

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## TCHS Bass Fishing team gains valuable experience in National Tournament

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

In just their first year, the Towns County High School Bass Fishing Team traveled to Paris, Tennessee, on Sunday, Aug. 4, to compete in the 2019 Mossy Oak Bassmaster High School National Championship.

The two-person bass fishing team of Mitchell Grimsley and Adrian Hooper, along with their fathers Brandon Grimsley and Chad Hooper, departed for Lake Kentucky that Sunday, giving them four quality days of practice before the start of the tournament on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Even with the four days of practice, Kentucky Lake

proved to be a difficult challenge for Grimsley and Hooper, who were fishing it for the first time.

The duo had their best day of fishing during Day 1 of the tournament, catching just over 4.5 pounds of bass.

"The first day of the tournament we caught two fish, but we should have had more," Hooper said. "We let a couple get off in the brush piles because we couldn't do anything with them. It was sad watching the fish get away that we hooked because we really needed them."

On Day 4 of the tournament, Grimsley and Hooper were unable to improve their overall weight, only catching one fish the whole day.

"We caught it just after the first hour of the last day," Grimsley said. "It was about



Adrian Hooper and Mitchell Grimsley fishing at Kentucky Lake. 3.5 pounds, and that was all we could do that day." Even though the Indians

ting to fish against the best of the best.

"We had a great time getting to meet several great fishing teams and making new friends," Hooper said. "It was just so fun, because we got to talk to so many people, and we learned a lot of different techniques to catch fish."

"We both really enjoyed the time we had there. Getting to fellowship with other teams and spending time with friends and family made it that much better."

Added Hooper, "I honestly believe that Mitchell and I can win a national tournament. We were fishing with the best of them - we learned a lot this year, and with all that we learned and competing in nationals, I know that we will do a better job next year."

With just one month

off, Grimsley and Hooper are already looking ahead and preparing to make another run at nationals in next year's Bassmaster High School National Tournament.

The Towns County High School Bass Fishing duo finished in 109th Place out of the 300 high school teams that competed over the four days.

Coming in First Place, the duo representing Briarwood Christian School of Birmingham, Alabama, caught a total of 15 bass weighing just over 50 pounds, earning them their second straight title for the first time in Bassmaster High School Nationals history.

The First-Place finishers took home \$4,500 in scholarship money to go toward the colleges of their choice.

## Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf news



Our Tuesday, August 13th game was Net Two Best Ball of foursome. The weather was soooo hot that everyone was tired from the heat that day. But all finished strong even with the elements, congratulations ladies for your finish! And the winners are: First Place - Bonnie Shore, Gail Cole, Sandy Jersey, Susan Anderson 123 Net. Second Place - Glenda Geddings, Karen Whittaker, Sandy Snyder, Linda Miles 124 Net. Be sure to sign up by Sunday noon for next Tuesday. Shambles, best ball of two. L-r: Glenda Geddings, Linda Miles, Sandy Snyder and Karen Whitaker. TAug21,F4SH

## YHC Soccer Coach McKeever to speak to Movers and Shakers

Young Harris College has been known as a baseball school for generations. But recently they have fielded some impressive teams in other sports. This Friday August 23, we welcome YHC Men's Soccer Coach Mark McKeever. This motivating Coach has a 187-65-14 (.729 winning percentage) record in his 15 years at YHC, last year going 17-1-1 and ranking 7th in the nation. Coach McKeever has sent a dozen players to the pros. Come to the Sundance Grill early this Friday to hear about this Scottish native and how he has made a home in our mountains. He will be introduced by our old friend Mark Dotson, YHC VP of Advancement.

Do you belong to a local organization or are you an elected official with informa-

tion that affects our community? Then why not join us and fill us in on what's going on! Everyone is invited to come hear what our weekly guest speakers have to say, and we have always had a few minutes for impromptu speakers with pertinent information. Everyone is invited for conversation, information and breakfast with the Mountain Movers and Shakers. Our non-partisan group meets at 8 a.m. every Friday at The Sundance Grill, a great place to meet, and the food is really good and reasonably priced. So come join us. You are sure to find interesting speakers, championship caliber youth, and a fine group of friendly mountain folk!

Like us on Facebook: Mountain Movers & Shakers. TAug21,G1SH

## 3rd Annual Warriors Veteran Outreach Golf Tournament



The 3rd Annual Warriors Veteran Outreach Golf Tournament will take place Friday, September 6 at Old Union Golf Course in Blairsville. Players of all experience levels are encouraged to participate. Registration Fee is \$55 per player, \$220 per four-player team.

The event has a shotgun start at 1 PM with awards and prizes distributed after the final team has finished. Rain date is Friday, September 13. For more information on the tournament, call Marine Skip Belton at 706-745-2273 or

Marine Charlie Sowers at 706-745-5123. All donations to and proceeds from the event will benefit the WVO Scholarship Fund which awards grants for study related to providing counseling therapy for veterans suffering with a mental health disorder.

Warriors Veteran Outreach is a non-profit organization of veterans and patriots whose purpose is to help veterans in need. The organization includes veterans of all five military services from western North Carolina and north Georgia as well as other interested citizens. To participate, attend a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at WVO's Camp Jensen headquarters, located in downtown Murphy below the Daily Grind at 46 Valley River Avenue. NTAug21,Z19/CA

## NASCAR 2019

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Polesitter Hamlin Wins At Bristol

BRISTOL, TN -- Denny Hamlin won Saturday night's Cup Series race. He started from the pole, fell off the lead lap for a while, got the free pass midway through the race, and battled back to the front over the final 100 laps of the 500 lap race. He passed Matt DiBenedetto for the lead with 11 laps remaining. The win is his fourth of 2019.

"Between my spotter and the crew chief, they just stayed on me to not get anxious, just kind of take my time," Hamlin said. "I had plenty of time. I just worked him (DiBenedetto) over, worked him over. I knew I didn't want to show him the bottom until I knew I could make the pass. I ran the top, ran the top, ran the top, got the position on the bottom and finished it."

"We had a great car that could move around. Came back from a couple laps down and here we are."

Matt DiBenedetto held on to finish second, his career best finish, and the best ever finish for Leavein Family Racing. He led 93 laps on the night. He has had some strong runs this season, but is not expected to return to his present team next year, and currently has no ride lined up for 2020. "I wanted to win so bad for these guys, for this team, for them giving me this opportunity," he said. "I'm just thankful that they gave me this opportunity. I'm so thankful. But, man, I'm sad. We got tight after the deal with Newman when he came up into us. All of a sudden it got really tight after that."

"I'll try not to get emotional, but it's been a tough week. I just want to stick around and keep doing this for a long time to come. I love it. I love the opportunity. I'm not done yet."

Brad Keselowski passed Kyle Busch near the end to finish third.

Looking for his ninth career Cup win at Bristol, which would have tied him for second most in track history, Busch started 31st, but finished in fourth, unable to keep the lead for more than 30 laps.

Chase Elliott, who led 33 laps was fifth. Kyle Larson, Clint Bowyer, Daniel Suarez, Kurt Busch, and Ryan Blaney rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Jimmie Johnson continues to struggle with a 19th-place finish. He has never missed the playoffs since the format began in 2004 but

the seven-time champion dropped to 18th in points after a disappointing night at Bristol.

Clint Bowyer also dropped out of the top-16, but is only two points behind the final slot, now held by teammate Daniel Suarez.

Top-16 Chase contenders: 1. Kyle Busch-932, 2. Logano-893, 3. Hamlin-855, 4. Truex-838, 5. Harvick-830, 6. Keselowski-794, 7. Elliott-757, 8. Kurt Busch-741, 9. Blaney-688, 10. Bowman-675, 11. Larson-665, 12. Byron-664, 13. Almirola-654, 14. Jones-646, 15. Newman-603, 16. Suarez-591.

Only the top-16 drivers will be eligible for the Cup Series championship. The regular NASCAR Cup Series season will end at Indianapolis on Sept. 8. This year's Chase will begin Sept. 15 at Las Vegas.

### REDDICK RALLIES FOR XFINITY WIN

It required hard driving as well as luck for Tyler Reddick to get his fourth Xfinity win of the season, this past Friday night at Bristol.

He had to come from the rear of the field twice, once the result of a stiff penalty and once after a spin, and was running second behind Justin Allgaier late in the race. Allgaier appeared to have the faster car, but suffered a fateful blowout on lap 289 of the 300 lap race. Reddick was the new leader and he finished the race 0.655-seconds ahead of Chase Briscoe.

John Nemechek was third, followed by Jeremy Clements, Austin Cindric, Gary Gaulding, Timmy Hill, Justin Allgaier, Michael Annett, and Landon Cassill.

Top-10 leaders after 22 of 33; 1. Reddick-978, 2. Bell-924, 3. Custer-839, 4. Allgaier-819, 5. Cindric-785, 6. Briscoe-742, 7. Gragson-728, 8. Annett-695, 9. Haley-661, 10. Nemechek-653.

Here are the results of the NASCAR Truck Series race held Thurs, Aug. 15 at Bristol: 1. Brett Moffitt, 2. Chandler Smith, 3. Ross Chastain, 4. Stewart Friesen, 5. Grant Engfinger, 6. Sheldon Creed, 7. Matt Crafton, 8. Ben Rhodes, 9. Todd Gilliland, 10. Austin Hill.

Top-8 Chase leaders with six races remaining: 1. Moffitt-2081, 2. Chastain-2065, 3. Friesen-2057, 4. Engfinger-2053, 5. Crafton-2053, 6. Sauter-2043, 7. Hill-2040, 8. Ankrum-2030.

### EARNHARDT WILL RETURN

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was absent from his role as television announcer this past weekend because of a plane crash on Thursday at a small airport in Elizabethton, Tenn., but he is expected to return to the NBC broadcast booth next week.

Dale, wife Amy, daughter Isla, and two dogs were in the private jet that ran off the runway and caught fire. Kelley Earnhardt, Dale's sister, tweeted out shortly afterward that the family and two pilots were safe and had been tak-



Hamlin and daughter, Molly, after Bristol win

ent to the hospital for evaluation. An eyewitness to the fiery plane crash, said she and coworkers "heard a loud thud" and then saw the flames coming from the plane as it came to rest on the edge of Highway 91.

"We heard a loud thud and we all ran to the windows and the plane was sliding down the road, it was already in flames, smoke billowing and it slid to a stop right there," said Sissy Moody, an employee at the Alliance Business and Training Career Center across the street from the Elizabethton Municipal Airport. "As soon as it stopped the dog comes out and then I guess it was Dale with the baby and his wife and then the two pilots right behind them."

A preliminary incident report from the Federal Aviation Administration on Friday stated that the plane "experienced a hard landing, bounced, departed runway and caught fire."

The 10-seat plane is registered to JR Motorsports.

### TRUCK DRIVER SUSPENDED FOR FAILING DRUG TEST

NASCAR has suspended Bayley Currey indefinitely for failing a random drug test last week.

"This weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway, NASCAR informed me that I failed a random drug test administered last week," Currey said. "I spoke with NASCAR's doctor where he explained that I had DMHA (2-amino-5-methylhexane) in my system. I take a pre-workout supplement, Juggernaut Irate, and this ingredient is indeed in the supplement. I was obviously not aware that I was violating NASCAR's substance abuse policy."

Currey has made nine Cup Series starts in 2019, all for Rick Ware Racing, with a best finish of

25th at Pocono in May. He was set to be in the team's No. 52 car Saturday evening at Bristol Motor Speedway.

**Racing Joke:** Late one night a burglar broke into Joey's house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say: "Jesus is watching you."

He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard: "Jesus is watching you".

In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesus is watching me?"

The parrot replied, "Yes." Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot replied, "Clarence."

The burglar said, "Clarence is a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you that?" The parrot answered: "The same idiot that named the Rottweiler, Jesus."

**Weekend Racing:** The Xfinity teams will be on the road course at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, while the Trucks travel to Ontario, Canada. The Cup teams have an off week.

Sat, Aug. 24; Xfinity Series race 23 of 33; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun, Aug. 25; Truck Series race 18 of 23; Starting time: 2:30 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which Cup Series driver has the most wins this season?

**Last Week's Question:** How many races per year are held at the Bristol track? Answer: Two.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed online and ordered at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodes@race500.com.

## VFW Golf League news

Last week's competition at Chatuge Shores Golf Course was fierce. A team lead by Bob Hessler prevailed.

His teammates contributing to the win were Susan Bongiovanni and Del Neiffer. Congratulations! TAug21,G1SH