

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Collier, Rogers, Baldwin, Davis going to State

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
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Atlanta - Towns County is sending four wrestlers to Macon this week for the State Tournament.

Daulton Rogers placed third in the 170-pound weight class, while Aaron Collier was fourth at 126 pounds, Vonya Baldwin fourth at 138 pounds, and Kyle Davis, also fourth at 195 pounds.

Thomas Mitchell (106 pounds) and Nick Shook (152 pounds) will travel with the team as alternates after a pair of fifth place finishes.

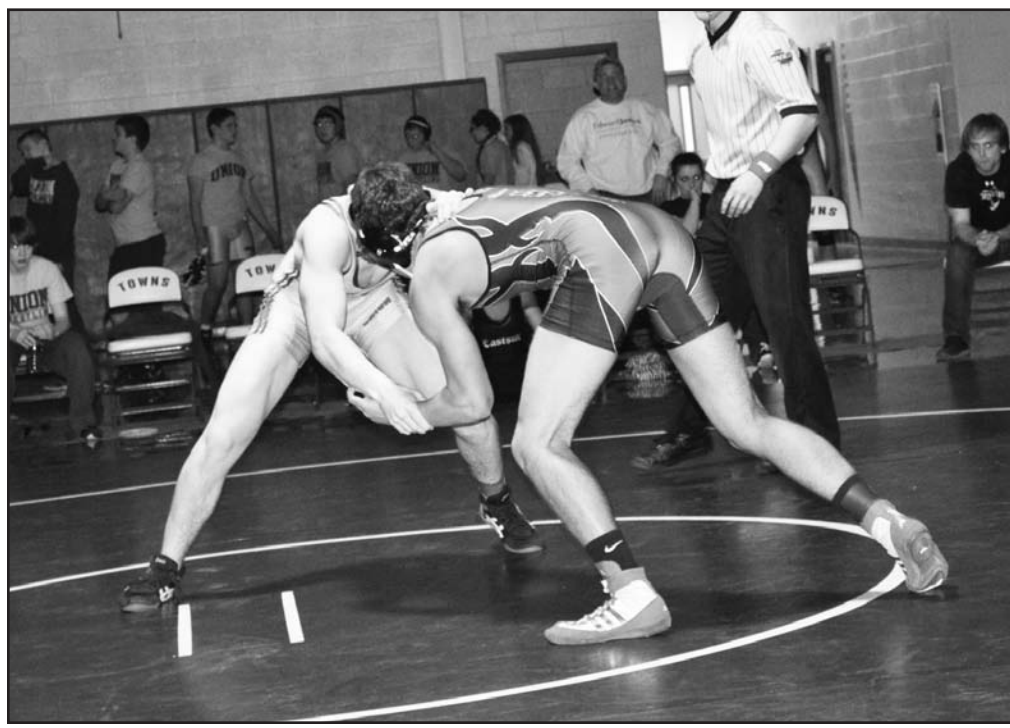
Rogers got underway with a win over Irwin County's Petro Goolsby, he then fell to Grayson Cochran of Commerce in the second round.

He answered the loss with a win over Tyler Quintero from Treutlen County.

In the battle for third place he defeated Joseph Brinkley of Holy Innocents by fall.

Collier opened with a win by fall over Savannah Christian's Harrison Smith. He then fell victim to Turner County's Antonio Dawson.

Collier turned back around and defeated Mt. Pisgah's Mitch Tanzy by a 4-0 decision. However, Irwin County



Daulton Rogers (right) placed third at Sectionals and will travel to Macon with five others from Towns County wrestling. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

defeated Collier to claim third place.

Baldwin beat Wheeler County's Travis Herman to open the action at 138 pounds.

Tyler Heath of Treutlen County knocked Baldwin into the consolation bracket but Baldwin sent Demetrice Smith of Turner County packing before falling to Cole Chancy of Commerce in the third place match.

Davis defeated Jason Bolyard of Telfair County before falling to Rod Davis of Holy Innocents, who benefited from a first round bye.

He would defeat David Sanford of Athens Christian by fall but lost to Irwin County's Nathan Tucker by decision to place fourth.

Meanwhile, Thomas Mitchell finished with a 1-2 record for fifth place.

Shook dropped his first match to J.J. Alfau of Turner County but defeated. He then took down Ben Jackson from Savannah Christian by fall, lost to Fellowship Christian's Nate Shirley and finally won by disqualification over Athens Christian's Zane Wolf.

The Indians will travel to Macon on Friday for the State Tournament.

MUSA Spring Registration

Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for spring soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted for age groups U6-U14. This season we are offering online registration at www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration forms are also available on the website, to print and mail in. The deadline to register is Feb. 15th.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their commitment and support. The spring season will begin in early March. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.



MUSA is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 nonprofit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field sponsors, sign sponsors and team sponsors are always needed.

If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer players in our community through sponsorship and/or donation, please contact the association.

For additional info contact the league at 706-994-4351, musa.soccer@gmail.com or visit us on the web at www.mountainsoccer.org.

2014 baseball and softball registration

The Towns County Recreation Dept. will be holding registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 thru 14 thru Feb. 22nd. The cost for registration will be \$45. Sign-ups will be held at the new Towns County Recreation Center.

Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.



Interested in hiking? Looking for a place to start?

Mountain High Hikers, Inc. is offering monthly hikes for the beginner hikers. Led by experienced hikers these hikes are easy but interesting. The trails we hike are in the mountains of North Georgia, North Carolina and Ten-

nessee. There is no charge for these hikes.

The next scheduled hike on February 14, 2014 is Vogel State Park Sampler. Includes part of Byron Reese nature trail, Coosa Backcountry and Blood Mountain Trail for a total of 4 miles. Meet at Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy 180 at 10 a.m. Hike leader is Nancy Shofner 706-745-1657.

You can also visit us on our Website for future events: www.mountainhighhikers.org

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Shepherd to attempt Daytona 500

The start of the 2014 Daytona 500 is fast approaching, and 72-year-old Morgan Shepherd hopes to be in the field. If he makes it through qualifying, he will be the oldest driver to ever run in a "500."

It's possible. He made the Sprint Cup race last summer at New Hampshire, and completed 92 laps before falling out with mechanical problems.

Shepherd has competed in 15 previous Daytona 500s, with a career-best finish of second in 1992 while driving for The Wood Brothers.

His team is a collaboration of BK Racing, Randy MacDonald of MacDonald Motorsports and Dell Hamilton of Support Military Foundation/HMR. "Whenever you can break a record or make history, it's something special. To have Morgan in the car and the SMF presented on the car we couldn't be happier," said Dell Hamilton. "We are still looking for a presenting sponsor for the race, Support Military Foundation colors will be on the car but we are hoping for a presenting sponsor to come along and help us with this unique initiative."

Shepherd made his Winston Cup debut in 1970 at Hickory Motor Speedway, driving the No. 93 Chevrolet for Bill Flowers. His first Cup win came in 1981 at Martinsville.

SPEED WEEKS COMING UP
More than a week of racing events will commence during Daytona Speedweeks, beginning Feb. 15 at Daytona International Speedway and culminating with the 56th Daytona 500 on Feb. 23.

Weekend Television Schedule:

Sat., Feb. 15: ARCA Racing Series Lucas Oil 200 (80 laps); Starts 4 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

NASCAR Sprint Unlimited (75 laps); Starts 8 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Feb. 16: Daytona 500 Qualifying; Starts: 1 pm; TV: Fox. (Note: Only the top-two fastest qualifiers are locked into the Daytona 500. The rest of the 43-car field will be determined by the Gatorade Duels, two qualifying races on Thurs., Feb. 20, plus how teams finished the 2013 season in points.

EVERNHAM RETURNING TO HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS
Jeff Gordon's former crew chief Ray Evernham, who created one of NASCAR's most dominant teams in the 1990s, is leaving his position as broadcaster with ESPN and

returning to Hendrick Motorsports.

He will serve as a consultant and be involved with the competition department, and while he may be in the pit area for some races, he will not act as a crew chief.

"Now not doing the ESPN thing will allow me to be involved in some of the management and some of the things that they're doing at (Hendrick) Motorsports," Evernham told SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. "The best way to avoid a conflict of interest is to choose one or the other. I'm excited about being able to go and being involved in the management team on the motorsports side. I'll be working with everybody at Hendrick Motorsports. I've met with crew chiefs. I think I've got a good perspective as they face different challenges. I will be going to meetings and be involved in competition things that I've not been involved with in the past three years or so."

STILL NO SPONSOR FOR DALE JR.

There is still no primary sponsor listed for the 88-car.

A lot of companies might want to have their name and logo on the side of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s No. 88 Chevrolet, but few have come forward. There are no exact figures, but it is estimated the price would be from \$26-30 million per season, with a multi-year contract.

Rick Hendrick emphasized last week that he has no timetable or deadline to land a new deal.

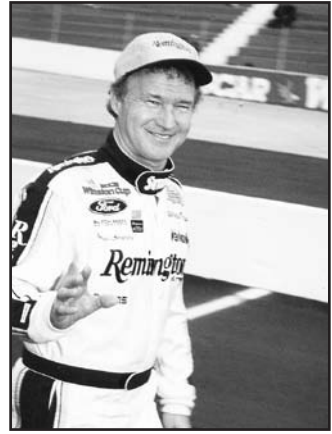
"We will listen to anybody and we're always looking, but there's no feeling of, 'Golly, we've got to find somebody,' because we've got two really good sponsors," Hendrick said. "I'm wanting a long-term deal that fits and isn't a conflict with the other guys. We don't put any timetable on it. We have plenty of time."

Could you spare a couple million, Mr. Hendricks?

NASCAR CHANGES PENALTY STRUCTURE
NASCAR has restructured its penalty structure and appeals process beginning this season.

In addition to these changes, they also announced the appointment of a new Final Appeals Officer.

"NASCAR's Deterrence System is designed to help maintain the integrity and competitive balance of our sport while sending a clear message that rules violations will not be tolerated," said Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR executive vice president of racing opera-



Morgan Shepherd in 2003 at Bristol

tions. "This (the new rules package) is a more transparent and effective model that specifically spells out that 'X' infraction equals 'X' penalty for technical infractions. At the same time, we believe the Appeals process allows a fair opportunity for our NASCAR Members to be heard, and have penalty disputes resolved by an impartial, relevant group of people with the ability to handle the complexities inherent in any appeal. This system has been tailored specifically to fit the needs of our sport."

Bryan Moss, former president at Gulfstream Aerospace, has been selected as the Final Appeals Officer. Moss will hear matters on appeal from the lower three-member Appeals Panel, and serve as the last decision on penalty disputes for the sport.

According to O'Donnell, NASCAR's new penalty and deterrence system is easily understood and specifically lays out exactly what disciplinary action will be taken.

The NASCAR statement concerning the changes was three pages long. I consider it too wordy, complicated, and filled with obscure catch-all phrases to attempt to cover it in one news article, in a realistic manner.

We'll just wait and see how it all plays out after the first case of cheating is announced.

According to the numbers provided by NASCAR, in 152 appeals heard since November 1999; 107 were upheld, 32 were reduced, 11 were overturned and in two cases the penalties were increased.

Racing Trivia Question: Does Kurt Busch still plan on running this year's Indy 500?

Last Week's Question: Greg Biffle and Carl Edwards' contracts are up at the end of the 2014 cup season. Who do they drive for? **Answer:** Roush Fenway Racing.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com.

Lady Indian JV's complete season on a three game winning streak at Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team completed its 2014 season last week with a decisive 59-37 victory at Commerce.

In so doing, the Lady Indians finished on an upswing with three straight victories and a final record of 8-5 for the season.

Two free throws by Kristen Henson and a trey by Brooke Smith gave the Lady Indians 2-0 and 5-2 leads which they extended to 13-2 and led 18-6, 36-13, and 46-24 at the quarter breaks in taking a 59-37 victory. Some of the top individual quarterly scoring totals included seven by Madison Landress and five by Smith in the first quarter, nine in the



Towns County JV at Commerce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson
second and five in the third by Landress and Stroud with 11 each, Smith with 8, and Kirsten Ledford with 7. Leaders in assists were Landress with 4 and Ledford and Smith with 3 each.

Henson took scoring honors for the game with 20 points with other leaders being

TOWNS COUNTY VARSITY SOCCER 2014

Date:	Opponent:	Time:	Place:
Jan 21	First Day of Practice	3:15-5:00	Top Field
Feb 18	Union	4:30G, 6:00B	Away
Feb 21	Rabun	5:00G, 6:30B	Home
March 1	George Walton	1:00G, 3:00B	Away
March 7	Highlands	6:00	Home
March 11	Union	4:30G, 6:00B	Home
March 12	Rabun	5:00G, 6:30	Away
March 14	Providence Christian	4:00G, 6:00B	Away
March 21	Hebron	5:00G, 7:00B	Home
March 25	Lakeview	5:00G, 7:00B	Home
March 28	Providence Christian	5:00G, 7:00B	Home
March 29	George Walton	1:00G, 3:00B	Home
April 2	Highlands	6:00	Away
April 15	Hebron	5:00G, 7:00B	Away
April 17	Lakeview	5:00G, 7:00B	Away

● Bold denotes region games

Boys' Head Coach: Tim Rosser

Girls' Head Coach: Peter Byrne