1863.

Weekend Racing: The Cup teams have an off weekend. The Nationwide Series is at the Montreal, Canada road course, while the Camping World Trucks are at Chicagoland Speedway.

Fri., Aug. 27, Camping World Trucks, race 17 of 25; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sun., Aug. 29, Nationwide Series NAPA Auto Parts 200, race 25 of 35; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the youngest driver to win a Cup race? Hint: It happened in 2005.

Last Week's Question: Richard Petty leads all drivers with 200 career Cup wins. Who has the second most wins? David Pearson is second with 105 wins.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net

Gray Panthers end regular season

The Gray Panthers closed their regular season this past Sunday, splitting a pair of games against the Murphy Retreats. The Gray Panthers took the opening game 14-5 but lost the finale 16-13. The Gray Panthers collected a total of 43 hits in the doubleheader, led by Vic Cascarano, who

was a perfect 8 for 8 with an inside the park home run, a triple and two doubles. John Carleton was also perfect, going 6 for 6 with a double. Syd Garrett and Tyree Dietz had 5 hits each, and DJ DeJoseph and Dave Wesche had 4 hits each. The Gray Panthers are hosting a season ending tour-

nament Saturday August 28th, at Meeks Park, starting at 9 AM. Our league's four teams from Union, Towns, Fannin and Murphy, will be playing against four teams from Woodstock, Ga. The Gray Panthers are sponsored by Union Realty and Jack's Sporting Goods. NAug25.C13ac