

# Towns County Sports

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## Lady Lions fall in season opener to Lady Saints 64-39



Former Lady Indian Missy Conrad nails a bucket in the Lady Lions' season opener against North Georgia.

By James Reese  
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Sophomore Nikki Winn scored a game-high 15 points for the Young Harris College Lady Mountain Lions but it wasn't enough as Young Harris fell in their historic season opener to North Georgia College and State University 64-39.

The Lady Lions shot 32.7 percent from the field and were out-rebounded by the Lady Saints 39-25. Turnovers were a problem for the Lady Lions, as they coughed up the ball 20 times.

Winn, a graduate of Towns County High School, was 6-for-15 from the floor and 1-for-4 in 3-point shooting to lead the Lions. Missy Conrad, a YHC freshman and also a TCHS graduate, scored 3 points and grabbed 3 boards for the Lady Lions.

Sophomore Ellie Parton, also a former Towns County Lady Indian, did not play.

Miata Askew, a freshman from Hinesville, scored 10 points for the Lady Lions and Breanna Gleason, a freshman from Adelaide, Australia, scored 7 points. Lauren Smith, a freshman from Madison County, scored 4 points and led the Lady Lions in rebounds with 6 on the night.

Sophomore Jaynce Ealey, from Carrollton, came off the bench to lead the Lady Saints with 21 points, followed by Sarah Stinson, a 6-2 senior from Woodstock, and Tiffany Marlow, a 6-foot senior from Gainesville, with 8 points each. Jessica Trice, a 5-10 freshman from Knoxville, Tenn. added 7 points and Jessica Howard, a 6-foot sophomore from Toccoa, finished with 6 points for the Lady Saints.

## Mountain Lions roar in return to basketball



Philip Uys completes the first dunk in YHC history.

By James Reese  
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It didn't take Coach Pete Hermann's Mountain Lions long to christen the "Valley of Doom."

Freshman O'Neil Lubin came off the bench, got the hot hand and scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Lions to a 78-68 victory over the Saints of North Georgia College and State University. Freshman Steven Viterbo added 17 for the Lions in Young Harris' historic return to basketball.

The Lions led wire-to-wire and sank 11-of-12 free throws down the stretch en route to the momentous win.

Coach Hermann, who dubbed the new YHC arena the "Valley of Doom," was very pleased with his team's performance.

"Defense and rebounding were key for us tonight," he said. "We held them to 27 percent shooting in the first half and that was big. That's what we want and need every game."

It was the first basketball win for YHC since legendary Head Coach Luke Rushton led the Lions to a No. 1 national ranking 41 years ago.

Young Harris President Cathy Cox was ecstatic over the historic win Monday night.

"What a fabulous way to kickoff basketball at Young Harris after 41 years," President Cox said. "It just doesn't get much better than this. The guys came out ready to play. They took the lead and held it the entire game."

On this night, the Lions could do no wrong as they evened their season record to 1-1. Hermann's Lions shot almost 52 percent from the field, hit 16 of 21 from the charity stripe and out-rebounded the Saints 38 to 33.

The Lions came out roaring and jumped out to a double-digit lead early and led 35-20 at the end of the first half. Lubin, who played his high school ball at Oak Ridge in Orlando, Fla., led the Lions with 16 first half points and added another 10 points in the second half.

The Saints didn't roll over and play dead in the second half and actually outscored the Lions 48-43 in the second half.

But down the stretch, it was Lubin and Viterbo doing the damage, that is until both fouled out just moments apart.

With just 35.5 seconds left, 6-foot-8 freshman Philip Uys, of Gainesville nailed the first dunk in YHC history to put the game on ice for YHC.

Next up for the Lions: Tennessee Wesleyan at the "Valley of Doom" Nov. 29.

## Buzzer-beater spoils Mountain Lions' basketball debut

By James Reese  
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The Young Harris College Men's basketball team returned from a 41-year hiatus with only one thing on its mind: a win.

It wasn't to be as Virginia Intermont's Marquette Knight tipped in the game winning basket with barely a second left on the clock to lead the Cobras to a 73-71 win over the Mountain Lions on Saturday at Time Warner Cable Arena in Charlotte, NC.

The Mountain Lions trailed by 15 points at the end of the first half. However, the Lions mounted a spirited 18-0 scoring run in the first 6 minutes of the second half to take a 42-41 lead. Frank Adams, a 6-foot, 4-inch freshman from Stone Mountain tipped in the go-ahead basket for the Lions with 14:36 remaining in the game.

Lions' Head Coach Pete Hermann said his players may have been a bit overzealous in the first half before settling down to play gritty basketball.

"I thought that in the first half the players were so excited that they shot too quickly," Hermann said. "They didn't give themselves a chance to score. They allowed Virginia Intermont to run out and get easy baskets. We shot the ball too deep and with long rebounds; they were coming at us. They scored at will in the first half on the break."

The second half was a different story. "Coming down to the second half we settled in, made them guard, got better shots better ball movement and played good defensively," Coach Hermann said.

Once in charge, the Lions held the lead until the 3:33 mark when Knight, who finished with 19 points, nailed a layup and gave the Cobras a 64-63 lead.

The Cobras extended their lead to 70-66 on a jumper by Knight with slightly more than 2 minutes left. The never-say-die Lions fought back and tied the game at 71-71 on a layup by 6-foot, 2-inch freshman Matt Preston with 12 seconds remaining.

With time winding down, the Cobras' Tihlee Anderson lifted a layup which was blocked by 6-foot, 8-inch Philip Uys, a freshman from Gainesville. The block led to the final second heroics by Knight, with a buzzer-beating tip-in.

Coach Hermann said the game was lost on the boards.

"The whole game comes down to the fact that we got out rebounded, I think by 18 and it comes down to a last second rebound basket, a second shot with one second left in the game," Coach Hermann said. "That was happening the whole game so it's something that we've got to correct."



President Cox gives Coach Pete Hermann a hug following Monday night's win.



Former Lady Indian Nikki Winn nails a free throw in the Lady Lions' season opener against North Georgia.



Six-foot-six Mountain Lion freshman Bryson Robinson starts the season for YHC against Virginia Intermont.

"Without the players that we've prepared with the last four weeks, it was very difficult," Coach Hermann said. "I was very, very proud of these seven kids. Now we'll come home with everybody there and it'll be great."

Coach Hermann expects his team to get better as the season progresses.

"We don't have a post-season so we're trying to get better and keep improving," he said. "We just want to make sure we defend, rebound, share the ball and play hard and the wins will come if we do those things."

## NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### EDWARDS SWEEPS PHOENIX RACES

Carl Edwards won both the Nationwide and Sprint Cup races this past weekend at Phoenix International Raceway, but the big news is how close the battle for this year's Cup championship is.

Edwards was able to conserve fuel, while others, including the Chase leader, Denny Hamlin, who led the most laps, had to pit for fuel near the end of the 312-lap race.

"I don't feel like this really happened," said Edwards.

Ryan Newman, Joey Logano, and Greg Biffle followed Edwards across the finish line.

Jimmie Johnson did not lead a lap, but he was able to conserve fuel and finished fifth.

"I did anything I could do to stay out of the throttle," said Johnson. "We ran well, had phenomenal pit stops, and stayed out of trouble."

"We were able to work the magic there at the end and save fuel, and now, we're going to have one heck of a points race going to Homestead."

Kevin Harvick was down a lap at one point after his team left a lugnut off a wheel and he had to pit a second time, but he was able to finish sixth. He is 31 points back of Johnson, and 46 points behind Hamlin.

"We're lucky to be honest with you, we just made a mistake," said Harvick. "I was pretty down when that happened. I talked with Richard (Childress), and he told me you never know what's going to happen."

"The further we went the better the car got. We're going to Homestead next week, and we'll have a fast car. We'll take our chances there."

Matt Kenseth, Mark Martin, Kurt Busch, and Jamie McMurray were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Jeff Gordon finished 11th.

Hamlin limped home 12th, after having to stop for a splash of fuel with 12 laps-to-go.

"It's pretty disappointing," said Hamlin. "We were in a good position. We've had good cars and all that, but things didn't work out strategy-wise. We did what we had to do today, but we didn't have it there at the end."

Top-12 Chase leaders after 35 of 36: 1. Hamlin-6462, 2. Johnson-6447, 3. Harvick-6416, 4. Edwards-6198, 5. Kenseth-6151, 6. J. Gordon-6124, 7. Kyle Busch-6115, 8. Biffle-6113, 9. Stewart-6074, 10. Kurt Busch-6033, 11. Bowyer-6028, 12. Burton-5958

### EDWARDS TAKES PHOENIX NATIONWIDE RACE

Carl Edwards won Saturday's Nationwide Series race at Phoenix in a cakewalk over runner-up Kevin Harvick.

The victory was Edwards' fourth at Phoenix and his second straight in the se-

ries. "This is the best car I've ever had in the Nationwide Series," Edwards radioed to crew chief Mike Beam after the race.

Edwards sat out the second Nationwide practice session to concentrate on his qualifying effort in the Cup car. The lack of practice, however, made no difference in Saturday's race.

"That was (owner) Jack Roush's call," Edwards continued. "I thought about it, but I thought, 'Man, I don't have the guts to sit out a whole practice,' and Mike Beam said, 'Hey, the car's good,' and Jack said it was good, so it let me go focus on our (Cup car) and get the pole there."

"I wouldn't have imagined this thing would be that fast today. A great day for us. Man, it's just unbelievable how fast this thing is. After three or four laps, I could do whatever I wanted with it. I'm really blessed to have the crew that I have."

Joey Logano finished third, followed by 2010 series champion Brad Keselowski and Reed Sorenson. Aric Almirola, Colin Braun, Justin Allgaier, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Steve Wallace completed the top-10.

Kyle Busch cut a tire during the final 56-lap green-flag run and finished 16th in the No. 18 Toyota. That shrank Joe Gibbs Racing's lead in the owners' standings to 41 points over the No. 22 Dodge owned by Roger Penske and driven by Keselowski.

Danica Patrick finished 32nd, seven laps down, in her 12th Nationwide start.

Top-10 leaders after 34 of 35: 1. Keselowski-5474, 2. Edwards-5044, 3. Kyle Busch-4739, 4. Allgaier-4544, 5. Menard-4329, 6. Harvick-4214, 7. Logano-3887, 8. Bayne-3886, 9. S. Wallace-3822, 10. Leffler-3807

### BOWYER WINS TRUCK RACE, BODINE CLAIMS TITLE

Clint Bowyer won Friday night's Lucas Oil 150 at Phoenix International Raceway in his first start in the series since Oct. 20, 2007 at Martinsville.

Todd Bodine also had reason to celebrate. With a 12th-place finish at Phoenix, Bodine wrapped up his second truck series championship. He leads Aric Almirola by an insurmountable 202 points entering next Friday's season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Bowyer beat race runner-up Kyle Busch to the line by 1.039 seconds. Johnny Sauter finished third, followed by Matt Crafton and Almirola.

Bodine added the 2010 crown to his 2006 truck series title.

"Along the way, we had a lot of good luck," Bodine



said. "Along with good performance, along with hard work, you've got to have good luck, and we had it this year. We did that. But the old adage is 'You make your own luck,' and this team has done a great job all year of doing that."

Top-10 leaders after 24 of 25: 1. Bodine-3772, 2. Almirola-3570, 3. Sauter-3506, 4. Crafton-3397, 5. Dillon-3304, 6. Peters-3231, 7. Hornaday-3135, 8. Skinner-3114, 9. Starr-3040, 10. White-2880

### GM HEADED BACK TO INDY-RACING

General Motors Co. and its motorsports entity GM Racing - has committed to fielding a Chevrolet-branded Twin-Turbo V6 racing engine to compete against Honda in the IndyCar Series beginning with the 2012 season.

Chip Ganassi, after an intense flirtation with Ford where he considered joining their NASCAR program, is instead committing to a relationship with GM Racing and Chevrolet in NASCAR starting in 2011 and in IndyCar beginning in 2012.

Ganassi had apparently been leaning toward going with Ford over the last several weeks but once Ganassi learned that GM was going "all-in" for a new IndyCar racing engine program, he changed his mind.

Penske Racing will also be one of the teams to commit to using Chevrolet engines for 2012. It was Penske who gave Chevrolet their last Indy 500 win in 2002 using an Ilmor built engine. Chevrolet and Honda will compete for teams in 2011 and then race each other on track in 2012.

**Weekend Racing:** It's on to the 1.5-mile Homestead, Florida track for all three of NASCAR's major series. It is also the last race of the 2010 season.

Fri., Nov. 19, Camping World Trucks Ford 200; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sat., Nov. 20, Nationwide Ford 300; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 21, Sprint Cup Ford 400; starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which Cup team does Kevin Harvick drive for?

**Last Week's Question:** Where is the first Sprint Cup race of the season held? **Answer:** Daytona International Speedway.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Nov17,C)ac