

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



E-mail: tcherald@brmemc.net

December 9, 2009

www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

Lady Indians bend, don't break in one point win over Union



Kerri Abernathy fires in a "3" past a charging UC Cat in 46-45 win.

By Jerry Kendall

When the Towns County Lady Indians and Union County Lady Panthers High School Basketball Teams have met on the court over the last several years, fans have come to expect a strong possibility of a heart stopping finish and last week's game in the Towns County gym was no exception. The Lady Indians, who entered the game with a 2-0 record, took a 46-45 victory in the closing seconds over the Lady Panthers who entered with a 2-1 mark after wins over Class AAA White County and Class AAA Lumpkin County and a loss at White County.

After trailing early by scores of 5-0 and 6-2, the Lady Indians rallied behind hot 3-point shooting from sophomores Gabby Arencibia, Ali Bleckley, and Lindsay Patton to hold leads of 16-14 after one quarter and 31-26 at intermission. When their hot outside shooting went cold in the third quarter, the Lady Indians got strong inside point production from Melissa Conrad and Jordan Moss in

the third quarter and held a seemingly comfortable 41-33 lead by quarter's end.

The fourth quarter proved to be a challenge for the Lady Indians, however, as they went more than four and a half minutes without denting the scoreboard at the start of the quarter and the Lady Panthers rallied for a 45-45 tie, their first since midway through the first quarter, at the fifty five second mark. The Lady Indians ran some clock after that and Jordan Moss was fouled on a putback attempt with 5.6 seconds remaining. She went to the line and was perfect on the second of two attempts, giving the Lady Indians a 46-45 lead which held up when Bleckley intercepted a long Union pass down court and maintained possession until time expired.

The Lady Indians had a balanced scoring effort for the game with Arencibia and Conrad scoring 11 points each, Bleckley and Moss 8 each, and Patton 6. Leading in assists were Bleckley and Moss with 4 each and Kerri Abernathy with 3.

Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Gabby Arencibia goes to the glass as a Lady Panther sneaks up behind.

Late scoring surge gets Union County past Indians

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team came oh so close to a memorable victory as they played host to the Union County Panthers last Friday night. The Indians were forced to play catch-up all night after falling to an early 8-0 deficit but actually battled back to take a late lead before a Union run clinched a 65-57 victory for the Panthers, the same margin of eight points the Panthers took at the start of the game.

The Indians battled back to within two points on one occasion and within three on two others in the first quarter and by three on a pair of occasions late in the second but trailed 17-10 after one quarter and 26-20 at intermission. Brandon Henderson provided much of the Indian scoring punch the first half with thirteen points.

The Indians kept hanging close during the third quarter, forcing a 32-32 tie near the mid point of the quarter but the Panthers followed with a 14-4 run for a 46-36 lead which was shortened to 46-39 by a late three point play by Henderson. The Indians rallied



Ethan Burch drives to the glass but a Panther goes Bradley Swanson commits the foul but John Bleckley up for the block.

in the fourth quarter from a 48-39 deficit with a 16-6 run which had them ahead 55-54 with just 1:28 left in the game.

The run was highlighted by six points by Henderson and four each by Bradley Swanson and Rylan Albach and ended with a drive for two by DJ Rogers giving the Indians the aforementioned lead. Albach's four points were especially memorable as they came on two steals near mid court with the

sophomore taking the ball to the basket for field goals on each occasion.

The Indian lead would last for just eleven seconds, however, with Union sinking a field goal and completing an 11-0 run between the 1:17 and 6.8 second marks on nine for fourteen free throw shooting. Two Indian turnovers and an offensive rebound claimed by Union on a long carom following a missed free throw led to five of the Panthers' successful free throws in the run. A

Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant

long two point field goal by Corbin Gilfilian as time expired fixed the final score at 65-57 with the Panthers taking the victory.

Henderson scored at least six points in each quarter in taking high scoring honors with 26 points with other leaders being Swanson with 16 points and Albach and John Bleckley with 5 each. Leading in assists were Swanson with 3 and Ethan Burch and Rogers with 2 each.

Venue change for soccer evaluations



On-line registration is open to all children, grades K - 6, for Upward Indoor Soccer at www.houseofprayerblairsville.com or www.fumcunioncounty.org. Register by December 17 for a discounted rate of \$50. An additional \$10 fee will be assessed thereafter through the deadline of January 1, 2010.

Evaluations will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15 at the House of Prayer Family Life Center as previously scheduled. On Thursday, December 17, the venue has been relocated to the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Practices begin the week of January 11, 2010. Games will be held seven

consecutive Saturdays beginning January 30.

Co-sponsored by House of Prayer and First United Methodist Churches, Upward Sports is assisted by volunteers from various churches.

Children who enroll in an Upward sporting event learn so much more than skill and strategy. Themed messages such as 'Jesus is the light of the world' resonate throughout their training and game times. They learn respect for others. And they are always encouraged by fellow teammates, parents, coaches and referees. Upward aims to bring out the winner in every child.

For more information, contact either church office at (706) 745-5925 or (706) 745-2073. Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at FUMC's business office (8:30-5 p.m., Friday until 1:30 p.m.) or the House of Prayer Family Life Center (9 a.m.-2 p.m.). N1Dec2-Dec9,A1JSH

Hunter safety course option available

You may complete the Hunter Safety test online at www.beasafehunter.org, print out your test scores and bring them to class for review and take the Hunter Safety test. This two-hour class will be held on December 14, 2009, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Pre-register for this op-

tion on the internet at www.georgiawildlife.com. Click on the Hunter Education sign up link. Enter county and choose course. You may also pre-register by phone. Call the Central Reservation System 800-864-7275. Service charges will apply by phone. N1Dec2,A2JSH

NASCAR...continued from page 9

He won five of the 22 Nationwide races he entered.

KANSAS SPEEDWAY UPS THE ANTE

Kansas Speedway's application to operate a Hard Rock Casino on speedway property has been approved by the Kansas Gaming Commission. International Speedway Corp., which owns the track and is controlled by the France family, promised the track a second race, beginning in 2011.

Mike Helton, president of NASCAR said they would not add a race to the current 36-race schedule. The big question is which of the current ISC tracks will lose a race to Kansas?

Most fans would favor Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif., but Michigan Speedway might be one to lose out. Sponsors want to race twice at ACS because it's in the second largest market in the country. Michigan, an almost identical track to ACS but 30 years older, lies in one of the most depressed areas of the country. Being in the backyard of the Big-3's headquarters was a big reason Michigan had played host to two Cup races a year since 1969. No one knows

whether all three automakers will survive. Michigan Speedway also could become a victim of the problem.

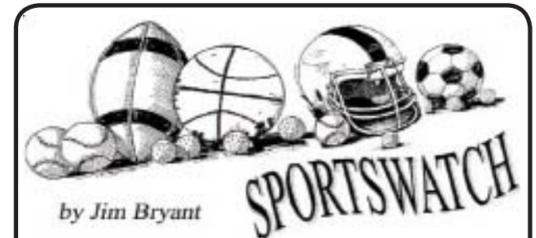
Martinsville, the oldest facility in NASCAR, was thought to be the location that would lose a race. But the resurfaced track at Bristol has eliminated much of the bumping, and banging that made the short track so popular. NASCAR officials aren't going to mess that up and take a race away from the old Virginia track, a move that would cause a revolt by many fans. Martinsville appears safe for keeping both Cup dates.

ISC currently has two other Cup races at Daytona, Talladega, Richmond, and Phoenix. It has one race at Darlington, Watkins Glen, Chicagoland, Homestead-Miami and Kansas.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Mark Martin first compete in the Cup series?

Last Week's Question: Where is the NASCAR Hall of Fame going to be located?

Answer: Charlotte, NC. It will open in May, 2010. You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. N1Dec9,C1Jae



by Jim Bryant

<i>Georgia Semi-Final Football Championships</i>	
Class A	
Clinch County 14	Wilcox County 20
Savannah Christian 24	Darlington 10
Class AA	
Fitzgerald 28	Buford 38
Lovett 41	Calhoun 49
Class AAA	
Peach County 21	Eastside 14
Gainesville 29	Flowery Branch 21
Class AAAA	
Griffin 15	Sandy Creek 22
Rockdale County 0	Clarke Central 28
Class AAAAA	
Westside WR 29	Newnan 24
Camden County 19	Colquitt County 10
<i>Tri-County State Football Play-Offs</i>	
Robbinsville, NC 26	Mount Airy 27
<i>Collegiate Football Championships</i>	
SEC Alabama 32	Florida 13
ACC Georgia Tech 39	Clemson 35
<i>Girls Prep Basketball</i>	
Towns County 46	Union County 45
JV Towns County 33	Union County 35
Union County 51	White County 40
Athens Christian 31	Mountain View 46
Tallahassee 56	Landmark Christian 26
Prince Avenue 46	Providence Christian 41
Lumpkin County 27	West Hall 32
Pickens County 59	Southeast Whitfield 49
Dawson County 72	Cross Keys 11
Dawson County 52	Walnut Grove 70
Dawson County 50	Gilmer County 47
West Forsyth 41	Buford 72
West Forsyth 41	Creekview 38
North Forsyth 30	Mill Creek 50
Chestatee 51	Cedar Shoals 56
Lakeview Academy 33	Banks County 46
Jefferson 32	North Hall 48
Commerce 30	Johnson 40
<i>Boys Prep Basketball</i>	
Towns County 57	Union County 65
JV Towns County 42	Union County 47
Lakeview Academy 79	Banks County 49
Chestatee 65	Cedar Shoals 64 (3OT)
Lumpkin County 57	West Hall 62
Dawson County 61	Cross Keys 31
Dawson County 67	Gilmer County 32
Dawson County 53	Walnut Grove 52
West Forsyth 30	Buford 44
South Forsyth 39	Chattahoochee 53
North Forsyth 47	Peachtree Ridge 81
North Forsyth 28	Mill Creek 72
Commerce 51	Johnson 83
Athens Academy 41	Riverside Academy 52
Jackson County 65	East Jackson 46
<i>Lanierland Basketball Tournament</i>	
(G) Lakeview Academy 37	West Hall 31
(G) North Hall 65	Johnson 33
(B) Lakeview Academy 53	West Hall 56
(B) North Hall 60	Johnson 52
<i>Prep Wrestling</i>	
Commerce 30	Chestatee 33
Gainesville 33	Riverside Academy 36
West Hall 49	Central Gwinnett 15
West Hall 30	Dacula 42
West Hall 52	Mountain View 23
West Hall 70	Forest park 12
West Hall 34	Alcovy 23
West hall 63	St. Francis 13
North Hall 66	Mountain View 15
East Hall 65	Grovetown 15
East Hall 54	Social Circle 18
East Hall 42	Westside 43
East Hall 31	Athens Christian 37
East Hall 24	North Oconee 48

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Hiawassee, Georgia

Lady Indian JV's victimized at foul line by Union County

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians JV Basketball Team opened their season last Friday by playing host to the Union County Lady Panthers and were victimized by a lengthy procession of Lady Panther trips to the foul line at the end in a 35-33 loss. It's not uncommon for one team to have a sizeable advantage at the foul line late in a game but this is almost always the case for the team that is ahead. This time, the Lady Panthers went to the line just twice when leading, sinking only one of four attempts in that situation.

The Lady Panthers led by small margins after an early 5-0 lead for most of the first half but eight straight Lady Indian points by Eighth Grader Makayla Underwood the final 2:15 of the second quarter gave them an 8-2 run and a 19-14 lead at intermission. Had anyone informed the Lady Indians when Union reduced their lead to 23-19 with a field goal at the 4:41 mark of the third quarter that the Lady Panthers would sink just one field goal the remainder of the game, a Lady Indian victory would have seemed to be assured.

That would not be the case, however, as the Lady Panthers would sink just the one field goal but fourteen of twenty eight free throw attempts from the 2:39 mark of the third quarter to the end of the game. By comparison, the Lady Indians sank three field goals but just four of six free throw attempts with Union squeezing out a 35-33 victory.

The Lady Panthers took a 27-25 advantage, their first lead of the second half, at the 4:12 mark of the fourth quarter with no more than three points separating the two teams after that and Underwood carrying the primary scoring load with five points. A field goal by Dadrion Blythe had the Lady Indians in front 33-32 at the forty seven second mark but the Lady Panthers sank one of two free throws on each of three trips to the foul line the rest of the way in taking the close victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Underwood



Drew Kendall drives around a JV Panther defensive player.



Makayla Underwood takes the ball to the glass between a couple of purple Cats.

with 17 points and Blythe was Kindle Moss with 2. Leading in assists with 9.

Rousing rally by Indian JV's falls short

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Indians JV Basketball Team hit the court last Friday for their opening season game against Union County. The Indians featured just two players, Corbin Gilfilian and Rylan Albach, with prior JV experience and with Albach playing in just one quarter to be available for full duty in the varsity game.

As might be expected, they got off to a bit of a slow start but came on like gangbusters at the end, falling just short of victory against the visiting Class AA Panthers. The Indians managed two early ties of 2-2 and 5-5 on a field goal by Donald Lindemuth and a trey by Corbin Gilfilian but the Panthers rallied for an 18-8 lead after one quarter and held a 31-15 advantage at intermission.

The Indians came alive the final nine minutes of the game, however, scoring the final nine points in less than two minutes at the end of the third quarter and the first four of the fourth for just a 40-34 deficit. Lindemuth led the charge with the first six points in the run and eight overall. Ryan Tallent sank three free throws with three tenths of a second left in the third quarter and Austin Wood ended the run with a field goal, giving the Indians a 13-0 run between just the 1:53 mark of the third quarter and the 6:07 mark of the fourth.

The Towns basket seemingly had a lid on it for awhile after the strong run with Union scoring six points for a 46-34 lead but the Indians gave themselves and their followers something to remember by striking for an 8-1 run in the final forty seconds as Union held on for a 47-42 victory. Gilfilian and Dakota Barrett sandwiched treys around a pair of free throws by Lindemuth in this run. Overall, the Indians outscored the Panthers 21-7 during the final eight minutes and fifty three seconds of the game.

Lindemuth led the Indians in scoring with 14 points, Tallent was close behind with 12, Gilfilian scored 9, and Barrett had 5. Barrett led in assists with 3.

Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Dakota Barrett jumps off a shot over a leaping Union County JV player.



Ryan Tallent tries to get off a shot but a JV Panther gets a paw on the ball.

Jingle Joggers face blistering conditions



YHC Coach Barry Brown works under the big white scorer's tent to tabulate the Jingle Jog results.

By Jim Bryant

F5sports@yahoo.com

The annual Jingle Jog that formally took to the streets of Towns County was relocated to the Young Harris College cross country track. The 2.1 mile track takes advantage of the hilly terrain and this coupled with blistering cold weather conditions in the high twenties, made it a run to remember.

YHC Cross Country Coach Barry Brown and several of his stalwarts helped put on the race despite the frigid conditions. The track,

having suffered weeks of bad weather, erosion and flooding, received a last-minute overhaul to get things ready for the dozens of tri-county runners. The youngster started the events at 2:00 and the other classifications followed in short order. Monies raised at the event went to the Drug Free Towns County Coalition and the Union County Anti-drug Coalition. At press time the total results of the races were not available.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

Individual basketball scoring vs. Union County

Lady Indians (Grade)	
Gabby Arencibia (10)	11
Melissa Conrad (12)	11
Ali Bleckley (10)	8
Jordan Moss (11)	8
Lindsay Patton (10)	6
Kerri Abernathy (12)	2

Indians (Grade)	
Brandon Henderson (10)	26
Bradley Swanson (11)	16
Rylan Albach (10)	5
John Bleckley (12)	5
DJ Rogers (11)	3
Corbin Gilfilian (11)	2

Lady Indian JV's (Grade)

Makayla Underwood (8)	17
Dadrion Blythe (9)	9
Alex Fagin (9)	3
Emily Anderson (9)	2
Crystal Bishop (11)	2

Indian JV's (Grade)

Donald Lindemuth (9)	14
Ryan Tallent (9)	12
Corbin Gilfilian (11)	9
Dakota Barrett (10)	5
Austin Wood (9)	2



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 or call 828-389-8240 for information.

N1Dec9,ASJSH

NASCAR 2009

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"Rowdy" Kyle Busch Wins Snowball Derby

The 2009 Nationwide Series champion, "Rowdy" Kyle Busch passed "Fast" Eddie Mercer of Pensacola on lap 282 of the 300-lap race to win Sunday's 42nd Snowball Derby, before the largest crowd in the history of the event.

"Well, since I didn't make this year's Cup Chase and didn't have any obligation to go to the banquet, this was the best place for me," said Busch. "This is the one (race) you want to win. This is the one that really counts."

"Unfortunately, my M&M's Cup team didn't make the Chase this year, so we decided to come down here and run the Snowball Derby."

"I'm very proud of my team. We came in here, and they've worked very hard. There is a lot of good racers here. We came in as the outsiders, and they really gave me a good car. This was a full-fledged effort to try to win."

When asked about his thoughts on next year's Cup season, he said, "I'd like to say we are going to win the championship, but you never know. We had some good runs this past year, and we had some bad runs. The bad runs overcame the good runs. I'm proud of all the guys on my Cup team, but today is what it's all about and we won the Snowball Derby."

Eddie Mercer finished second. Steven Wallace, another Nationwide Series driver and 2004 Snowball Derby winner, finished third.

"We had a good car, and I thought we were in pretty good shape, but on the last pit stop, something was wrong with the set of tires, and it didn't handle like it should there at the end."

Race fans might have thought the 2009 racing season ended on Nov. 22 when NASCAR's three major series competed at Homestead. But

they were wrong. Fans know the racing season is never complete until a champion is crowned in the Snowball Derby, the country's most prestigious short-track race that occurs each December.

The polesitter was Johanna Long, the 17-year-old daughter of racer Donald Long. Ross Kenseth, the 16-year-old son of NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Matt Kenseth started second, while Kyle Busch qualified third. Chase Elliott, son of Bill Elliott qualified ninth.

With the regular racing season over, several of NASCAR's bigger stars headed south to Five Flags Speedway in hopes of finding victory lane.

Those entered in this year's classic included Cup driver David Stremme, Nationwide drivers Steven Wallace, John Wes Townley, Cale Gale, and James Buescher, Brian Ickler, and Ryan Sieg from the Camping World Trucks.

Past winners of the Snowball Derby include such notables as Donnie Allison, Darrell Waltrip, Ted Musgrave, Rich Bickle, Gary St. Amant, Rick Crawford, Bobby Gill, Pete Hamilton, Ted Musgrave and Jody Ridley.

For the complete race rundown, go to: www.5flagsspeedway.com.



Joey Logano



Kyle Busch

LOGANO WINS ROOKIE OF YEAR

Joey Logano, who finished the Cup season 20th in points with one win, was also the youngest driver to earn the Raybestos Rookie of the Year award and became the youngest Cup winner when he won the rain-shortened June 28 race in Loudon, N.H.

He beat out veteran open-wheel and sports car racer Max Papis and former Formula One driver Scott Speed for the honor.

"It's really cool to get the Raybestos award. That's something you only get one shot at," he said.

He will share a \$114,000 top rookie bonus with his team along with the \$5.3 million he won in Cup races.

"Sweet. I didn't know the rookie of the year award paid that much," Logano continued. "Wow, maybe I can buy the car I've been wanting."

He has been modest throughout his first full Cup season after being elevated to replace Tony Stewart in the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota when Stewart announced his plans late last year to start his own team.

"If Tony hadn't left, I probably would have run a full (NASCAR) Nationwide series this season with maybe some Cup races at the end of the year," said Logano. See NASCAR page 9

Upward Basketball evaluation days

Anyone who wants to take part in Upward Basketball at McConnell Baptist Church must attend one basketball evaluation. They will take place as follows: Kindergarten through 6th grade boys/girls on Tuesday, December 29, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Thursday,

January 7, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The first game will be on Saturday, February 6, 2010 and the awards celebration will be on Saturday, March 20, 2010.

For more information call (706) 896-2281 or email upwardmmbc@gmail.com.