

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

TCHS Softball season ends at Lanier County in first round of State tourney



Senior's Hailey Gibson (T) and Drew Livingston (B) played their final games in a best-of-three playoff series at Lanier County last week. The Lady Indians fell 16-0 and 12-0. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



Senior Hailey Gibson slides into home one final time during Towns County softball's Senior Night festivities earlier this month. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club News

On Monday, Oct. 14th, three and one half tables of the Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club played a Howell movement at the Clay County Senior Center in Hayesville, NC. Ray Ferree and Jim Bell claimed first place honors with a score of 29.75. They were followed by Myrna Ponkauskas and Karen Miller in second place with a score of 28.0. Frank Fulford and Joe Wald claimed third place with a score of 27.75. Marcia Schultz and Dennis Ray came in fourth place with a score of 25.25.

On Thursday, Oct. 17th, three and one half tables once

again played a Howell movement. Ray Ferree and Marcia Schultz came in first place with a score of 30.0. Bobbie Mace and Sue Wall were second with a score of 27.0. Virginia and George Tucker finished in third place with a score of 26.5. All winners from both days received points toward Life Master status.

The club plays every Monday and Thursday at the Clay County Senior Center beginning at 12:30 p.m. They would welcome any interested bridge players to join in on the fun. If you need information about the games or a partner, please contact Ray Ferree at 850-384-3642 or email him at raygfer1430@gmail.com. Also

remember that lunch is available prior to the games as long as you sign up in advance.

Mountain High Hikers Schedule

Mountain High Hikers offers three hikes in the local area each week: Tuesdays - a long hike from 8-14 miles and a shorter hike of 5-8 miles. Thursday we lead a leisure hike usually around 5 miles. We also maintain over 100 miles of trails in North Georgia and Western NC area and run trail maintenance hikes on Thursdays each week.

For more information visit <http://www.mountainhighhikers.org>. NT(Oct23/22)CA

NASCAR 2024

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano Gets Third Cup Win Of Season

Joey Logano took the lead from Christopher Bell with five laps remaining in Sunday's 267-lap Cup Series race and went on to his third win of the season ahead of Bell.

The win automatically locks Logano into the last race of the season for this year's championship.

"It's an incredible turn of events coming from what was at the end of last weekend and what it was like Sunday night, and to this Sunday. This sport is just incredible. Things change, but what a team I've got," Logano said.

"It takes everybody to do it, so we're in the Championship 4 again. I'm so proud of this team. We just find a way and that's what I'm most proud of. I said it as we entered this thing this week that we may be the underdogs, but I don't think so anymore."

Christopher Bell led a race-high 155 laps and wound up second, 0.662 seconds behind Logano.

"I don't know why the race played out like it did," said Bell, who started on the Pole. "I don't understand. Nothing is guaranteed, but I can't tell you why we didn't win today."

Daniel Suarez was third, followed by William Byron, Alex Bowman, Martin Truex Jr., Ross Chastain, Denny Hamlin, John Nemechek, and Chris Buescher.

Three playoff drivers, Tyler Reddick, Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney had their luck run out on lap 89.

Tyler Reddick, one of the early leaders was involved in contact between turns three and four. He scraped the side of Chase Elliott's car, bumped Ryan Blaney, hit the wall, then veered back down the track at a high rate of speed. Once he got into the infield grass, his car did a complete 360-rollover, landing upright on its wheels. Reddick was able to make it to his pits, but his car had to be towed to the garage area, and he was finished for the day.

"I only had a split second, but I thought I could make the move," said Reddick. "I should have made my decision a little bit earlier. I was already on the outside, but unfortunately it wasn't the right decision." Elliott returned to the track and was able to complete 230 laps, but wound up with a 33rd place finish.

Blaney finished 32nd. Both Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson experienced issues on pit road. Hamlin had a pair of sluggish stops, including a major issue at the Stage 2 break when he was forced to reverse back into his pit stall after his crew needed to tighten his left-rear tire. He finished eighth.

Larson, who entered as the Cup Series points leader, fell back after a miscue forced him to make an additional green-flag stop during Stage 2. He brought his car to pit road for a lengthy stop on Lap 125, then pitted again three laps later to change the left-rear tire. He fell from the lead to 31st place, two laps down, then rallied to finish 11th on the lead lap.

Top-8 leaders with three races remaining: 1. Bell-4086, 2. Larson-4079, 3. Byron-4071, 4. Logano-4061, 5. Hamlin-4044, 6. Reddick-4041, 7. Blaney-4024, 8. Elliott-4018.

Note: The field will be reduced to four drivers after the Nov. 3 race at Martinsville. The highest finish driver of those four at Phoenix on Nov. 10 will win the championship.

AJ WINS; IS LOCKED INTO CHAMPIONSHIP RACE



Logano Gets Third Cup Win Of Season

A.J. Allmendinger claimed his first win of the 2024 Xfinity Series season Saturday evening at Las Vegas, which was the first race of the round of eight playoffs. The win guaranteed Allmendinger a spot in the championship battle next month in the season-finale at Phoenix.

Allmendinger led a race-high 102 laps, then held off Ryan Sieg in a final sprint.

A caution with six laps remaining gave Sieg a late chance to snatch the win from Allmendinger, but Allmendinger got a huge shove from Justin Allgaier on the restart and pulled away to beat Sieg by 0.156 seconds.

"What a day to win at Las Vegas to get into the championship four" Allmendinger said. "So much stress relief."

Ryan Sieg finished second, followed by Justin Allgaier, Chandler Smith, Parker Kligerman, Jesse Love, Riley Herbst, Cole Custer, Sheldon Creed, and Austin Hill.

Top-8 Playoff leaders with three races remaining: 1. Allgaier-3088, 2. Custer-3072, 3. C. Smith-3064, 4. Allmendinger-3063, 5. Hill-3056, 6. Love-3051, 7. Mayer-3041, 8. S. Smith-3011.

TEAM ACCEPTS BOWMAN'S PENALTY

Hendrick Motorsports vice chairman Jeff Gordon said Tuesday that the organization accepted the disqualification penalty handed to its No. 48 Chevrolet team driven by Alex Bowman last weekend.

He explained that the team did not file an appeal in part because no exonerating evidence was found in post-race inspection.

Bowman was in position to advance in the postseason to make it a clean sweep for all four Hendrick teams, but his No. 48 Chevy did not meet the minimum weight requirement in post-race inspection, resulting in a disqualification penalty.

Bowman was relegated to a last-place finish in the 38-car field, dropping him from the playoff field and allowing Joey Logano to fill the eighth and final spot in the next round.

Gordon said the organization considered multiple factors in reaching that decision, including any possible damage from the No. 48 car's significant curb hop on the frontstretch chicane early in the race.

"You just look at this race in general and the amount of contact, we wanted to really inspect the car fully to see was there enough damage or was there something that got dislodged from the car," Gordon said. "So NASCAR was great through the whole process. You can't really inspect much of it at the race track, so we weren't really sure, but they took it over to the tech center, looked at it yesterday and thoroughly

examined it and didn't find anything. So quite honestly, it's just one of those things where NASCAR has minimum pre-race, minimum post-race weights, and our teams in order to just make the best performing race cars every weekend for our drivers, we know that we've got to stay as close to those minimums as possible, and in this case, the 48 car, they just cut it too close and missed it, and so that's on us."

All cars go through pre-race tech and must weigh 3,400-3,500 pounds depending on the weight of the driver (drivers are weighed periodically throughout the year). The top-5 cars, and the playoff cars, are weighed post-race. There is a tolerance of 0.5 percent, about 17 pounds, in the post-race inspection to allow for any natural loss of weight from the competition as parts and pieces break.

NASCAR hasn't said how much off the Bowman car was in tech, so there's no way to definitively know how close they were. But the team was allowed to top off fuel and purge and replace its water system. That didn't help the car make weight, and likely was key to the decision not to appeal as it appeared NASCAR gave Bowman's team every opportunity to meet the mandatory weight standard.

Meanwhile NBC Sports said that the TV ratings for the Oct. 13 race at Charlotte was up 6 per cent over last year.

Racing Joke: James had taken a trip from Charlotte to Chicago and was unable to locate his luggage at the airport baggage area. He went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss. The woman behind the counter smiled and told him not to worry, because she was a trained professional and would take care of his problem.

"Now," she asked him, "Has your plane arrived yet?"

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series' will be at the 1.5-mile Homestead-Miami track in Homestead, Fla.

Sat., Oct. 26; Truck Series race 21 of 23; Starting time: 12:00 noon ET; TV: Fox Sports 1.

Sat., Oct. 26; Xfinity Series race 31 of 33; Starting time: 3:00 pm ET; TV: NBC.

Sun., Oct. 27; Cup Series race 34 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: How many drivers will be eligible for the NASCAR Cup Series championship during the last race of the season?

Last Week's Question: Which driver holds the record for the fastest speed ever recorded in NASCAR? Answer: Bill Elliott's 212.808 miles per hour qualifying speed for the 1987 Winston 500 at Talladega is the fastest official recorded time for a NASCAR driver.