

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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North Georgia Rapids Swim Team update



Front row (L-R): Caroline Cole, Brooke Yancey, Andrew Nushtayev, Liam Smith, Bethany Anderson, Hunter White. Back (L-R): Nicholas Nushtayev, Hunter Yancey, Wyatt Nichols, Courtney Foster, Luke Gambrell, Steven Williams and Brian Williams.

Towns County Herald Sports Special

The North Georgia Rapids Swim Team finished the summer season with a strong showing in the League Championship meet on July 7th and 8th.

The team sent 20 swimmers to the two-day meet and made their presence known against several, much larger teams.

A few of the team's most successful members were Andrew Nushtayev - second place (8-and-under); Luke Gambrell - third place

(14U); and two fourth place finishes by Nicholas Nushtayev (10U) and Bethany Anderson (18U).

The North Georgia Rapids swim team holds its practices at the Union General Wellness Center in Blairsville.

YHC names Hurley as women's lacrosse coach

Young Harris - Young Harris College Director of Athletics Randy Dunn has announced that Samantha Hurley will be the next women's lacrosse coach for the Mountain Lions.

Hurley comes to the Enchanted Valley as spending the past year as an assistant coach at Mercer University, located in Macon, Georgia.

"I am so excited to have Coach Hurley leading our women's lacrosse program," said Dunn. "Coach Hurley played and has worked for some very knowledgeable and successful coaches that I feel has prepared her for our position."

Coach Hurley's knowledge and passion for the game, coupled with her ability to recruit talented student-athletes will provide the leadership we need for this program to continue to be successful."

Hurley helped guide the NCAA Division I Bears to a 13-6 record last season as they tied for third place in the Atlantic Sun Conference. The 13 wins also was the most in the program's short three-year history.

"I'd like to thank Director of Athletics Randy Dunn and the rest of the search committee for this great opportunity," said Hurley. "Young Harris' rich tradition in both athletics and academics is one of a kind. I am looking forward to joining the Mountain Lion community and working with a talented group of young women."

Hurley comes to Mercer after spending three years as an assistant coach at Roanoke College. While at the Roanoke, Virginia, institution, Hurley's duties included skill instruction, practice and game planning/implementation, film analysis and recruiting.

Hurley has also served as the head coach at Midwestern Force for three years, coaching players in the 2016 graduating class. She has also coached at numerous camps over the past three years, helping to instruct players of all ages and skill levels.

Hurley was a four-year member of the women's lacrosse team at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. She played both midfield and attack,

helping Lock Haven to win two conference championships and earn three bids to the NCAA Division II Tournament. Hurley ended her career with nine goals and three assists for a total of 12 points. She also tallied 15 ground balls, 11 draw controls and eight caused turnovers in 30 games played.

Hurley graduated from Lock Haven in 2013 with her bachelor's degree in recreation management. She also earned a minor in psychology.

MUSA Fall Registration

Mountain United Soccer Association's fall soccer registration is open for boys and girls ages 4-16.

You may register online at www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration deadline is Aug. 9. Players registered after deadline will incur a late fee and will be placed on roster waiting list.

Volunteer coaches also are needed. Questions: email: musa.soccer@gmail.com

NASCAR 2017

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Hamlin Wins At New Hampshire

Loudon, NH -- Denny Hamlin is back in victory lane after 28 winless races. He won Sunday's 301-lap Cup Series race by less than 100 feet over Kyle Larson.

After a restart on 268 Hamlin pushed his No. 11 Toyota to the front of the pack. Kyle Larson moved into second ahead of Matt Kenseth, and had Hamlin in his sights. By lap 290, he was about 200 feet behind the leader. Five laps later, he had cut the distance to 100 feet. With two to go, it looked like Larsen might be able to gain his third victory of the year, but he was never able to challenge Hamlin, and had to settle for the runner-up spot.

"Yes, I knew Kyle was coming, but we had a fast car and I don't think there was anyway that he could have gotten by me before the end of the race," said Hamlin. "It's been a long time since our last win and I wasn't going to leave anything on the track. We hung it all out today. "It's been a long time, but we're getting better and better. The Chase is coming and we've got to get going."

While second would have been great for many of the drivers, it wasn't for Larsen. He had actually qualified first, but his car failed a post-qualifying inspection and he had to start the race from the last position. "I gave it my best shot there at the end," said Larsen. "I could gain on him in the corners, but he had a rocket on the straightaways."

Martin Truex Jr., winner of last week's race started on the pole, led the most laps (137), and finished third. "I wish I could take that last restart back," said Truex. "It wasn't one of my best. We ran a good race, but there at the end, I don't think we had the winning car."

Matt Kenseth was fourth, followed by Kevin Harvick, Daniel Suarez, Clint Bowyer, Kurt Busch, Brad Keselowski, and Jimmie Johnson. Truex was the winner of Stage One, while Kyle Busch took Stage Two.

Kyle Busch started the race from the seventh spot, led 95 laps but wound up 12th. While he ran up front for much of the early laps, he was probably the race's biggest loser. He was hit with two pit road speeding penalties. Both of them were for entering pit road too fast, and each time he had to come back down pit road at the legal speed limit. The first occurred on lap 201, and he was able to work his way back to the front. The second one came on lap 262, and it put him back in 22nd position, too far back with 39 laps left to reach the leaders.

"It's racing," said Busch. "What can I say? We all get in a hurry sometimes and don't realize how fast we're going. It's one of those things. I hate it for my guys, because they gave me a good car."

Joey Logano was one of the first drivers out of the race. His No. 22 Ford had a mechanical failure, leaving him with a 37th-place finish. The poor finish dropped him to 13th in points.

Erik Jones, who will take over the No. 20 Joe Gibbs car next season was the first car out after a cut tire caused him to hit the outside wall. The race was red-flagged for 25-minutes while speedway officials patched a hole in the asphalt track.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 336: 1. Truex-758, 2. Larson-720, 3. Kyle Busch-650, 4. Harvick-639, 5. Hamlin-589, 6. Elliott-587, 7. McMurray-577, 8. Kes-



Denny Hamlin and his daughter Taylor in Victory Lane

elowski-564, 9. Johnson-552, 10. Bowyer-526.

Results of the NASCAR Xfinity Series race held Sat., July 15 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway: 1. Kyle Busch, 2. Ryan Preece, 3. William Byron, 4. Kyle Larson, 5. Brad Keselowski, 6. Ben Kennedy, 7. Elliott Sadler, 8. Ty Dillon, 9. Cole Custer, 10. Brennan Poole.

Top-10 leaders after 17 of 33: 1. Sadler-620, 2. Byron-575, 3. Allgaier-530, 4. B. Poole-428, 5. Hemric-421, 6. Custer-396, 7. Tiffit-387, 8. Reed-377, 9. Annett-355, 10. Armstrong-351.

SCHRADER IS BACK ON THE TRACK

During a recent interview, racing legend Ken Schrader mentioned that he'd like to run the 5th annual NASCAR Truck Series race at Eldora Speedway. Schrader has participated in the summer classic each year since its inception. Eldora is the only dirt race scheduled among NASCAR top-tier series.

Almost immediately, his phone was ringing with offers from several truck teams. A call from Jeff Bolen, owner of the No. 66 Chevrolet Silverado and Bolen Motorsports, was the ideal call. Schrader will race with crew chief Paul Clapprod making the calls from the pit box. Eldora marks the first race in which Schrader and Clapprod will work together. "When it comes to dirt and putting a driver behind the wheel with experience, you can't beat this opportunity with Schrader," said Clapprod.

Schrader's stats at Eldora Speedway includes running all eight years of The Prelude to the Dream race in which he has five top-10 finishes; two USAC midget victories; a USAC Silver Crown victory and three UMP modified wins. Schrader also holds the track record for his 2013 Pole position in the NCWTS.

"We are thrilled to be running Eldora again this season," Schrader said. "It is truly a classic event and I enjoy every aspect of the race - the fans' excitement, the level of competition and the fun of running at this iconic track. Driving the Bolen Motorsports Silverado will be a blast. As a track owner myself, I see and appreciate what Tony Stewart and his team have done to create such a Midsummer Classic!"

Meanwhile, Aric Almirola, the driver of the No. 43 Richard Petty Motorsports Ford, who suffered a fracture to his T5 vertebra after a multi-car accident at Kansas Speedway in May, returned to racing this past weekend at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

The injury, which has a standard healing time of eight to 12 weeks, took eight weeks for

Almirola to recover. Throughout the recovery process, Almirola did physical therapy, swam and tested in a simulation and on track environment. A test yesterday at Charlotte Motor Speedway was the final step in a multi-step process to return.

"It felt great to be back in the race car," said Almirola. "After racing in the Cup Series for five and a half years, it got to be routine, and I took it for granted. When something gets taken away from you at a moment's notice like that, it has certainly made me appreciate my passion for racing and my desire to compete at this level. The thrill of running 200 miles per hour in a stock car was something that I had honestly lost a little bit. After being out of the car for eight weeks, the passion is back, now more than ever."

There had been talk in recent weeks that Dodge might return to NASCAR, but last week at New Hampshire, Sergio Marchionne, chief executive officer of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, said it wouldn't happen.

A return to the sport showed that it would be too complex and, more importantly, too expensive. Part of the problem would be finding a team with top-tier engine-building capability-and there just aren't many choices now that the Cup series has consolidated engine-building among a handful of teams (Or in Toyota's case, the company itself). Dodge would prefer to supply the engine specifications and have the engines built by the team, like they were at Penske. But there are minimal options.

The company still supports the National Hot Rod Association, where Dodge- and Mopar-backed teams are doing well in Funny Car and Top Fuel.

Weekend Racing: The Truck Series will have a Wednesday night race on the dirt at Eldora Speedway, while the Cup and Xfinity teams are at the 2.5-mile Brickyard in Indianapolis.

Wed., July 19; Truck Series race 11 of 23; Starting time: 9 p.m. ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., July 22; Xfinity Series race 18 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun., July 23; Cup Series race 20 of 36; Starting time: 3 p.m. ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: How many drivers will be eligible for the start of the 10-race Chase for the Championship?

Last Week's Question: Where is Matt Kenseth's hometown? Answer: It is Cambridge, WI.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

It's a Shambles at Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf

Just what is a shambles anyway? The dictionary definition (Merriam-Webster) is "a place or scene of disorder or destruction." The Cambridge English dictionary defines shambles as "state of confusion, bad organization, or untidiness..." Perhaps that is what is meant when the golfers participated in a shambles at their regular Tuesday golf outing. The shambles game rules were as follows: All golfers in the foursome hit their drive. All then went to the best drive and from there on into the green it was every golfer on her own. Scores were tabulated using each golfer's handicap. Scores were then added up to determine a team score. The Shambles winners, with a score of 126, were the team of Barb Boswell, Opal Rose, and Star Glock. Congratulations!

Did you know there are some new golf rules - particularly for seniors? Here are three that you might like to observe. (Will and Guys Clean Golf Jokes, Funny Stories, and



Lee Cromwell (l), Susan Anderson & Mary Reese after a great golf game. One Liners)

Rule 3.b.3(g): There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course and will eventually be found and pocketed by someone else, making it a stolen ball. The player is not to compound the felony by charging himself or herself with a penalty.

Rule 4.c.7(h): if a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity

supersedes the Rules of Golf. Rule 7.g. 15 (z): There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior golfers should not be penalized for manufacturers' shortcomings.

We all wish we could apply those rules to our golf game - our scores would improve dramatically!

Enjoy great golf! New members and guests are always welcome at CSLGA. TJuly19,F01SH

Local Charity Golf event to benefit Enotah CASA

The 2nd annual Battle of the Sexes golf tournament, organized and hosted by the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association, will be held Thursday, August 3, 2017 at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Registration and breakfast are from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. sharp! Cost is \$45 per golfer and includes golf, breakfast and lunch.

The format is Net Better Ball of your twosome and works this way: Two players, either two Lads or two Lassies, on the team each play their own golf ball throughout the round. On each hole, the two team members compare scores, and the lower of their two net scores (the better ball counts as the team's score.) While you may be playing with your spouse in the foursome, scoring of the Battle will consist of taking the net better scores of all Lassic pairings, against the net better scores of all Lads pairings. Lads or Lassies will

be announced as the winner during lunch. The top three winning teams from both the Lads and Lassies will each receive a free round of golf at Butternut. No partner? No worries! We will assign a partner for you!

Checks and registration form must be received by July 27, 2017. Forms are available at Butternut or by contacting Karen or Jane. Make checks payable to: BCLGA amount \$45 per golfer. Mail to Karen Mussoline, 179 Scout Trace, Blairsville, GA 30512 or leave at the Pro Shop desk. Deadline to enter is July 27, 2017. Contact Karen Mussoline @ (352) 638-3649 (msmoose2@gmail.com) or Jane Childers @ (706) 838-5599 for questions or additional information.

The "Lads & Lassies" will be battling for bragging rights, but the real winners are children from Union & Towns counties whose lives have been changed by the

CASA organization. Enotah CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) plays a vital role in the lives of the abused and neglected children in our community and is the local affiliate of Georgia and National CASA. The effectiveness and quality of our advocacy has been recognized locally, statewide and nationally. We gratefully appreciate your support to help us continue to advocate for our community's neglected and abused children by donating proceeds of your golf tournament which will be used to recruit, screen, train and supervise CASA volunteers and meet the needs of these deprived children. All proceeds will be donated to Enotah CASA after golf & lunch costs.

In 2016 thanks to the wonderful participation of local golfers, the Battle of the Sexes donated \$500 to a local charity. Let's make it bigger and better in 2017! NJuly19,Z9JCA

VFW Golf League

The VFW Golf League plays each Thursday at Chatuge Shores Golf Course. It is open to all members of the VFW and American Legion regardless of post affiliation. The weather was perfect and the course is in prime condition that made for some great golf. This week's competition was won by Randy Tompkins, Harvey Vanadoc, Russ Schoetker and Jerry Sulenberger. They posted a score of 63, beating the second place team by 1 stroke with a very respectable 9 strokes under par.

Congratulations to team captain Randy Tompkins and the rest of the team. Well done!

Soccer signups

The Towns County Recreation Department would like to proudly announce that we will be partnering with UFA (United Futbol Academy) to offer soccer in both the fall & spring. Signups for soccer are now open. Register at: mountains.unitedfa.org. For more information call 706-896-2600.

Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading 2017 Season



House of Prayer Church is glad to announce that it is once again time for our Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading 2017 season. On-line registration is now open for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade at www.hopb.org.

The registration is open through September 2nd and the price to participate is \$60. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence Thursday, August 17th, while 5 games will be played Saturdays between September 2nd and September 30th.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Saturday, August 5th on a drop-in basis between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the upper football field by the House

of Prayer Family Life Center offices. For more information regarding registration, call the church office at HOP (706) 745-5925.

Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. It remains unique by providing a substitution system that ensures every young athlete plays, and requiring only one 1 hour practice a week with one game per week. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially - producing players who excel both on and off the field.

Today, approximately 6.2 million players have participated at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states, in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports' Recreation Division. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org. NJuly19,Z9JCA