



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



NASCAR 2009 *By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter*

SMOKE HOLDS ON FOR KANSAS WIN

KANSAS CITY, Kan.-- Tony Stewart held off late challenges from Jeff Gordon and Greg Biffle to win Sunday's Cup race at Kansas Speedway, his fourth win of the season.

Stewart took the lead on lap 236 of the 267-lap race after a two-tire pit stop. Several other teams took on four tires, but by taking on only two right-side tires Stewart was able to assume the lead once green flag racing resumed.

"This one's for us," said Stewart. "Jeff was getting bigger and bigger in my rearview mirror there at the end. The thing was not to drive the tires off it, in case you needed them for a green/white/checkered restart."

Jeff Gordon started ninth, was not able to run up front early in the race, but came on strong after the midway point, to challenge Stewart for the lead in the closing laps.

"We never got it fixed completely, but it was a great day," said Gordon. "We came a long way, because we were way off at the beginning of this thing."

Jimmie Johnson had a

fast car and was running with the leaders until the last caution, but dropped from fourth to ninth by the end of the race.

"We had such a good car," said Johnson. "We thought four tires were the way to go on that pit stop, but something happened. We were so fast and then the car was so tough to drive. I'm not sure what happened."

Greg Biffle, Juan Montoya, Denny Hamlin, Kasey Kahne, Mark Martin, David Reutimann, Jimmie Johnson, and Carl Edwards were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was black flagged by officials for a loose lug nut on a tire. He failed to pit after being given the black flag by NASCAR officials, until he was finally told that unless he pitted on the next lap, NASCAR would stop scoring his car.

"We had a fast car, but we left the lug nut off on one pit stop and lost a lap," Earnhardt said. "We pitted, a caution came out and we lost another lap. We probably had a top-10 car, but just got down."

He finished 36th. 2009 Chase contenders

after 3 of 10 races: 1. Martin-5551, 2. Johnson-5533, 3. Montoya-5500, 4. Stewart-5484, 5. Kurt Busch-5460, 6. Hamlin-5452, 7. J. Gordon-5448, 8. Biffle-5437, 9. Newman-5387, 10. Edwards-5386, 11. Kahne-5361, 12. Vickers-5301

Matt Kenseth, the 2002 NASCAR champion, who failed to make this year's Chase had an engine go sour in his No. 17 Roush-Fenway Ford and was not able to finish the race. He dropped to 14th in points.

LOGANO BEATS BUSCH AGAIN IN NATIONWIDE RACE

Kyle Busch set a series mark for most laps led in a season, but it was Joey Logano who took the lead from his teammate with three laps to win the Nationwide race at Kansas.

Top-10 Nationwide leaders after 29 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-4729, 2. Edwards-4484, 3. Keselowski-4422, 4. Leffler-3879, 5. Allgaier-3390, 6. S. Wallace-3377, 7. Keller-3249, 8. Bliss-3220, 9. Gaughan-3139, 10. McDowell-3024

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Nationwide teams will be racing at the 1.5-mile Fontana, California Speedway.

Sat., Oct. 10, Nationwide Series Camping World 300, race 30 of 35; Starting time: 4 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Oct. 11, Sprint Cup Pepsi 500, race 30 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm (EDT); TV: ABC.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Paul Menard drive for?

Last Week's Question: What year was the Sprint Cup Chase started? Answer: It was introduced in 2004.

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Tony Stewart

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura



Racing got a boost this week end with some good weather. A few tracks in our area still have a few racing date still on their schedule and Boyds Speedway in Ringold saw Randy Weaver edge out Ray Cook by about a half car length to take the \$3000 SRSS sanctioned event Friday night. Action moved over to Cleveland Speedway for the running of three 20 lap Super Late Model feature. Skip Arp won the first and third features while Billy Mayo took the second.

Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport won the \$7000 Alabama State Championship after setting a new day time track record on a very wet track after days of rain. He then went to the K C Classic in Ohio and had a respectable eighth place finish among the 60 cars entered. Davenport is now driving for Barry Wright, a famed chassis builder from South Carolina.

This week sees some action packed racing coming within a two hour driving time when on Thursday the Ray Cook Tarheel 50 this year will move to Cleveland Speedway. On Saturday, the Lucas Oil Series will race at Dixie Speedway and on Sunday the Lucas Oil Series will move over to Rome Speedway. Racing will return to Toccoa Speedway Saturday night with Super Late Models headlining the show. Go karts will be racing for points Friday night at Tri-County Race Track. Demolition Derby cars will be in action Sunday October 11th at Tri-County.



From EAMS web site: Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport won the Alabama State Championship.

Football team loses one (and wins one)

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TCH Editor

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Towns County Indians' Head Coach Kyle Langford is a firm believer that his troops are still hungry. He remembers the adage: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog."

His Indians lost a tough one in Gwinnett County on Friday night to Hebron Christian Academy 38-13.

"These guys haven't quit," Langford said. "If anything, they're still scratching and clawing and they still believe in themselves. We've made some mistakes, but make no mistake, the effort has been there."

Langford points out that junior Billy Meier, recovering from a knee injury, was more than anxious to take the field in the secondary against the Lions of Hebron.

"What do you do? Langford asked. "He's aching to play, the doctor has cleared

him. You let him suit up and give it his all. That's what is special about these kids; they give you every ounce of energy that they've got."

Turnovers haunted the Indians all night long.

"You're not going to beat anybody if you turn the ball over eight times," Langford said.

Coach Langford praised Alan Turpin, who finished the night with six catches.

"It was a real big night for him," Langford said.

He rated sophomore Noah Calhoun's night as a positive night for the Indians.

"He did a great job running the football," Langford said. "He had five carries, 40 yards. We've got to figure a way to put the ball in his hands more often."

Langford was especially pleased with the play of freshman linebacker Joseph Foster.

"He had a big night defensively," Langford said.

"And John Henry Hobbs was in man coverage all night and he stepped up and played

well," Langford said. "He did a really good job all night long."

Running back Matt Beni reinjured his ankle, Langford said.

"That and he has had some issues with wisdom teeth," Coach Langford said. "I told him that this would be a good week to heal up and get his wisdom teeth remedied."

The Indians had a great week of practice Langford said and their spirits remain high.

"We have to take the remainder of the season one game at a time," he said. "We've got the forfeit from Asheville School this week. We'll take that opportunity to get healthy."

"We'll start preparing for Georgia Military this week and we'll let the guys off a little early to rest up."

Langford blames himself for the loss against Hebron.

"I got impatient, I got greedy," he said. "There were some situations where we should have run the ball and I got greedy. I thought we could

put the nail in them early and it backfired.

"Had I called a little bit better game, we'd have had a chance to win that one," he said. "We've done some good things this season; we just haven't done enough of them to make a difference in the win column."

"There are a lot of guys who haven't played football before that are really starting to understand what's going on," he said. "I'm pleased with that and the coaching job that my assistants have done. These kids are young and they've really grown up this season."

Towns County Cross Country runs in Murphy

On Wednesday, Sept 30 at the Murphy Invitational, the Mini Boys finished 8. The top five runners were

Bradley Rogers 17
Eli Sanford 34
Aaron Dodson 44
Kyle Tyler 46
Garrett Bradshaw 53

The Mini Girls didn't score as a team: Ansley Vardeman out recovering from surgery to remove parts of a crab claw from her foot and Caitlin Sheffield injured

Taylor Vardeman 5
Olivia Silvey 37
Alanna Calhoun 51

The Varsity Boys placed 5th as a team. The top five for

Towns were
Walker Guss 26
Ethan Burch 37
Rylan Albach 41
Dakota Barrett 47
Zach Whitehead 50

The Varsity Girls Team

3 top 5 runners were
Amy Vardeman 24
Melissa Conrad 26
Cassie Buck 28
Brittany Walls 30
Kristin Fuhs 34

Thurs Athens Academy

Oct. 01 (raced back to back)

Mini Boys

Team Score 4
Bradley Rogers 12
Eli Sanford 26
Aaron Dodson 27
Kyle Tyler 29
Garrett Bradshaw 36

Mini Girls
No team score/Ansley still in recovery; helped me Coach.

No doubt they would have WON!!!

Caitlin Sheffield 6
Olivia Silvey 11
Alanna Calhoun 25

Varsity Boys

Team Score 8
Walker Guss 25
Rylan Albach 40
Dakota Barrett 43
Ethan Burch 52
Zach Whitehead 67

Varsity Girls

Team Score Tied for 3 lost

in the 6th runner position for

4th place
Amy Vardeman 16
Melissa Conrad 19
Cassie Buck 21
Brittany Walls 25
Kristin Fuhs 36



Taylor Vardeman takes first place!

Submitted photo

The 2009 Appalachian Community Bank Open



On overcast Thursday afternoon, the Tri-County Junior Golf Association held their weekly junior golf tournament at the Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville, GA. Sponsoring the tournament for the fifth straight year was Appalachian Community Bank. Becky Dyer and Drew Phillips were present representing the bank and greeting the forty plus players as they arrived. The Tri-County Junior Golf Association thanks Appalachian Community Bank for their continued involvement in supporting the youth of our area and also thanks

Bill Berg, PGA Golf Pro and Manager of Butternut Creek Golf Course for allowing the junior players to have the course for a Thursday afternoon junior tournament.

In the girls 13-17 age division, Morgan Bentley from Union County placed first for the second straight week shooting a 44 and was followed by Amanda Thompson from Clay County. In the boys 15-17 age division, Eli Crumley from White County picked up right where he left off the previous week by blistering the course shooting a 37. Alex Hood also from White County came in second for the second

straight week and Scott Treadway from Union County picked up the third place trophy.

In the boys 13 & 14 age division, Jacob Wallace from Clay County continued his streak finishing first with a 40, followed by Colton Stanley from Union County and Josh Sprinkles from Clay County. In the boys 11 & 12 age division, there was a new first place winner, DJ Mock from Cherokee County, who shot a 47. He was followed by Zach Cottrell from Clay County and Will Howard from Union County.



Photos by Lowell Nicholson